

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN IS NOT EXPECTED TO PRESENT ANY NEW PEACE PLAN TO THE U.S.

Will Try To Convince Carter Administration That Israel's Present Plan Is The Best Offer  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin will not present a new peace plan to the United States when he goes to Washington next week nor will he offer any modification of his original plan, political analysts said here today. They believe Begin's intention is to convince the U.S. that Israel's peace plan, as it stands, represents the best possible offer and that Israel's interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 does not rule out, a priori, any territorial compromises on the West Bank.

New differences between Israel and the U.S. over Resolution 242 surfaced recently. Washington has always supported Israel's position that the resolution does not require total withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, as the Arabs say it does. The Begin government has contended of late, however, that 242 is not really applicable to the West Bank. The U.S. vehemently disagrees.

The task of Begin, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman at his meetings with President Carter, is somehow to persuade the Administration that there is no contradiction between Israel's offer of self-rule to the West Bank population and 242.

### Rationale For West Bank Plan

Accordingly, the Israelis are saying that since Jordan has not indicated a readiness for territorial compromise with Israel, the functional autonomy of self-rule offered the West Bank Arabs best answers the needs of all parties concerned. They say further that Jordan has no internationally recognized right to that territory, which it occupied from 1948-1967, therefore 242 does not necessarily require Israeli withdrawal.

Government sources are also saying that since 242 is unspecific, Israel reserves the right to determine its positions on possible territorial compromise on the West Bank at such time as prospects appear ripe for negotiations over that territory. Dayan has said several times that any Arab suggestions for a territorial settlement on the West Bank would receive due consideration in Jerusalem. But Israel does not believe that Egypt can negotiate a West Bank settlement.

Israel clearly hopes that the U.S. will be convinced that the Begin government will not budge from its interpretation of 242 and that the Washington talks can be channeled to less-controversial issues, such as resuming direct contacts with Egypt. Several senior Cabinet ministers have angrily attacked the Labor Alignment leaders for saying that Begin's interpretation of 242 is contrary to the interpretation given it by all previous Israeli governments. That, apparently, is also the view held by Washington.

### Most Generous Offer To Egypt

With respect to Sinai, political analysts say Begin will contend during his meetings in

Washington, that his plan represents the most generous offer made to the Egyptians by any Israeli government. It represents a departure from the previous government's position that Israel had to retain a land bridge from Eilat to Sharm el-Sheikh. The Begin plan would restore all of Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty, including the areas where Israeli settlements are located. The stumbling block has been Israel's demand that it retain the right to protect those settlements with its own armed forces.

### Will Discuss 'Delicate Problems'

(Meanwhile, Weizman arrived in New York last night but declined to answer any substantive questions before his discussions with Carter and top Administration officials in Washington beginning tomorrow. During a press conference shortly after his arrival, Weizman described his visit to Washington as aimed at discussing "certain delicate problems." He added: "There are some very important moves to be made and therefore I would say that I am hopeful that (the talks) will be productive and fruitful." He will be in Washington until Friday and return to New York to await the arrival of Begin and Dayan next week and will then return with them to Washington.)

## DEFENSE MINISTRY RESTRICTING SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 6 (JTA)--The Defense Ministry is tightening its restrictions on Gush Emunim groups encamped at military bases on the West Bank. Although the Ministry denied last night a report that all development work by the Gush has been suspended on the orders of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, it is clear that the militant settlers have been placed under restraints.

The Ministry announced that a group at the Beth El military camp near Ramallah, consisting of about 30 families with children, were prevented from building new houses. The army said it needed the land for a firing range. The Gush were also notified that the army would no longer provide dining facilities for them nor would they be allowed to dine in the camp's mess.

The settlers were given two days to make arrangements for their own cooking and dining. They are unable to do this now and food is being sent to them by another Gush group at Nebi Tzalah. All land development work has been halted at the latter site which is also in the Ramallah region. The Gush reacted angrily. Its leaders said yesterday that they would launch a new campaign of propaganda and demonstrations to protest the government's policies.

### Report Begin Rejects Schindler's Appeal

Meanwhile, Premier Menachem Begin was reported to have rejected an appeal by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, to suspend settlement activity while political negotiations are in progress.

According to Yediot Achronot, Schindler cabled Begin over the weekend urging him to issue a statement freezing settlement activity in order to assure the success of his upcoming talks with President Carter in Washington. But Begin refused, claiming that the government could not contradict its own

view that the settlements are not an obstacle to peace, Yediot reported. (In New York, Schindler was not available for comment. He was reported today to be out of town.)

### EHRLICH DEFENDS HIS ECONOMIC POLICY AS A WAVE OF STRIKES HIT ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedon

TEL AVIV, March 6 (JTA)--Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich defended his economic policies in the Knesset today against the background of a new wave of labor unrest and attacks by the opposition Labor Alignment.

Ehrlich, introducing an additional budget of IL 17 billion for the current fiscal year, claimed that his policies have proven successful. He said exports were up and the price index for the period November-January rose only 17 percent, two percent less than critics anticipated when the Pound was devalued by 48 percent last year.

According to Ehrlich, industry and agriculture are growing and if there was a decrease in investments it was not in export-oriented projects. He noted that there was a rise in the number of building starts but did not mention the sharp price increases in the apartment market.

Gad Yacobi of the Labor Alignment, chairman of the Knesset's Economic Committee, charged that the State's economy was deteriorating while the national debt is rising at an unprecedented rate. He challenged Ehrlich's statement that the government was avoiding borrowings in foreign currency. According to Yacobi, inflation increased at a rate of 30 percent during the last three months as a result of the government's economic policies.

### Thousands In Work Actions

Ehrlich's immediate problem is the latest rash of wildcat strikes and work stoppages and the eight-week-old strike that has paralyzed Israel's merchant marine. About 11,000 employees of the Postal Service engineering department which includes television, telephone and telex technicians, staged a 24-hour strike yesterday without advance warning.

All broadcasting was suspended except for hourly news bulletins and the Army Radio Service. The strike ended at 5 p.m. local time today but a general strike by mail carriers and post office workers is threatened for next Monday. Psychologists employed by municipalities are also planning to strike next week and there may be a walkout this week by employees of the licensing office and meteorological stations.

There has been no progress in the eight-week seamen's strike and El Al maintenance workers suddenly decided they will not work on Saturdays although they always have. Ehrlich warned yesterday that the government will take firm action against small groups of workers who try to "hold the State by the throat."

He noted that Transport Minister Meir Amit has authorized the sale of six Israeli merchant ships on action that Ehrlich blamed on the strike. There is, however, a world-wide shipping slump, the worst since the 1973 oil embargo, and shipowners are trying to sell off excess tonnage wherever they can.

Ehrlich was attacked by Histadrut for allegedly referring to the striking seamen and the El Al maintenance crews as "parasitic elements." The Finance Minister was accused of insulting Israel's workers. One bright spot was a decision by district court judges to postpone a three-day strike they were to have begun tomorrow. They postponed

the strike at the urging of Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir.

### ISSUE OF RESOLUTION 242 WILL BE ON AGENDA OF TALKS BETWEEN BEGIN, CARTER

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA)--The State Department today sidestepped requests from reporters for the U.S. interpretation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, noting that this will be among the topics Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and President Carter will discuss in their meetings at the White House, March 14-15.

Carter has said that 242 applies "to all fronts" while Begin has indicated that its application does not involve the West Bank which he regards as "liberated" and not "occupied" territories. The resolution speaks of "occupied territories."

A State Department spokesman, Thomas Reston, said "differences of opinion" do exist between the U.S. and Israel on the interpretation of 242, but he was not giving "an interpretation of that classical question whether occupied territories means all occupied territories."

When he was asked whether the resolution means Israel should withdraw "from all occupied territories," Reston replied, "No. I am not saying that, absolutely not." Reston said the issue of whether the U.S. should meet Israel's request for 25 F-15 and 150 F-16 jet fighters will be discussed when Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman is in Washington for three days beginning tomorrow.

Reston reserved comment on a suggestion by Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D.W.Va.) that the Carter Administration withhold final notification to Congress of the aircraft package for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel until after the Senate disposes of the Panama Canal treaties. Senate opponents of the package have advised the Administration not to attempt to rush the aircraft deals through Congress and cited the Panama treaties as a reason for postponing discussion of them.

### Schlesinger Opts For Planes Sale To Saudis

Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger said yesterday on the CBS television program "Face the Nation," that "it would be unwise" for Congress to "turn down" the proposed sale of 60 F-15s to Saudi Arabia. He based his view on "our longer term relationship with the Saudis, and the energy problem, as well as political problems in the Middle East on which the Saudis have been a modifying" and "moderating influence."

Asked by a reporter whether it would be "a slap in the face" if Congress rejected the sale to the Saudis, Schlesinger responded that "some might certainly take it that way." He added, "It depends upon how the Congress were to make such a hypothetical rejection, but I do not believe that the Congress ultimately will reject the sale."

### WJ CONGRESS DELEGATION TO POLAND

TEL AVIV, March 6 (JTA)--A World Jewish Congress delegation will visit Poland soon and attend the ceremonies marking the 35th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, it was announced here during a two-day meeting of the Congress' World Executive. During their visit, the delegation will continue talks with representatives of the Polish government on problems pertaining to Polish Jews.

The Congress Executive, which was presided over for the first time by Philip Klutznick, WJ Congress president, decided to set up a subcommittee to establish an international commission to combat

neo-Nazi movements. It also decided to set up an international Jewish youth council.

The Executive was informed that the Jewish memorial pavilion at the site of the former Auschwitz death camp in Poland will open next September, not in April as previously announced. Israeli institutions like Yad Vashem are helping to complete the pavilion.

### FEAR THAT A SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST ELECTION VICTORY IN FRANCE COULD LEAD TO A TOUGHER STAND AGAINST ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 6 (JTA)--Supporters of Israel are seriously concerned that a victory for the Socialist-Communist coalition in France's legislative elections March 12 and 19 could mean a tougher stand on Israel's withdrawal from occupied territory and the creation of a Palestinian state. Both parties in the left-wing coalition recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as representative of the Palestinian people. The Communist line, however, is much harsher on Israel than the Socialists' which has moderated recently.

Francois Mitterand, Secretary General of France's Socialist Party, said in an interview with the French-Jewish weekly Tribune Juive, published last Friday, that should his party form the next government it will support "Israel's right to exist within safe and recognized borders guaranteed by the international community of nations."

But he stressed as well "the right of the Palestinians to a homeland based on the West Bank within a state-like framework which we cannot define." Mitterand added, "We recognize the PLO's representation (of the Palestinian people) which the UN granted it. We believe, however, that the PLO will deprive itself of its own means as long as it fails to recognize the State of Israel."

### Likud Group Blasts Mitterand

Mitterand took a less moderate position last Feb. 22 when he termed the PLO the "only recognized Palestinian representative." He retreated from that apparently after Jewish Socialist circles warned that such a position would cost votes and jeopardize a Socialist victory.

Nevertheless, the French branch of Likud blasted Mitterand. "We are deeply concerned about M. Mitterand's attitude toward Israel and the Middle East conflict," it said in a statement released over the weekend. Likud said it saw "clear indications about the foreign policy he would apply if he came to power and such policy goes beyond that presently applied (by France)."

While "it is true that M. Mitterand has supported the existence of the Jewish State within secure and recognized borders," Likud said, "there is a flagrant contradiction since the PLO and the Arab states which support this organization deny Israel the right to exist."

### Harsh Communist Party Line

The French Communist leader, Georges Marchais said that if the Socialist-Communist coalition forms the next government, it will support the creation of a Palestinian state and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. In an interview in Le Monde published last Thursday, Marchais said: "No just and lasting solution (to the Middle East conflict) can be found if the PLO, the organization representing the Palestinian people and internationally recognized as such, is kept out of the negotiations."

Most political observers and public opinion polls predict a victory for the Socialist-Communist combine. But whether it will be capable of forming a government depends on its ability to resolve the deep seated differences between the two parties in time for the elections. Many observers doubt that this will be possible.

None of the parties in the current election campaign, except the small left-wing Radicals, are making much of an effort to woo Jewish voters on the national level. Political observers cite two reasons: the 600,000-member French Jewish community represents only about one percent of the population and party strategists fear that making promises to the Jewish electorate might antagonize a far larger proportion of the voters who believe French national interests should be served first; also, the Jewish population is widely dispersed.

### WARNING ON NAZI ERA LITERATURE

By Jon Fedler

BONN, March 6 (JTA)--West Germany's President, Walter Scheel, called today for "extensive scientific research" into the Germany of the Third Reich but warned that the current flood of literature dealing with the Nazi era should not be dismissed as a passing "Hitler fad." Scheel spoke at ceremonies in Wuerzburg, Bavaria, launching the annual Brotherhood Week sponsored by the Association for Christian-Jewish Cooperation.

Scheel said he was aware that there are right-wing extremists in Germany as elsewhere. He placed their number, as of the end of 1976, at 18,000 who belonged to or supported rightist groups. He cautioned that because of their past, Germans must be "especially vigilant" and not play down the signs of anti-Semitism "where they do in fact exist." He asserted that scientific research into the Nazi era was necessary to produce objective publications about the Third Reich to offset one-sided publications "that may possibly have an unhealthy influence on young people."

The theme of this year's Brotherhood Week is "Martin Buber's Message for our Times." The ceremonies were attended, among others, by Israeli Ambassador Yohanan Meroz; Chief Rabbi Peter Levison of Bavaria who awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal to the scientist, Dr. Grete Schaeder and theologian Dr. Albrecht Goes; and Prof. Schemaryahu Talmon of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

### ZIONIST EQUAL RIGHTS MEASURE RAPPED

NEW YORK, March 6 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Alliance of America has issued a statement registering "strong opposition" to the granting of equal rights by the World Zionist Congress to the Conservative and Reform Movements in World Zionist Organization education programs in the diaspora. The Orthodox group, in its statement, signed by Rabbi Abraham B. Hecht, president of the Alliance, declared:

"This action is an insult to the traditional Jews worldwide. It will cause irreparable harm to the unity of the Jewish people and will bring further division in the already splintered Jewish community. This can result in destructive consequences in the State of Israel. We urge the World Zionist Congress to repudiate this vote and thus remove a cancer which threatens to destroy Jewish life and the Jewish faith." After the equal rights measure created turmoil at the Congress in Jerusalem last week, Leon Dulzin, WZO chairman, promised to refer the measure to the Congress Court.

# **BEHIND THE HEADLINES NEW DOCUMENTS HIGHLIGHT BRITISH HOSTILITY TO JEWISH REFUGEES**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 6 (JTA)--Newly released documents about British efforts to prevent Jews from leaving Europe on the eve of World War II show that there was strong opposition to the influx of Jews not only into Palestine but throughout the British Empire in places as far apart as Burma and the West Indies.

The evidence has been collated in an article by Martin Gilbert, the historian and biographer of Sir Winston Churchill, who concludes that lack of sympathy towards Jewish refugees in the Home Office and the Foreign Office was a major factor in the ultimate fate of many European Jews.

His article appears in the 1978 issue of the Zionist Year Book, published by the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland and edited by Jane Moonman, and deals with British policy towards Jewish refugees between May and September, 1939.

The idea of admitting Jews to various parts of the empire was supported by Malcolm MacDonald who, as Colonial Secretary, was architect of the White Paper limiting the number of entry certificates to Palestine in order to appease the Arabs.

## **Claims Unacceptable Burden**

One of the alternative havens suggested was British Guiana, where 500 Jewish families would have been admitted. Objections were raised first by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Simon, who said it would be an unacceptable burden on the British taxpayer and later by a Royal Commission on the West Indies, despite the fact that British Jewry in the meantime pledged to finance the settlement of the 500 refugees.

MacDonald himself had his own reservations about the British Guiana plan, telling a Cabinet committee that he was "afraid that when the refugee settlers became British subjects (i.e. after five years) they would acquire the right to migrate into the United Kingdom if they wished."

Hostility to accepting Jewish refugees anywhere was voiced by A.W.G. Randall of the Foreign Office when commenting on some 300 European Jews whom the government of Cyprus refused to admit even on a temporary basis: "It is unthinkable that a miscellaneous crowd of Jews could be admitted to any other part of the empire," he said on June 1, 1939.

Burma and Southern Rhodesia were two more British possessions considered as possible sanctuaries. Although Foreign Office officials like Sir Alexander Cadogan (later to be Britain's representative at the United Nations) favored opening the doors, the idea was turned down at other levels.

Thus, on March 3, 1939, an India Office official commented on the Burma proposal: "There is no possibility of contemplating large-scale settlement by European refugees in the colonies in view of the strong objections which would be felt against such settlement to the prejudice of the indigenous races concerned."

## **More Objections Cited**

On March 13, 1939, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia explained to the British Consul-General in Alexandria: "My government regrets they are unable to accede to request of the sixteen German Jews mentioned in your telegram to migrate to this colony. Capacity of Southern Rhodesia for absorb-

ing aliens is definitely limited."

To illustrate the attitude shown by some British officials, Gilbert quotes another Foreign Office official, Roger Makins, who stated on April 5, 1939: "Polish Jews will be less welcome as immigrants in the colonial empire than any other class." Patrick Reilly added (on April 26, 1939) that some of the refugees were "definitely criminals or spies."

As for the organizers of the growing illegal immigration traffic, a Foreign Office note, dated July 10, 1939, said that it was "as fundamentally anti-social as the German persecution of which they complain." Another official said the illegal immigration was largely the work of Revisionists, doing it partly for political reasons and partly for the "heavy fares charged."

Gilbert concludes: "Not only followers of (Zeev) Jabotinsky (leader of the Zionist Revisionist Movement), but Jews of no particular political affiliation, could be pardoned if the cynicism revealed by comments such as these were to induce anger, bitterness, or even, at times, despair."

## **CHRISTIANS SEND JEWISH SCRIPTURES TO SOVIET JEWISH DISSIDENT**

SEATTLE, March 6 (JTA)--The Church Council of Greater Seattle, a body representing all the Christian denominations in the area, recently sent a copy of the Jewish holy scriptures to Anatoly Shcharansky, the Soviet Jewish dissident.

"By sending him the scriptures, the local Christian community is attempting to make Soviet officials aware that American Christians, as well as American Jews, are concerned about the lack of religious freedom in the Soviet Union," said David Stahl, Pacific Northwest regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"The Soviet authorities may not let him receive the scriptures," Stahl added, "but they will recognize the concern of American Christians for the plight of Soviet Jews. Hopefully this move will be followed by similar actions on the part of Christian communities throughout America."

## **CJC REAFFIRMS SUPPORT TO BEGIN GOV'T.**

TORONTO, March 6 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) sent a telegram yesterday to Premier Menachem Begin of Israel declaring that the CJC, on behalf of all Canadian Jewry, "strongly reaffirms their fullest support and solidarity with the State of Israel and your government."

The telegram, signed by Rabbi Gunther Plaut, president of the CJC, followed a meeting of the CJC. It read: "Destructive pressure tactics in the international political arena are being exerted on the government of Israel. One of these tactics is the attempt to split and weaken the support of world Jewry for the State of Israel. The CJC, on behalf of all Canadian Jews, strongly reaffirms their fullest support and solidarity with the State of Israel and your government."

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Additional units of the Syrian-backed Al Saika terrorist organization are converging on south Lebanon. Israeli sources estimate their strength at two battalions. The terrorists are building fortifications around the strategic Maroun A-Ras village they captured last Thursday from the Christian militia. Other Al Saika units were reported occupying other strongholds in south Lebanon. Israel is keeping a close watch on their movements.