



## GENERAL STRIKE BY JOURNALISTS BLACKS OUT ALL NEWS IN ISRAEL By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)—A general strike by Israeli journalists blacked out all news today. Newspapers did not publish and no news was broadcast on radio and television. The Army Radio continued to broadcast feature type news on specialized subjects, mainly for the benefit of troops, but there were no news bulletins. Itim, the nationwide news distribution agency was also on strike.

The walk-out is the first by Israeli journalists in 25 years although there have been occasional work stoppages and a one-day strike to protest a law that would have limited freedom of the press. The issue is wages. Journalists have received no increases for six years, save for cost-of-living allowances. The wages of engineers, which the journalists take as their model, have doubled in the last five years. The journalists' union says that for a news person to function independently and objectively, an increase of 40-50 percent is required. The publishers are willing to grant a 12 percent raise.

The journalists claim that their profession is one of the most underpaid in Israeli society. They say a 21-year-old bank clerk earns more than a journalist with 25 years' experience.

According to Haaretz, a housemaid earns IL 35 per hour or IL 7370 per month compared to IL 7030 per month for a journalist with 15 years' experience. Haaretz contrasted the monthly remuneration of a journalist with that of a waiter (IL 10,165); an El Al maintenance worker (IL 12,000); an engineer (IL 17,000); and a bank branch manager (IL 25,000). It noted that physicians and aviation workers received increases of 80-85 percent in recent years. The journalists filed notice of their strike 30 days ago. Negotiations have been going on since then without results and are continuing.

## 25,000 PERSONS IN RALLY TO DEMAND TERRITORIAL COMPROMISES FOR PEACE

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)—An estimated 25,000 Israelis demonstrated here last night to urge the government to be more forthcoming in the quest for peace. The rally, which was orderly throughout, was organized by a group of 300 reserve officers who recently petitioned Premier Menachem Begin to agree to territorial compromises on all fronts in the interests of a peace settlement. Last week the reserve officers said they had a petition with 10,000 signatures.

Placards carried by the demonstrators bore such slogans as "Better peace in the State of Israel than war for the whole of Eretz Israel," "Peace now" and "Peace today is no longer a dream." Speakers said their objective was to convince the government to change its priorities. "For true and everlasting peace we must be ready for compromises on all fronts, south, north and east," they said. They charged that the Begin government's present policy "weakens and dilutes the chance of peace."

Many Labor Party and Mapam-Knesset mem-

bers attended the rally, as did Communist and Sheli faction MKs. The organizers stressed, however, that their group is non-partisan and has no political aims. They said they would pursue their goal in a democratic manner.

## 1000-MAN NORWEGIAN ARMY TO CONSTITUTE PART OF UNIFIL

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)—A 1000-man Norwegian army unit arrived in Israel Friday and encamped at an Israeli army base over the weekend prior to entering south Lebanon where it will constitute part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Norwegian officers toured the Metullah area today to inspect the sector of south Lebanon that their troops will patrol. A senior officer said their main problem will be land mines of the plastic variety that are undetectable by mine detectors.

Land mines caused the first UNIFIL casualties last week when one Swedish soldier was killed and another wounded in a mine explosion near the Litani River in south Lebanon. Meanwhile, Gen. Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana, commander of UNIFIL, said in a radio interview today that his instructions were still unclear as to the scope of operations permitted the UN force. He said he would use force if necessary to prevent armed persons from entering south Lebanon. But the UNIFIL contingents are not authorized to take action against armed terrorists deployed north of the Litani.

Israel's Chief of Staff, Gen. Mordechai Gur, revealed in newspaper interviews published Friday that Israeli intelligence had advance knowledge last month that terrorists were training at Damour, south of Beirut, for an assault on Israel. They did not know, he said, that the terrorists were planning their attack by sea which resulted in the March 11 massacre. According to Gur, Israel deliberately refrained from attacking the terrorist base at Damour because it would have caused high civilian casualties.

A subsequent communique by the Prime Minister's Office revealed that limited action was taken as a preventive measure but did not disclose where. It did not prevent the March 11 assault.

## CABINET REGRETS EGYPT HAS REJECTED ISRAEL'S PROPOSAL TO RESUME TALKS Weizman May Return to Cairo This Week By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)—The Cabinet expressed regret today that Egypt has rejected Israel's proposal to resume the work of the joint political and military committees suspended last January and hoped that Cairo would reconsider. But Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor, briefing newsmen after the session, refused to say that Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's meetings with President Anwar Sadat Thursday had been a failure.

It appears that Weizman will return to Cairo this week, at Sadat's invitation, to resume their talks at the near-summit level. According to an interview published in the Egyptian weekly October today, Sadat said "Direct talks between us will always continue. . . . Peace is difficult but it is not impossible." He told the magazine that Weizman's trip to Cairo "was not a picnic to come here for a cup of tea. He came to break the stalemate."

### Sadat Appeals To Israeli People

However, Sadat added the gap between the Israeli and the Egyptian views "must be narrowed to achieve peace. This will not lead to despair. We have achieved a lot and more will be achieved." In his interview, Sadat appeared to be appealing to the Israeli people over the head of Premier Menachem Begin whom he described as "an old fashioned politician." He said "It is up to the Israeli people to find what is better for them to achieve the peace desired by all of us." He said that Begin had not responded to his peace bid by removing the psychological barrier between Israel and the Arabs.

The Cabinet met for three hours this morning as a ministerial security committee which means that its deliberations were classified. Weizman briefed his colleagues on his talks in Cairo. Naor told newsmen that the government continues to believe that the political and military committee talks agreed to by Sadat and Premier Begin at their Christmas Day meeting in Ismailia are still the most effective way to achieve progress.

The committees allowed the parties to deal with specific issues whereas summit level meetings were by their nature limited to much broader matters. The Cabinet's position, relayed by Naor, seemed to be that Israel is ready to "talk business" and was aimed at countering the impression abroad that Israel is dragging its feet.

The Egyptians apparently believe that the reasons which caused them to break off the committee talks in January still hold. They are waiting for more substantial commitments from Israel before resuming those talks. It is in that light that the invitation to Weizman to return to Cairo this week should be viewed, sources here said.

### Weizman Sounds Optimistic Note

Weizman sounded an optimistic note when he addressed Herut's young guard at Kfar Hamaccabiah Friday night, shortly after his return from Egypt. "My visit to Cairo was not the last one. There will be more meetings, I assure you that," he said.

He said that in his conversations with Sadat and with Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Gamassy he did not deviate in the slightest way from the government's guidelines. He stressed, however, that "much patience is needed because the process is a long one." But he assured his audience that Israel would stand by its demands that are vital for its security and survival.

Weizman dismissed rumors of a rift between himself and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, the leading "hawk" in the Cabinet. Sharon, who also spoke at the Herut meeting, agreed. He said he was on good terms with Weizman. "We talk at least six times a day. There are other ministers with whom I spoke not one word for many months," he said.

Sharon insisted that development work would continue at Israeli settlements in Sinai, which he claimed were vital to their security. He said the work must go on at this time because the security of the settlements had been neglected for 10 years.

### ARAFAT EVASIVE AS TO WHETHER PLO WILL OBSERVE CEASEFIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, refused to give a direct "yes" or "no" when he was

asked in an interview shown today whether the PLO would observe the ceasefire in south Lebanon ordered by the United Nations Security Council.

Interviewed in Beirut Friday on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers," all Arafat would say is that he "offered all my facilities" to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) when he met with UN officials last week "so that they can be able to carry on with their task of the withdrawal of the Israelis from Lebanon."

But he said he could not control Palestinian forces that were still in south Lebanon since "I am not there." He noted that Israeli Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur said that Israel did not control every part of south Lebanon. "It is not my fault" if Gur does not control all areas where the Palestinians are in south Lebanon, Arafat said. "If he can, let him do it."

Arafat stressed that Palestinians are in south Lebanon as part of an agreement with Lebanon endorsed by two Arab summit conferences at Riyadh and Cairo. He said the UN cannot abrogate this agreement. He noted he did not approve of the UN coming into the area but "Lebanon accepted it and we have to accept it" since it is Lebanese territory.

The PLO chief said that "I doubt" that Israel will completely withdraw from south Lebanon. He charged that the formation of the new army by south Lebanese Christians last week was an Israeli "trick" to remain in south Lebanon.

### Ordered March 11 Raid

In an acrimonious exchange with his interviewers, Arafat said he ordered the El Fatah raid in which 33 Israelis were killed March 11. But he said it was a "big lie" that the terrorists killed the Israeli civilians, claiming that it was the Israeli troops that blew up the bus hijacked by the terrorists. However, he avoided answering how others were killed earlier during the attack.

Arafat charged that the Carter Administration "retreated" from its support of self-determination for the Palestinian people. "You are controlled by blackmail of the Israeli lobby in America," he said.

### SAUDI, FRANCE IN \$3.5 BILLION ARMS PACT

PARIS, April 2 (JTA)--France and Saudi Arabia have signed arms contracts worth \$3.5 billion providing for the purchase in France of planes, tanks, electronic equipment and sophisticated missiles. French sources said here yesterday the contracts also cover France's participation in the Arab arms industry now being set up in Egypt.

The basic contract provides for the acquisition in France of AMX-30 tanks and an anti-aircraft umbrella consisting of a wide network of radar installations, ground-to-air missiles and helicopters. Saudi Arabia, the sources said, is also interested in Dassault's new Mirage-2000 combat plane which might be ordered should the U.S. refuse to go ahead with the sale of the F-15s promised to Saudi Arabia by the Carter Administration. The Mirage-2000 is described as similar to the F-15.

### LAMM ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM FOR THE RABBI ELCHANAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, today announced a new program at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, the Orthodox university's center for rabbinic training, to educate laymen in Jewish law.

and thought. He said the program, which will revive the 2000-year-old designation "Chaver" for exceptional scholarly achievement, will be similar to course of studies for smicha (ordination), but will be aimed at those who plan to go to graduate or professional schools and pursue careers outside the rabbinate.

Lamm made the announcement before some 2000 persons at a Torah Convocation for 360 rabbis aided by the seminary from 1970 to 1977 which capped a week-long eighth anniversary celebration for the seminary, the nation's oldest and largest rabbinic training and Jewish service center. The seminary, chartered March 20, 1897, eventually grew into Yeshiva University which has 7000 students in five undergraduate and nine graduate and professional schools.

"In this day and age, with our ever-increasing technological and scientific breakthroughs, its complexity of interrelated moral and juridical issues, it is vital that the professional practitioners have a solid grounding in Judaic law and thought to serve as the foundation of his career and a guidepost in his practice," Lamm said explaining the Chaver program.

#### Elements Of New Program

He pointed out that the title "Chaver" was in Talmudic times "bestowed only upon the most eminent scholars" while later it was also "conferred upon choice laymen as a signal token of recognition for personal learning and distinguished communal leadership. Today, with the growing concern of ethics in business and the professions, and the need for a core cadre of highly knowledgeable lay leaders, the Chaver will assume a new significance, emerging out of the new realities of this special time in Jewish history."

In outlining the tuition-free program, Lamm said that after graduating college the students would postpone their graduate work for a year and devote themselves to the regular course of learning at the seminary, a systematic program of Jewish studies related to their chosen profession and advanced Biblical studies and Jewish thought. After graduate school, they would return for a two-to-four-week summary period to gain the title Chaver. There would be examinations at each step.

At the convocation, Lamm presented a Building Dedicatory Award to Joseph and Faye Tenenbaum of Toronto in recognition of their gift of \$1 million to dedicate the seminary's historic 50-year-old structure in Washington Heights. A newly-elected board of the seminary was honored at the 80th anniversary dinner last Thursday night. Charles H. Bendheim, New York, is board president. (By David Friedman)

#### THE PLIGHT OF SHCHARANSKY

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA)--Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D. Cal.), long involved in the struggle for Soviet Jewry, met last week in the Soviet Union with Mrs. Ida Milgram, mother of Anatoly Shcharansky--the Soviet Jew who has been in prison and held incommunicado for more than a year, according to a report by his office here.

Waxman and two other members of a congressional delegation who are in the Soviet Union to discuss arms limitation negotiations also met with a leading Soviet Jewish activist, Vladimir Slepak and more than a dozen of Slepak's fellow refuseniks. Waxman and Reps. M. Robert Carr (D. Mich.) and Patricia Schroeder (D. Colo.) insisted

on making contact with Jewish activists--though the official congressional committee schedule did not make provisions for such talks.

According to Waxman, neither Shcharansky's mother or any other members of his family have been given any information as to whether or when a trial will take place or precisely what the charges will be. Waxman reported that Shcharansky's mother is "in a state of terrible anguish living with the constant fear that a trial for treason could result in a death sentence."

Slepak and his associates told the Waxman group that the emigration situation is deteriorating. After his visit with Slepak--who has been denied permission to leave for more than eight years--and other refuseniks, Waxman reported that exit permits are being issued mainly to the sick and aged and that it has become especially hard for scientists and other professionals to emigrate.

#### NEW DIPLOMATIC POST IN NEW YORK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--The deputy chief spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, Binyamin Avileah, has been named to a new post in New York heading the Israeli information center there. He will head liaison work with all the major international organizations headquartered in New York, among them the leading Jewish organizations.

This new post is being set up with urgency in view of Israel's sagging popularity in the U.S. Until now the responsibility of overseeing liaison with the national organizations was part of the work of the information minister at the Washington Embassy. But Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan apparently believes the area is sufficiently important to have a senior diplomat devote himself to it entirely. Avileah will be given the personal diplomatic rank of minister and will be formally attached either to the Washington Embassy or to the United Nations Israeli Mission.

He served in New York as a Consul General in the early seventies, and for the past four years he has been deputy spokesman at the Foreign Ministry. In the view of many leading foreign and local correspondents, Avileah achieved rare success in this difficult and sensitive job. An indicator of the respect and popularity which he has enjoyed is the invariably large turnout of top foreign correspondents to his daily news briefings.

Avileah's wife, Ruth, is a public relations officer for the Jerusalem Hilton and is also a popular figure in Jerusalem journalistic and political circles.

#### INCENTIVES FOR YORDIM TO RETURN HOME

JERUSALEM, April (JTA)--A program of incentives aimed at persuading Israeli expatriates (yordim) to return home has been agreed to by Absorption Minister David Levy and Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive. It has been approved by Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich as well and the Knesset's finance committee is working out the final details. The measures were also approved by the Knesset's immigration and absorption committee.

In effect, yordim who left Israel before April 1, 1975 and return by August 31, 1979 will receive many of the same privileges extended to new immigrants. This will include financial assistance while seeking work or to establish private business and additional assistance for housing. They will be exempted from taxes on personal effects and will be given free medical insurance for six months.

## ADMINISTRATION MOUNTS CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF ITS MIDDLE EAST POLICY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA)--The Carter Administration has mounted an intensive nationwide campaign in support of its policy for a settlement in the Middle East, including the sale of weapons to countries in the area, and the outlook for American business there.

The State Department is leading the campaign and has arranged a series of conferences in conjunction with local organizations involved in international relations, business and civic affairs in major cities throughout America. "They are intended to increase an exchange of ideas and information about U.S. foreign policy towards the Middle East," the State Department said, in announcing the program Friday.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the National Association of Arab Americans are both included among the "cooperating organizations" in the first conference which will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Atlanta on April 5. The chief co-sponsor for the conference with the State Department is the Southern Center for International Studies. The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and 22 other Georgia organizations are cooperating in the program, the State Department said.

### Will Explore U.S. Concerns

"The conference is designed to explore with the citizens of Georgia the major political, economic and strategic concerns which determine United States foreign policy in the Middle East," the Department said. "These sessions will focus on recent developments in Israel and the Arab world, the politics of energy, United States business opportunities in the Middle East and United States arms sales policy," the State Department said.

The program as announced did not specifically point to the controversial package of warplanes the Administration wants to sell to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel.

In the panel discussion on Israel's position in the Middle East, one of the interlocutors will be Stuart Lewengraub, Southeast regional director of the ADL. Charles Wittenstein of the Southern Council, ADL, will be one of the interlocutors along with David K. Henkle, an executive of the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt division of the J. A. Jones Construction Co., Sam Ayoub, president of Coca-Cola's Middle East grouping, and Kenneth Stein, an Emory University professor of Near Eastern history, will be interlocutors in the workshop on inter-Arab politics.

Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who is now a professor at Georgia University Law School; Alfred L. Atherton Jr., President Carter's Ambassador at large for Middle East peace negotiations; and Sidney Sober, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, will address the conference.

Other organizations cooperating in the conference include: the Atlanta Jewish Welfare Board, NAACP Southeast region, City of Atlanta, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and the League of Women Voters.

### U.S. ARMS PACKAGE UNDER FIRE

BOSTON, April 2 (JTA)--Thousands of signatures affixed to petitions which criticize the

Carter Administration's arms package were sent to President Carter, it was announced by Leo Dunn, president of the Jewish Community Council. The petitions were circulated in the Greater Boston area in response to the administration's announced intention to sell sophisticated military equipment and warplanes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia while at the same time diminishing the amount of defense material going to Israel.

The petitions asserted that such actions are contrary to furthering peace, undermine American credibility as a peace seeker and mediator in the Middle East, transform America into an "arms merchant," violate U.S. promises to Israel, and increase Arab intransigence in negotiating peace with Israel.

In his letter to Carter, which accompanied the petitions, Dunn stated, "I hope you will respond favorably to our concerns and that the Administration will let the world know clearly and decisively that America fully supports its only dependable ally in the Middle East--Israel--and that the United States will not become the arms merchant to Arab countries."

### COURT ORDER UPHELD BANNING NAZI MARCH IN SKOKIE BEFORE MAY

CHICAGO, April 2 (JTA)--The Federal Court of Appeals upheld a lower court order that bars members of a Nazi group from marching through Skokie before May. A three-judge panel on Friday rejected a request by the National Socialist Party of America and its director, Frank Collin, that the judges vacate a March 17 ban by U.S. District Judge Bernard Decker which imposed a 45-day stay on an earlier ruling which barred the Village of Skokie from enforcing three ordinances designed to keep Nazis from marching in uniform wearing swastikas.

Meanwhile, an editorial in the April issue of St. Anthony's Messenger, a national Catholic magazine, urged Christians throughout the United States to wear the yellow Star of David that European Jews were forced to wear during the Nazi regime in Germany and in countries conquered by the Nazis, on April 20, Hitler's birthday.

The editorial, written by Barbara Beckwith, a native of Skokie, urged Christians to repudiate the march and declared: "Imagine the force of repudiation of Nazi ideas if millions of Christians would wear the Jewish star April 20 in acknowledgment of our Christian debt to Jews." The magazine, published in Cincinnati, Ohio, has a circulation of 280,000.

### FIRST EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

GENEVA, April 2 (JTA)--The International Red Cross Committee announced here yesterday that the first repatriation of prisoners between Israel and Lebanon took place Friday under Red Cross auspices. The Geneva-based committee's representatives in Israel handed over to Lebanese authorities four Arab prisoners released by Israel in the first return of captives since Israeli forces marched into Lebanon earlier this month. The prisoners were delivered to Red Cross officials stationed in Lebanon at the Israeli border post at Rosh Hanikro. The four men, three Lebanese and an Egyptian, were then driven to Beirut where they were handed over to Lebanese authorities, the committee reported.

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GENEVA (JTA)--Switzerland has refused to accede to Israel's request to close the PLO office here.