



# JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency/165 West 46th Street/New York, New York 10036.

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Wednesday, April 5, 1978

No. 66

## ISRAEL, U.S. RESUME DIALOGUE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE BEGIN'S MEETING WITH CARTER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 4 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis here last night, resuming the American-Israeli dialogue for the first time since Begin's strained encounter with President Carter in Washington last month. Although circles here still define relations with the U.S. as "unpleasant," it is conceded that the American role is indispensable in the continuing negotiations with Egypt.

The negotiations are expected to follow two courses: direct contacts in the style of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's talks with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt last week and indirect exchanges through the good offices of the U.S. Official sources maintain strict silence over Weizman's visit to Sadat.

Their only comment is to note that the Egyptian leader invited Weizman to return, which means that there is "something to talk about." The outcome of his next visit to Cairo will depend on the Cabinet's appraisal of his last visit and its consensus. The Cabinet deliberated for six hours Sunday as a ministerial security committee whose proceedings are classified.

But differences are known to have arisen in the assessment of Weizman's trip. The Defense Minister himself appears convinced that the continuation of direct contacts with the Egyptian leadership is justified because that mode of negotiations allows for the revival of mutual trust, severely damaged since the Sadat-Begin Christmas Day meeting at Ismailia.

### Differing Views of Sadat's Aim

Sources close to Weizman have indicated that Sadat's readiness to continue these contacts is a sign that he genuinely seeks a settlement with Israel and, perhaps, even a tendency to soften his positions.

Foreign Ministry sources, on the other hand, reportedly believe that all Sadat wants at this time is to further deepen the differences between Israel and the U.S. and that the main purpose of his invitations to Weizman is public relations. Begin is said to believe in Sadat's personal sincerity but has doubts that Weizman's visits will persuade him to ease his position.

According to Western and Egyptian sources, Sadat has said that once Israel accepted the principle of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he would see to it that Palestinian representatives joined him in negotiating a transitional settlement with Israel based on an amended version of Begin's self-rule offer in the occupied territories. Sadat apparently is making Israeli acceptance a condition for resuming the suspended political and military committee talks. However, this would demand a major departure from the Likud government's present policy.

Meanwhile no date has been announced for Weizman's return visit to Cairo. There are still reports that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan

would go to Washington. But there has been no invitation yet from the U.S. Before he left on an official visit to Rumania Sunday night, Dayan said he had no plans to visit the U.S. in the near future.

## STANDING PAT ON PLANES SALE PACKAGE

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said today that the Administration's proposed aircraft "package" for Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia has not been submitted to Congress yet and that he knew of no reason for any change in its composition. He said the package deal would be presented to Congress as is.

Regarding the Mideast diplomatic scene, Carter said there were no plans at present for either Secretary of State Cyrus Vance or Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton to go to the area. Atherton has been designated by President Carter as Ambassador-at-Large in the Mideast with the task of furthering a settlement between Israel and Egypt and the other Arab countries. The State Department spokesman announced that Vance will go to the Soviet Union in mid-April for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. He said they would be discussing, primarily, the SALT agreements.

## GENERAL AMNESTY RULED OUT

JERUSALEM, April 4 (JTA)--Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir informed the Knesset today that no general amnesty will be granted on the occasion of Israel's 30th anniversary celebrations as has been the case in the past. However, he proposed that a special committee review each case separately and decide whether the prisoner is entitled to an easing of punishment.

The decision was in line with the recommendations of a committee headed by Erwin Shimon which reported last month on the extent of organized crime in Israel. The report recommended against a general amnesty, noting that 70 percent of the prisoners pardoned in 1967 after the Six-Day War, were eventually returned to jail for other crimes.

## ISRAEL THINNING OUT ITS FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON, WITHDRAWING SOME TROOPS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 4 (JTA)--Israel has begun to thin out its armed forces and to withdraw significantly in south Lebanon as the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) moved into place along the south bank of the Litani River, an army spokesman said last night.

The spokesman said the withdrawal timetable has been discussed with Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, supreme commander of UN forces in the Middle East, and that a preliminary proposal has already been transmitted to him. Siilasvuo said the plan for Israel's pull-back from the area would be published only after details are worked out with the UN.

Over the weekend a 1,000-man Norwegian contingent of UNIFIL established headquarters at Alkhiyan village, northeast of Mari Ayoun, a Lebanese Christian village, and began deploying its forces in the eastern sector of south Lebanon, once a terrorist stronghold known as Fatahland. The Norwegians will take over from a small Swedish contingent that

that now controls the Khardala Bridge, the east-westmost bridge over the Litani.

The Swedes will occupy an adjoining sector to the west and an Iranian contingent will hold the central sector, including the Akiya bridge. A French paratroop unit controlling the westernmost sector of the Litani has been re-enforced with 100 additional troops and some light tanks that were unloaded at the terrorist-held port of Tyre.

The French have not succeeded so far in taking control of the Kasmiyeh Bridge commanding the approaches to Tyre which remains in terrorist hands. They have dug in about a mile south of the bridge. The French apparently will try to persuade the terrorists to turn over the bridge but do not contemplate using force.

#### Israelis Rebuilding Villages

Further south, meanwhile, Israeli units continued to help rebuild Lebanese villages severely damaged in last month's fighting. They have brought pre-fab houses from Israel and established health services for the villagers. It was disclosed that dispensaries located at the open fences along the Israeli-Lebanese border treated some 41,000 south-Lebanese villagers during the past two years of warfare in that region. Life has returned to normal in the border area and each day about 500 Lebanese workers enter Israel where they are employed on farms and in factories. Others come to visit relatives or to trade.

#### LABOR PARTY RAPS BEGIN'S PEACE PLAN; SAYS IT WON'T JOIN COALITION GOV'T By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 4 (JTA)--The Labor Party Bureau today flatly rejected proposals that it join a national unity coalition government, blasted Premier Menachem Begin's peace plan and his Likud-led regime as not worthy of the nation's confidence and set forth a peace program of its own based on territorial compromise on all fronts.

The idea of a national unity coalition was floated by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman prior to his latest visit to Egypt. He said that Israel needed a "peace government" embracing all parties in order to present a united front to the U.S.

But the Labor Party Bureau said a national unity government was no substitute for correct policy. It said the Begin government under the leadership of Herut has made grave mistakes in the foreign policy field and in economic and social policy at home that were endangering Israel and not leading toward a solution of political and other problems.

#### Toughest Attack By Party

The Labor Party attack was the toughest since it was relegated to the opposition ranks in the elections of last May 17. It was launched shortly after both the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) and the Liberal Party wing of Likud came out firmly in support of Begin's peace plan. It may have been encouraged by a mass rally by an estimated 25,000 people in Tel Aviv Saturday who demanded that the Begin government ease its territorial positions in the quest for peace. The demonstration was the largest public protest of Likud policies since the government took office.

Labor declared that Israel now needs a government under its leadership, in conjunction with

other responsible parties, that could lead the nation toward peace. To do so, it must proceed along the lines laid down by the previous Labor government, based on Security Council Resolution 242 which, in principle, calls for peace within defensible borders agreed to in negotiations with all of the neighboring states and including territorial compromises but no return to the 1967 borders.

According to the Labor leadership, Begin's policies increase rather than diminish the danger of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They would substitute a policy that seeks peace with Jordan on the basis of territorial compromise which envisions a Jordanian-Palestinian state east of Israel in which Palestinians and Jordanians would find an expression of their national aspirations.

The borders of such a state must be determined in free negotiations with Jordan and with Palestinian Arabs who would be able to participate in deciding their own future within the framework of an Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement, the Laborites said.

#### SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWISH CONDITION IN QUEBEC

MONTREAL, April 4 (JTA)--"We have arrived at a juncture in history where both French Canadian nationalism and Jewish nationalism are each working out their sense of themselves and each, partly out of ignorance, partly out of suspicion, is insensitive to and unappreciative of the others' legitimate aspirations and fears."

With those words, Prof. Irwin Cotler, of McGill University, a leading Canadian civil rights attorney and political scientist, summed up the concerns of the Jewish community in this province, now governed by the Party Quebecois which seeks to separate Quebec from the rest of Canada.

In his remarks prepared for delivery at the 1978 Biennial Convention of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) which opens tomorrow at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel here, Cotler said "The Jewish condition in Quebec must be of concern to Jews everywhere." He observed that "Just as it is true to say that 'Quebec-Canada' will not be the same, so it is true to say that Quebec Jewry will not be the same again."

#### Process of Mutual Exploration

He said that "What is finding public expression in Quebec is the full encounter of 'le fait Francais' (the French fate) and 'le fait Juif' (the Jewish fate); mutual exploration in a context of very different memories and perceptions, symbolized by 'I remember,' ironically the motto of each, and the importance of symbols 'homeland' to the French Canadian and Jewish peoples."

Cotler noted that "When somebody says 'je suis pequiste' (I am a Party Quebecois person) he is giving expression to a belief system, a statement of values, an organized frame of reference, a commitment. Similarly, when a Jew says 'I am a Zionist,' he is saying something more than simply he is pro-Israeli. He too is giving expression to a belief system, a statement of values, an organizing frame of reference, a commitment," Cotler said. He also observed that "It is not only appropriate but imperative that we have these communal airings of private and public anxieties."

The JWB convention will be attended by about 1000 delegates from the U.S. and Canada and representatives from Israel, Britain, France and West Germany.

SPECIAL INTERVIEWISRAEL'S IMAGE IN THE U.S.

By Rochelle Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., April 4 (JTA)—"It is in America's best interest not to create one more direct confrontation state in the Middle East by selling 60 F-15s to Saudi Arabia," Uri Ben Ari, Israel's Consul General in New York City, said here today. He was in the State capital at the invitation of Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut to brief the Assemblymen and Senators on Israel's policy. More than 70 legislators attended the breakfast meeting.

In an exclusive interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Ben Ari conceded that Israel's image is suffering in the United States. He attributed it to several factors. "First," he said, "American oil consumption, dependent on the Arabs, is constantly growing. In addition, tens of billions of Arab dollars are invested in the United States in banks, universities, real estate and elsewhere and big business is available to Americans in Arab countries. There is the drive to get the buck wherever you can get one and to bend morality while you are doing so."

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last fall is also a factor in Israel's declining image in the U.S., Ben Ari said. "People don't understand that besides announcing he would accept Israel as a country in the Middle East, Sadat didn't give an inch. The public relations impact of Sadat's visit captured Americans' imagination, and people now aren't interested in the details of a peace plan. People liked Sadat's dramatic step," he explained, "and this will be very difficult to counteract until all the facts come through."

Ben Ari said he feels that Americans are looking to their own backyards now and are tired of foreign policy in general. Questioned about Israel's emphasis on securing defensible borders at a time when sophisticated weapons seem to negate such a necessity, Ben Ari, a Reserve brigadier general, explained that "you don't win a war with missiles." He said that if a border has a natural defense it could be held by Israel if attacked for a longer period while it had to mobilize its reserves.

STATE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES CONVICTION OF TWO TERRORISTS BY CYPRIOT COURT

WASHINGTON, April 4 (JTA)—The United States said today that it welcomed the murder conviction of two Palestinian terrorists by a Cypriot court as a measure to curb international terrorism. The court in Nicosia sentenced the terrorists to hang for the Feb. 18 slaying of Yusef Sabai, Editor-in-Chief of the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram, a crime aimed against President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative. The terrorists were seized at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus after an unsuccessful attempt to escape in a hijacked plane.

State Department spokesman Hoddging Carter, commenting on the conviction, declared, "I would like to reiterate our view that anything which serves to curb or penalize terrorism, we welcome. Clearly this is such a step and we welcome it."

ARABS MAY SEEK MEETING ON LEBANON

UNITED NATIONS, April 4 (JTA)—Unhappy with the pace of Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, the Arabs are considering a move to request a meeting of the Security Council, it was learned today. But diplomatic sources here said

that the United States is not interested in reconvening the Council and the possibility for such a meeting is almost nil at this time.

Meanwhile, Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog returned earlier than expected from a Caribbean lecture tour to be here in case the Security Council meets at the Arabs' request. During his one-week tour, Herzog met with local diplomats and discussed with them the situation in the Mideast.

EL AL SUSPENDS ALL OPERATIONSUNTIL IT CAN RESOLVE LABOR DISPUTE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 4 (JTA)—El Al, Israel's national airline, announced today that it is suspending all operations until conditions permit it to function smoothly, unhampered by labor actions that have disrupted its service. Mordechai Hod, director general of El Al who made the announcement at noon, said all passengers booked on El Al flights would be transferred to other carriers.

The action by management followed a wild-cat work stoppage by maintenance crews, the latest in the long series of labor disputes that has plagued Israel's international air carrier. The management had served notice some time ago that it would shut down operations in these circumstances. Its decision today was supported by the Ministry of Transport and the Finance Ministry.

The maintenance workers informed management yesterday that they planned to hold union meetings during morning work hours, thereby delaying the servicing of aircraft and disrupting flight schedules. Management reportedly agreed to the meetings but asked that they be held in the afternoon when most flights would be air-borne. The workers refused with the result that morning departures were grounded. Passengers at the Ben Gurion Airport complained bitterly when informed of the delays while efforts were made to find seats for them on foreign carriers.

El Al's troubles are only part of the labor strife that has hit Israel in recent weeks. Broadcast journalists employed by Kol Israel radio and television are still on strike after the Broadcasting Authority refused to sign the interim agreement with the national journalists union that ended the two-day newspaper strike yesterday. The Authority, a quasi-national body, claimed that its wage policy was under the jurisdiction of the Finance Ministry and therefore not affected by agreements signed by private publishers and their employees.

Meanwhile, the teachers union said it would strike tomorrow in support of demands for a 40 percent wage increase. Strikes are also threatened by civil service workers, employees of the National Insurance Institute and postal officials who have not received salary increases granted others. The only bright spot on the labor scene today was the prospect that the 11 week-old strike by merchant marine officers and seamen may end soon. Negotiations in that dispute are being conducted under Histadrut auspices.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Frank Sinatra arrived Tuesday for a one-week visit as a guest of the board of governors of the Hebrew University. The purpose of his visit is the inauguration of the Frank Sinatra Student Center at the university of Mt. Scopus Campus. Sinatra will be feted Wednesday by President Ephraim Katzir, and later this week he will attend a ceremony in which Premier Menachem Begin will be honored with an honorary doctorate by the Hebrew University.

**MIDEAST CONFLICT AT OSCAR CEREMONIES**

By David Friedman.

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA)--The Arab-Israeli conflict came to the Academy Awards' 50th anniversary ceremony last night, if but briefly. It was injected by British actress Vanessa Redgrave, who, after winning an Oscar for best supporting actress in "Julia," praised the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for not being "intimidated by threats of a small bunch of Zionist hoodlums."

Her remarks were ignored by the participants in the ceremony except for playwright Paddy Chayefsky who denounced her for using the nationally-televised program to air her own political views. "I am sick and tired of people using the Academy Awards for their own political views," he said. "Ms. Redgrave winning an award is not a pivotal moment in history. She did not have to make a political proclamation. A simple thank you would have sufficed."

Chayefsky, who said he could not have lived with himself if he had not made his remarks before presenting the writing awards, was warmly applauded. Ms. Redgrave was also applauded although there were many "boos" when she used the words "Zionist hoodlums."

The controversial British actress was apparently referring to threats that the Jewish Defense League had made in protest of her nomination for her work in "Julia" because of her support of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Ms. Redgrave has been denounced by Jewish groups for her documentary film, "The Palestinian," which expresses a pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli view.

**Several Hundred JDLers Picket**

Several hundred JDL members picketed the Los Angeles Music Center where the awards ceremony was going on. They were kept separate from a small number of PLO supporters. According to a report, the only case of violence occurred when three JDL members jumped three men wearing Nazi uniforms. Two of the Nazis were reportedly taken to the hospital and two of the JDL members arrested.

The award to Ms. Redgrave was the first in the three-hour program in an apparent effort by the Academy to get any problems over with immediately. Chayefsky's appearance did not come until the show was nearly over.

In her speech after receiving the Oscar, Ms. Redgrave said: "You should be very proud that in the last few weeks you stood firm and you refused to be intimidated by the threats of a small bunch of Zionist hoodlums whose behavior is an insult to the stature of Jews all over the world and to their great and heroic struggle against Fascism and oppression." She declared that she would continue to fight against "anti-Semitism and fascism." In "Julia," which is based on a story by Lillian Hellman, Ms. Redgrave plays a friend of Ms. Hellman called Julia who worked in an underground movement before World War II helping Jews and others flee the Nazis.

**Israeli-Directed Film Awarded**

On a non-political note, the best foreign language film award went to the French-made "Madame Rosa," directed by an Israeli, Moshe Mizrahi. He was also the director of the Israeli

film, "I Love You Rosa." One of the five films nominated for the foreign language award was "Operation Thunderbolt," the Israeli-made film on the rescue of hostages in Entebbe, Uganda in July, 1976.

**RABBINIC VIEWS ON 'JULIA'**

By Adena Berkowitz

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA)--Two rabbis have offered opposing views on whether Jews, from the standpoint of halacha, should see the film "Julia" since one of its co-stars is Vanessa Redgrave who supports the Palestine Liberation Organization. Ms. Redgrave won an Oscar last night for best supporting actress in the film which portrays her as an active worker against Nazism.

"By patronizing any kind of enterprise from which this woman makes money and which she can use it for anti-Israel and anti-Zionist purposes--which is the equivalent to being anti-Semitic--comes under the category of 'aiding a sinner,'" according to Rabbi Seymour Siegel, chairman of the Committee of Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly and a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The Conservative rabbi, who stressed he was speaking in an unofficial capacity and personally, said this is strictly forbidden under Jewish law.

Rabbi Solomon Freehof, who represents the Reform view and has published many books on responsa, said that halachically "one should be forbidden to help her in any way" if she was Jewish. However, he noted, since Ms. Redgrave is not Jewish and support of Israel is not one of the original laws of Noah which all mankind must follow, Jews can object that seeing her film will help the PLO only from a "moral point" of view, not a halachic view. An Orthodox rabbi, who was asked to comment, declined to respond.

**YOSEF BERGER BARZILAI DEAD AT 74**

TEL AVIV, April 4 (JTA)--Yosef Berger Barzilai, the founder of the Palestine Communist Party in the 1920s, who later became an ardent anti-Communist and a devoted Jewish believer during his 21 years in Soviet prison, died here last Thursday at the age of 74. Funeral services were held Sunday at the Tel Aviv Cemetery.

During the 1920s, Berger was expelled by the British Mandatory authorities after he founded the Communist Party. He went to the Soviet Union and was appointed secretary of the Mideast Committee of the Comintern. But in 1934 he was arrested in one of Stalin's purges and sentenced to death. Later his death sentence was commuted and he was rehabilitated. Nevertheless, he served 21 years in Siberian prisons.

During his prison years he began to practice traditional Judaism. In 1956 he was released and permitted to go to Poland from where he returned to Israel. Since his return to Israel in the late 1950s he served as an expert on Sovietology at Bar Ilan University.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Rita and Max Haber Chair in Contemporary Jewish Studies and the Holocaust was dedicated at the Hebrew University here last week in the presence of the Chicago couple who endowed it. Mr. Gideon Hausner, chairman of the Yad Vashem Memorial Authority, congratulated the Habers and thanked them for their gift.