



## 4 SOLDIERS INJURED BY FIREBOMB

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA)—Four Israeli soldiers were injured today when unidentified persons hurled a firebomb at an Israeli army car near Kalandia, north of Jerusalem. Meanwhile, an Egged bus with a local Arab driver was set afire by armed terrorists near Nablus this morning after the driver was told to get out of the bus and run for his life. Security forces do not see any connection between the two incidents, but are investigating both of them.

## 40,000-50,000 PEOPLE RALLY IN SUPPORT OF BEGIN'S POLICIES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA)—Thousands of cheering, chanting Israelis jammed the municipal square here last night in a rally supporting Premier Menachem Begin's policies. Their speeches and the slogans they carried demanded a just peace based on security. They roundly booed Begin's critics who staged a similar rally here two weeks ago urging the government to moderate its territorial policies in the interests of peace.

According to estimates, last night's demonstration drew between 40,000-50,000 Begin supporters as against an estimated 30,000 who turned out for the earlier rally. One of the organizers, Chanan Abramson, an artist, told the crowd that the demonstration was held to counter the "Peace Now" rally initiated by 300 reserve officers who believe Begin's peace plan is too rigid.

"We wish to correct the erroneous impression, mostly abroad, that a majority or even a large section of Israelis are opposed to the Prime Minister's peace program," Abramson said. "We are as interested in peace as anyone else, but we do not believe we must commit suicide to achieve it. We want peace with security, which means that all parties directly concerned must make concessions, not only Israel."

Another speaker, Mordechai Shorer, who is a member of the opposition Labor Party, called for support of the government's policies. But he drew catcalls when he criticized the government's handling of social and economic problems. Many of the speakers spoke in English for the benefit of the foreign news media covering the rally.

## ISRAEL DECIDES NOT TO MODIFY ITS POSITION ON 242 BUT TO PRESENT IT IN MORE POSITIVE, PALATABLE TERMS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)—The Cabinet met today to review Israel's position on Security Council Resolution 242 after remarks by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan raised speculation abroad that Israel may be softening its refusal to withdraw in any measure from the West Bank.

However, after a briefing by Cabinet Secretary Arye Naoi, newsmen were more perplexed than ever and the consensus was that the government is not modifying its position but simply trying to present it in more "positive" and palatable terms.

Dayan, in two public appearances over the weekend, stressed that Israel accepted 242 as calling for negotiations between itself and Jordan as well as with other neighboring Arab states. Naoi confirmed this at the briefing. But he stressed, as did Dayan, that the resolution, in Israel's view, is not a basis for "discussions of the future of Judaea and Samaria." It is the claim of Premier Menachem Begin, which has brought Israel into sharp conflict with the U.S., that the Security Council's resolution calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories does not apply to the West Bank.

## Dayan's Explanation of 242

Dayan's explanation was that the resolution spoke of "states" and if Israel accepted it as a basis for discussion of the West Bank, the implication would be recognition of its claims for future statehood. However, he acknowledged that "the resolution asks us to withdraw from territories we captured from all the neighbors, including Jordan."

Israel, however, does not recognize that Jordan ever had a legitimate claim to sovereignty on the West Bank. Neither Dayan nor Naoi said that acceptance of 242 as applying to negotiations with Jordan means that the government is prepared—as was its predecessor—to withdraw from any part of the West Bank.

Dayan did say, in a speech yesterday in Beer-sheva, that Israel did not regard its "self-rule" plan for West Bank Arabs as "sacred" and that it was prepared to consider counter-proposals by the Arabs. Naoi made the same point today, but only after he was pressed by reporters, and with an obvious lack of enthusiasm.

## Seeking More Flexible Formulation

Observers here believe Dayan was trying to get Begin's endorsement of Israel's readiness in principle, to consider alternative proposals even if they involve some measure of withdrawal from the West Bank. But if Naoi's briefing was any indication, he was only partly successful. Dayan himself does not support West Bank withdrawal.

There is a feeling, however, in some quarters that he might accept it as a last resort to avoid a total collapse of the peace process. He is said to be seeking a more flexible formulation of the Israeli position on Resolution 242 than the one offered by Begin and thereby bolster the sagging support of Israel abroad, especially in the U.S.

It remains to be seen if today's Cabinet review of 242, and the tentative probing by Dayan that prompted it, will open the way to a substantive shift of Israeli policy on that issue. As of now, however, it appears that if there is any "new" position taken by the Cabinet it is largely cosmetic.

The U.S., it is reported here, is standing fast and awaiting a substantive shift in Israeli policy before resuming its peace-making efforts in the Middle East. In that connection, observers here note that Begin has not been invited to the White House by President Carter when he goes to the U.S. next month to participate in American Jewish celebrations of Israel's 30th anniversary. One diplomatic source asserted that it would be "almost inconceivable" for Begin to visit the U.S. as the head of Israel's government and not be received by Carter.

**Grave Concern Over PLO**

In other developments, Dayan has expressed "grave concern" in a letter to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim over statements by PLO leaders that they intend to return to south Lebanon "and renew their murderous attacks against Israel and its citizens."

Dayan recalled to Waldheim, who is due in Beirut and Jerusalem tomorrow, that Security Council Resolution 425 of March 19 setting up the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was intended "to restore international peace and security" in the area and "to assist the government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in south Lebanon."

Dayan stressed that Israel "considers it of vital importance that UNIFIL exercise to the fullest extent the responsibility entrusted to it by the Security Council" and that it will "prevent the entry or return into the area of armed members or units of the so-called PLO."

**JAVITS CALLS ON U.S. TO URGE ARAB NATIONS TO STAND UP TO THE PLO**

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA)--Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY) has called on the Carter Administration to urge the Arab nations to stand up to the Palestine Liberation Organization "which remains as the single greatest obstacle by far to the achievement of peace in the Mideast."

In a speech to the Senate Thursday after returning from a visit to Israel, Javits noted that the United States has pressed Israel hard on Middle East negotiations. "The time has come for the Arabs—those Arabs who believe in the negotiating process and who desire peace—to face down the PLO and demand of the Palestinian people a leadership prepared to accept achievement of peace with Israel, or forfeit claim of a voice in the settlement respecting the West Bank and Gaza," he said.

Javits pointed out that the U.S. and Israel differ over Israel's belief that the West Bank and Gaza have a different status than Sinai and the Golan Heights.

He said that "Israel has a respectable legal basis for its contention that the status of the West Bank and Gaza is unsettled in international law, that its position is not arbitrary or intransigent, and, most importantly, that it has a basis for putting forward the proposals which it has tabled."

Javits pointed out that "to argue that those proposals are entitled to be considered and discussed and to provide a basis for Egyptian counter-proposals, is only to argue for equality and fair play."

**ALIYA IS UP; DROPOUTS STILL HIGH**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA)--Immigration to Israel is up this year but the dropout rate among Soviet Jewish emigres reaching Vienna is still running high, according to a report presented to the expanded World Zionist Organization Executive meeting here over the weekend. The report placed the number of olim since the beginning of the year at 5,869, a 26 percent increase over the same period in 1977.

A total of 1,988 immigrants arrived in March, most of them from the USSR. This was a 35 percent increase over March, 1977. But the drop-out rate—Jews who leave Russia with Israeli visas but opt to settle in other countries—was 55 percent

compared to 53 percent in February, the report said.

**Action on WZO Chairmen**

Meanwhile, the WZO Executive decided to postpone the appointments of chairmen of a number of WZO departments because of political disagreements over portfolios. Acting chairmen will continue to head the treasury, aliya, youth aliya and settlement departments until a "committee of ten" representing the WZO and non-Zionist members of the Jewish Agency select permanent chairmen for the disputed posts.

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the WZO Executive has named Haim Zohar secretary general of the Executive. Zohar was formerly advisor to the Jewish Agency and WZO Executive chairman. Nessim Gaon, a member of the Executive and president of the World Sephardi Federation, was appointed to head a committee for implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 29th World Zionist Congress in February.

**ADL LEADER URGES BRITAIN TO OUTLAW COMPLIANCE WITH BOYCOTT**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, April 16 (JTA)--Britain was urged to outlaw compliance with the Arab boycott by British companies and was assured that, like America, its trade would not suffer if it did so. Burton M. Joseph, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said this Thursday to a House of Lords select committee considering draft legislation like that adopted in the U.S.

He said the legislation passed by Congress two years ago had "improved the atmosphere" in the American business community and that it had not prevented American sales to the Arab world from continuing to increase.

Joseph, who had been invited to speak by committee chairman Lord Redcliffe-Maud, said that the Arabs had threatened to retaliate against American interests if the legislation was passed. However, the Arabs were "realists," and their threats had "proved empty," referring to Egypt's recent decision to renew links with the Coca Cola Company, even though it is still blacklisted.

Joseph, a grain businessman from Minneapolis, Minnesota, also referred to a boycott clause faced by his own company. An order for 20,000 tons of grain by Kuwait had contained such a clause. It was returned by Joseph's company, pointing out that such clauses were illegal. Within 24 hours, the order was sent back to the company, with the boycott clause deleted.

**Dealing With Anxieties**

Recognizing the apprehensions of British business concerns, Joseph said that he had encountered similar anxieties in the American Round Table, which he had addressed, on behalf of the ADL, on the same subject. However, many of the Round Table members—who represent top American companies—had now told him that they had changed their opposition to the anti-boycott legislation and were now very interested that other countries should do likewise.

Two other witnesses at the committee, who spoke of the impact of the boycott on Britain, said Britain had been "a willing victim." Terence Prittle and Walter Nelson answered questions about their recent book, "The Economic War Against the Jews," which traces the origins of the Arab Boycott of Israel and its wider effects. They contrasted the weakness shown in Britain with the resistance displayed in the United States ever since the boycott was first operated from its head office in Damascus.

Prittie took issue with committee member Lord Caccia, a former head of Britain's diplomatic service, about the Foreign Office's practice of authenticating certificates of negative origin in order to conform with the boycott demands of the more extreme Arab countries. While Lord Caccia said the Foreign Office was merely stating that a signature on a document was genuine, Prittie claimed that it was thereby showing tacit approval of its contents and purpose as well. The committee will continue hearings this week.

#### GUR STEPS DOWN AS CHIEF OF STAFF; RAFAEL EITAN IS HIS SUCCESSOR

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA)--Gen. Mordechai Gur stepped down today as Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces and turned over the post to his successor, Gen. Rafael Eitan. The formal transfer was carried out in two brief ceremonies in Jerusalem, one at General Headquarters and the other at Premier Menachem Begin's office, attended by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman.

Begin hailed both commanders, noting that Gur's four-year term as Chief of Staff began with the task of rebuilding the army after the Yom Kippur War. He expressed the hope that Eitan's term will witness no more wars. But he warned, "Our enemies should know that the hand that is raised to destroy Israel will be destroyed."

Gur, in his last public appearance as Chief of Staff, discussed the Lebanese operation and Israel's initial withdrawals from south Lebanon completed over the weekend. He told the audience at ZOA House it was wrong to claim that terrorism can be defeated by military means alone and said he had no illusion that Israel would reach a written agreement with Syria as a result of its operation in Lebanon. But, he said, there should be an understanding with the Syrians and Lebanese that there will be no more hostile activity in south Lebanon.

#### Denies Reported Death Toll

Gur said there was no foundation to reports that terrorists recrossed the Litani River after Israeli forces withdrew. He said Israel had achieved its objective of destroying the terrorist infrastructure south of the Litani.

He also claimed there was no truth to reports that 1000 Lebanese civilians were killed during the fighting in south Lebanon. He said Israel's estimate, based on the debriefing of combat units, set the number of civilian casualties between 150-200. Gur disclosed that a terrorist leader, Abu Jihad, escaped from Abassiyyeh village only 10 minutes before Israeli forces captured it.

Speaking of the general situation, Gur said Egypt still retained the war option. He said some of his predictions on the eve of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last November have been borne out. He said he had predicted that Sadat's visit would put Israel on the defensive in the contest for world opinion and that has happened.

#### Eitan Promoted to Lt. Gen.

The transfer of command today was accompanied by a colorful military ceremonial honoring the outgoing Chief of Staff. Gur and his successor inspected an honor guard and exchanged handshakes and well wishes. Eitan was promoted to the rank of Lt. Gen. He is, at the age of 49, Israel's 11th Chief of Staff, a Sabra born at Tel Adashim

in the Jezreel Valley.

Eitan served in Palmach, the striking force of Hagana in the pre-State period, beginning at the age of 17. He made the army his career and gained fame as a field commander. He was wounded in action three times, the last when leading a tank column toward the Suez Canal during the Six-Day War. Eitan is married and the father of four children.

#### Second Stage Withdrawal Completed

Meanwhile, over the weekend, Israeli forces completed their withdrawal from a 25 square mile salient of the 500 square miles of south Lebanon they occupied. The pullback was of the eastern and east central sectors of the front. Israeli forces continue to hold the western sector and surround the terrorist-held port of Tyre. The Israelis have been replaced by Norwegian, French and Swedish units of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the east and by Nepalese and Iranian troops in central sector.

In an interview over the weekend with Yediot Achronot, Gur said Israeli forces will complete their total pullback from south Lebanon within a month provided that the UN forces will be deployed according to plan. Eitan reported that the Israeli operation in south Lebanon uncovered huge quantities of arms and ammunition accumulated by the terrorists along with underground command posts and bunkers. This indicated, he said, that the terrorists were making preparations to turn south Lebanon into a base for terrorist operations against Israel. Eitan said this infrastructure was destroyed by the Israelis. "I hope the UNIFIL will not allow the terrorists to rebuild this," he said.

Meanwhile, Gen. Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana, commander of UNIFIL, told reporters Friday that his forces had no orders to prevent the return of Palestinians to south Lebanon if they were unarmed. But armed men will not be allowed to enter, he said.

#### CARTER, CEAUDESCU MIDEAST STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA)--President Carter and Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, in a joint declaration at the end of Ceausescu's two-day state visit last week, stated their support for a Middle East settlement based on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Also listed as conditions were insurance of Israel's territory and security and "respect for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." However, Carter declined to accept the Rumanian President's contention that the Palestine Liberation Organization should represent the Palestinians in talks on the future, though they agreed that the talks should include representatives of the Palestinian "people."

There were reports here that Ceausescu told Carter that the PLO was moving toward recognition of Israel's right to exist and that he had urged Carter to soften U.S. refusal to deal with the PLO.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Unless the government's releases more funds for the universities, Israel might become a third-rate scientific power within five years, Hebrew University rector Gideon Czapski warned here at the opening session of the university's 40th annual board of governors meeting. Czapski warned that unless the situation changed he foresaw "a scientific and cultural decline that will last for generations." He said because of the inadequate salaries the universities offered, the more successful young scientists were looking for work outside the universities. The opening session was also addressed by Sam Rothberg, chairman of the Board, and university president, Avraham Harman.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA**  
**CONCERN ABOUT ADMINISTRATION'S**  
**POSITION AND PRESSURES ON ISRAEL**  
**EXPRESSED AT VARIOUS NJCRAC MEETINGS**  
 By Rochelle Wolk

PHILADELPHIA, April 16 (JTA)--Rabbi Israel Miller, Israel Task Force chairman for the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), said here that there was great concern about the Carter Administration's position and pressures on Israel.

Miller spoke here at one of four concurrent emergency regional conferences convened by NJCRAC last Thursday to shape community relations programs concerning Israel. The other conferences were held in Atlanta, Chicago and San Francisco.

"Although no resolutions were passed," Miller said, "the general consensus of the participants was that the priority issue is the fulfillment of United States commitments to Israel, regarding the sale of F-15s and F-16s to Israel without linkage of a sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia." Miller said that at the meeting here there were 280 delegates from 35 communities in 10 states and the District of Columbia.

"The fact that so many came on such short notice is a demonstration of the great concern of Jewish communities for a secure Israel," Miller declared. "Despite differences of opinion regarding the tactic, timing or perceptions of the government of Israel, there was unanimous support for Israel and for the resumption of face-to-face negotiations, and unanimous expression against pressure on Israel by the Carter Administration. We want the United States to be the facilitator in negotiations, and not what Sadat calls the 'partner' in negotiations," he declared.

**No Disunity On Fundamentals**

Similar views were expressed by NJCRAC chairman Theodore R. Mann, of Philadelphia, who was a featured speaker at the San Francisco conference. "Of course there were differences but they were on peripheral issues of tactics and the like," he said. "After all, we have our reputation as a contentious people to uphold. But there was no sign of disunity on the fundamentals. We are solidly behind the Israel government's peace plan as a reasonable and fair basis for negotiations."

Dore Schary, of New York, honorary chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who spoke at the Atlanta conference, also stressed the unanimity of the participants in their criticism of the Administration's proposed arms package to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

"There was absolute agreement," he said, "that this departure from what has been American policy for so many years under Republican and Democratic administrations of supplying Israel with what she needs to assure her capacity to defend herself and to deter attack, without linkage to any other arms sales of military assistance to other countries, is completely unjustifiable."

**A Clear Consensus Expressed**

Benjamin R. Epstein, director of the ADL, said there was "a clear consensus" at the Atlanta conference "that the obstacle to progress toward peace at this time is President Sadat's obdurate refusal to negotiate, in spite of the most far-reaching concessions for peace Israel has ever made."

Bertram H. Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, who partici-

ated in the Philadelphia conference, said "the most effective contribution our government can make to the peace process is to encourage and facilitate true, earnest face-to-face negotiations between Egypt and Israel. What this requires at the present juncture is U.S. influence on Sadat to return to the bargaining that he broke off so abruptly last January."

Phil Baum, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress, a participant in the San Francisco parley, called the Administration's proposed arms package deal "a disservice to the cause of peace, especially at a time when Israeli-Egyptian negotiations are in such a delicate state and when Saudi Arabia continues to support the terrorist PLO."

Speaking from Chicago, Albert Vorspan, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, emphasized the unity of leadership represented there in calling for U.S. impartiality as a mediator between Israel and Egypt in the current phase of the peace search.

Albert D. Chernin, executive vice chairman of the NJCRAC, who also participated in the Chicago conference, said he was most impressed with the renewed commitment to vigorous furtherance of the Jewish community's campaign to win acceptance for the views shared in the conference. The NJCRAC is the umbrella agency for 103 local community relations councils and a number of national agencies.

**DENY PERES DISCUSSED CLUSTER BOMBS**

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA)--A White House spokesman has formally denied to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party in Israel, had discussed Israel's use of cluster bombs with Vice President Walter Mondale, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski or Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

In a speech delivered in Montreal on April 10, Peres was quoted as having said, that he told Mondale, Vance and Brzezinski that "we shall use cluster bombs against the gangs shelling our women and children." Peres spoke as guest of honor at the fourth annual dinner of the Friends of Ben-Gurion University in Montreal.

**FOUR REFUSENIKS GET EXIT VISAS**

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA)--Four prominent longtime refuseniks have been given exit visas to emigrate to Israel in what was seen here as a move by the Soviet government in preparation for Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's trip to Moscow this week, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews reported today.

They identified the four as: Joseph Ahs, a 33-year-old Moscow surgeon; Joseph Blich, 40, a mathematician; and Arkady Rabinov, 31, a radio engineer, both of Leningrad; and Moshe Shipper, 59, a mechanical engineer from Kharkov. The four have been seeking visas from three to six years.

**DIRECTIVE ISSUED TO CEMETERIES**

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA)--Governor Hugh L. Carey announced that the Cemetery Board of New York State has issued a directive to all cemeteries in New York State with designated religious sections that they be available for grave openings and interments six days a week, Sunday through Friday, where immediate burial is required by religion.

This action by the Cemetery Board was taken at the request of the Governor's office to investigate a number of complaints lodged with the Governor's office by rabbinical organizations, and from families who were refused permission for burials on Sundays.