

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## RAID YIELDS LARGE SUPPLIES OF NAZI EMBLEMS, NEO-NAZI HATE LITERATURE

By Jon Fedler

BONN, May 15 (JTA)—Police in Scharzfeld in north Germany's Harz region raided several homes and autos late Saturday night, recovering large supplies of Nazi emblems and neo-Nazi propaganda. This included pamphlets condoning the murder of former Italian Prime Minister and Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro and former German Federal State Attorney Siegfried Buback, and calling for the killings of former Bavarian State Premier Wilhelm Hoegner who participated in the Nuremberg trials and of a top German internal security official.

A man in possession of a pistol was taken into provisional custody. The raid took place following a rally in Scharzfeld of the ultra-rightwing "Independent Circle of Friends" (ICF) organization.

Supporters distributed a special edition of the "Voelkischer Beobachter" which used to be the Nazi Party's official newspaper, printed to mark Adolf Hitler's 89th birthday on April 20. The material, much of it printed in the U.S. and Denmark, also included copies of the rightwing magazine "Wille und Weg" which described Moro as "a rat who enriched himself from the people."

Ironically, the raid took place on the same day that the weekly "Spiegel" disclosed a growing trend of terrorism among rightwing neo-Nazis, patterned on the activities of Germany's notorious leftwing Baader-Meinhof gang. The ICF's activities were discovered following the arrest last month of a German tightwinger charged with an armed attack on a group of Dutch soldiers stationed in Germany and the theft of their weapons. Police now think the neo-Nazis, supported by rightwing groups in England, have been responsible for several bank robberies as well, aimed at providing financing for their activities.

"Spiegel" said the number of organized rightwing extremists is diminishing (from 28,000 in 1971 to 18,000 last year) but a hard core of about 150 activists and 1000 "sympathizers" remains. "Only a few dozen" of the activists support violence, says Spiegel. But in 1977 the number of attacks doubled to 613, and with every second arrest, state security sources said, they found "weapons, ammunition and explosives."

## STATE DEPARTMENT CONCEDES IT HAS NO WRITTEN GUARANTEES FROM THE SAUDIS ON THE USE OR STATIONING OF F-15 WARPLANES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA)—The State Department acknowledged today that the U.S. has no written assurances from the government of Saudi Arabia on its use or stationing of the 60 F-15 warplanes promised them by President Carter. The acknowledgement came as the Senate was engaged in a crucial all-day debate on President Carter's plane sales deal. (See separate story P. 3.)

"I am not aware of anything in writing," the State Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said in reply to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency related to an apparent con-

flict between remarks by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faud and Defense Secretary Harold Brown's letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week.

Faud said that Saudi Arabia itself would decide where it will base the planes. Opponents of the proposed sale have noted that the Saudis are building an air base at Tabuk, only 10 minutes flight from Israel. Brown had given assurances that the planes would not endanger Israel.

"The Saudis have informed us of the assurances in Brown's letter are the assurances on which they stand," the State Department spokesman said. "The assurances were made public," he added, and were "offered on the basis of communications with us on several levels." He did not disclose which officials were involved. "We negotiated with them," he said and pointed out the stipulations on the U.S. sale of weapons abroad are that they can be used in self-defense and may not be transferred without "express" U.S. "consent."

In response to other questions by the JTA, Hodding Carter said the U.S. has not received any information from Egypt suggesting the proposal by Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal for creation of a world-wide fund to develop the Middle East with "priority to the development of a new Palestinian state linked to Jordan."

Speaking at Anselm's College commencement in Goffstown, N.H. yesterday, Ghorbal called for a "peace fund" of "billions of dollars" with the U.S. and Saudi Arabia "and her other donor sister nations" topping the list of contributors. The fund, he said, would be used in the area to "raise the standard of living of all its people."

## HERTZBERG: U.S. JEWS SUPPORT ISRAEL BUT NOT GOVERNMENT'S VIEW ON TERRITORIES

By David London

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)—Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, former president of the American Jewish Congress, said last night that while there was solid support for Israel among American Jews, there was not such support for the present government's ideological approach to the issue of the occupied areas.

Speaking on Israeli television in Hebrew, Hertzberg told an interviewer that many U.S. Jews distinguished between security considerations in the territories—on which they totally identified with Israel—and ideological considerations, on which they did not. Hertzberg said he spoke "with absolute frankness," and noted that he was doing so "in Hebrew, in Israel, to Israelis," implying that he would not speak this way in American media.

He made the same point in an article in Sunday's Haaretz in which he referred to himself and those of like mind in U.S. Jewry as the "semi-silent" voice which represented leaders and rank-and-file who were too responsible to criticize Israel openly in American media and to whom therefore the Israeli government does not pay sufficient attention.

"In American Jewry there exists today," Hertzberg wrote, "massive support for Israel and side-by-side with it widespread disagreement with elements of the Prime Minister's policy." He warned Israelis not to draw the mistaken conclusion from the recent public reaffirmation of that massive basic popular support that the Israel government's policy is "supported all along the line—that is, Begin's line...."

Hertzberg cited in his article an unpublished poll which recently showed 80-90 percent of U.S. Jews strongly identifying with Israel—but only one-third of them actually supporting Begin's policies. Israel television news, in an apparent reference to the same poll, yesterday said it was conducted by the Louis Harris organization and had been commissioned by the AJCongress but that the Congress had subsequently decided not to publish it. (In New York, a spokesman for the AJCongress told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he had no knowledge of any such poll commissioned by the AJCongress.)

#### COUPLE WHO QUALIFIED FOR RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE DECIDE ON CIVIL MARRIAGE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA)—What may have been the first civil marriage in Israel of a couple who would have qualified for a religious marriage if they so wished, was performed last week by Knesset-member Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights Party. Ms. Aloni, an attorney, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the marriage agreement was signed by the bride and groom, both sabras—native-born Israelis—and countersigned by two witnesses, a man and a woman, at her office on Independence Day eve.

The event was made public only today. The names of the newlyweds were not disclosed to avoid possible harassment. Civil marriage is not recognized in Israel where the Orthodox rabbinate has exclusive control of such family matters. But the status of the couple is nevertheless legal under a regulation that recognizes common law marriage. The marriage agreement covers all material aspects of the marital state, including the rights of children and stipulates that the couple can separate only if both parties agree.

Aloni told the JTA that in the past she has performed marriages for couples denied wedding rites by the religious establishment for halachic reasons. This couple, however, were both born of Jewish parents and did not fall into any of the categories where marriage is forbidden under religious law. Both believe in freedom of conscience, religious freedom and equality of the sexes, Aloni said. Both are graduates of the youth movement, work on the land and served in the army.

Aloni said she had a man and a woman serve as witnesses in order to avoid complications with the religious authorities should the couple ever decide to separate and re-wed according to halacha. She said that in such cases, the Israeli rabbinate would demand a formal, meaning religious, divorce even though it does not recognize the civil marriage. It does so to avoid any doubt as to the marital status of the couple, Aloni said.

If two men served as witnesses, doubt would exist on the part of the rabbinate but since one of the witnesses was a woman, there would be no doubt because religious law does not permit a woman to testify in such cases, she explained.

#### RUTH CARTER STAPLETON URGED TO WITHDRAW FROM MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)—Representatives of the Jewish community today cabled Ruth Carter Stapleton urging that she withdraw from her scheduled appearance June 8 at the annual conference of B'nai Yeshua (Sons of Jesus), a Hebrew-Christian missionary group based on Long Island. Richard Ravitch, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and Dr. Seymour Lachman, chairman of its Task Force on Missionary Activity,

stated that this organization has been denounced by Christian and Jewish groups alike for engaging in deception and misrepresentation of Judaism and Christianity.

They pointed out that B'nai Yeshua like other so-called Hebrew-Christian or messianic Jewish groups engages in activities primarily aimed at proselytizing in the Jewish community. These groups have been frequently criticized for their exploitation of Jewish religious symbols and sancta, and undermining the relationship of mutual respect of various faith groups.

Ravitch and Lachman expressed dismay that Mrs. Stapleton would associate herself with B'nai Yeshua and serve as keynote speaker at its meeting. They cited the recent statement by the Long Island Council of Churches Board of Governors, which noted "with alarm that certain groups are engaging in subterfuge and dishonesty in representing the claims that they are faith groups. The Board also deplored the pressures which result when any faith group calls into question the right to continued existence of another faith group."

#### YACOB RIFTIN DEAD AT 71

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA)—Funeral services were held at Kibbutz Ein Shemer today for Yaacob Riftin, one of its founders and a veteran leader of Mapam, Kibbutz Artzi and the Histadrut who died yesterday at the age of 71.

Riftin, who was born in Poland, settled in Palestine in 1929 and soon rose to prominence in the Labor Zionist and kibbutz movements which he represented on various public bodies during the Mandate period. After the State was founded, he served four terms in the Knesset as a member of the Mapam delegation. His political views were somewhat to the left of that party and he was eventually ousted from it and formed a left-wing alignment, Brit Hasomel (left alliance) in 1969.

For many years, Riftin served as a member of the Jewish Agency's defense committee and after the Yom Kippur War became chairman of the Committee for the Rehabilitation of Israeli-Soviet Relations. Though ill in recent years, he continued to work in the industrial plant at Ein Shemer and was active in various projects he had undertaken.

#### BURG URGES AGUDA-NRP COMMON FRONT

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)—The ultra-Orthodox Aguda Israel opened its fifth convention here last night with a rousing ovation for Premier Menachem Begin who was guest of honor and warm applause as well for Interior Minister Yosef Burg who denounced those who demand territorial concessions from Israel. Burg also proposed that the two Aguda parties which have five Knesset members, form a common front with his National Religious Party that holds 12 Knesset seats. The Aguda is a member of Begin's Likud-led coalition but unlike the NRP is not represented in the Cabinet.

Burg devoted most of his speech to a condemnation of Israel's "friends" abroad whose "simple and cruel" proposals would leave Israel without "breathing space." He attacked the U.S. for allegedly encouraging President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to harden his position and blamed the Peace Now movement, which he called a "vocal minority," for influencing Washington's policy. Begin extolled the contributions of the "faithful Jews" to the power of Israel, who, he said, were never deterred by difficulties. The 900 delegates gave the Premier a longer and louder reception than they did their own Aguda leaders.

## SENATE IN ALL-DAY DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST PLANES SALE DEAL

Israel Makes It Known That It Would Prefer The Whole Package Be Annulled  
By Joseph Polakoff and Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA)—The Senate was engaged in a crucial all-day debate today over President Carter's proposed \$4.8 billion plane sale to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

(In Jerusalem, hours before the crucial Senate vote on the Mideast arms package, informed sources made it clear that Israel would prefer that the whole package be annulled, and lose its own planes too, rather than see Saudi Arabia get the 60 F-15s earmarked for her. Apparently, Senators were being informed in Washington of this Israeli position as they worked toward their final decision on how to vote.)

The debate began at 10 a.m. and was scheduled to run into the evening as the Senate set aside 10 hours for it, divided evenly between supporters and opponents of the sale. The 10-hour debate included two hours this afternoon in closed session proposed by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.), a staunch supporter of the President's proposal. According to Senate sources, the two-hour session dealt with classified information on the military implications the proposed warplanes sale would have on the Mideast balance of power.

### Ribicoff Supports Administration's Deal

Shortly before the Senate went into its closed session, Ribicoff strongly defended each aspect of the warplanes sales proposals. During the course of the open Senate debate he said the proposed sale of 15 F-15 and 75 F-16 aircraft to Israel "will enhance both its security and sense of security. A strong and secure Israel is in our national interest. But a strong U.S., militarily, economically and diplomatically, is also in the best interests of the State of Israel."

With respect to the 50 F-16 planes earmarked for Egypt, Ribicoff described President Anwar Sadat as "a responsible man who will surely not abuse the modest boost in Egypt's air strength." In pressing for approval of the 60 F-15s for Saudi Arabia, Ribicoff stressed that "new realities" in the Middle East "forces us in this country to take a fresh look," to "ask hard questions" and to "re-mind ourselves that we are here to serve America's national interests."

He described Saudi Arabia as "a major world power" by virtue of its "oil and financial resources." He urged that Saudi Arabia "should not be dismissed simply because it is an Arab country."

### Opponents Warn Of Dangers

Sen. Jacob Javits (R.N.Y.) a leading opponent of the sale charged in this morning's session that "The President set out to teach the Israelis a lesson (by the plane package). That is what this is about.... My argument here is what is the impact of this determination today on the Middle East policy of the United States and I submit that it will be highly advise to the present interest which the United States has in the future to redeem that whole area from its age-old poverty, ignorance and blindness."

His Republican colleague on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Clifford Case of New Jersey, who also argued in favor of the resolution to reject the plane sales, said:

"I think it involves in a very direct way the whole matter of the strength of the West in its

confrontation with the Soviet Union, the ability of the West to maintain itself against constant pressure of the Soviet Union, its physical ability to do this as well as its moral ability to handle the situation. It used to be, in my experience, axiomatic that Israel's strength was an essential element of the strength of the West," but now there seems to be an erosion of this belief, Case said.

But committee chairman John Sparkman (D.Ala.) spoke in favor of the President's package proposal as did Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (R.Tenn.): Baker said he also believed Israel should get the full 150 F-15s it originally asked for, not just the 75 in the President's present proposal, as well as the 20 F-15s Carter had promised in a last-minute compromise last week to provide Israel in addition to the 15 in the present proposal. Baker said this would maintain the "special relationship" the U.S. has with Israel.

Sen. Joseph Biden (D.Del.), who introduced the resolution last Thursday in the Foreign Relations Committee to reject the sales, said today that a \$4.8 billion plane sale to the Mideast "will have a debilitating effect" on progress toward peace in the Mideast. Biden's resolution failed by an 8-8 vote but the committee then unanimously decided to send the resolution to the full Senate for action.

### Liberal Coalition Aggails Sales

As the Senators were debating, a group of liberals calling itself the Emergency Committee for the Middle East that included Black and white civil rights leaders, held a press conference outside on the steps of the Capitol urging the Senate to vote against the arms package "in order to give peace a chance" in the Mideast.

In a statement read by Sister Margaret Trexler of the Coalition of American Nuns, the group said: "The historic meeting in Jerusalem between President (Anwar) Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister (Menachem) Begin of Israel was hailed around the world as a great and bold step toward the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the troubled Middle East. But it has been a mere six months since that first meeting and the progress of peace negotiations has been slow and difficult—understandably slow, given the long and tragic history of the conflict."

"With peace negotiations still in their infancy, we believe that the Administration's proposals to pour billions of dollars worth of advance aircraft into that volatile area is not only ill-timed but also undermines the prospect for reaching a lasting settlement. We cannot understand what is so compelling about providing these armaments to countries which are trying to forge peace out of 30 years of war...."

Among other members of the committee were Prof. John K. Galbraith; Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP; Joseph Rauh; David Cohen, of Common Cause; Bayard Rustin; Judith Levine Litchman of the Women's Legal Defense Fund; and Martin Peretz, editor of the New Republic.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)—More than 600 diplomats, Jewish leaders and dignitaries attended a reception here to celebrate Israel's 30th anniversary given by Israel's Ambassador Chaim Herzog, and his wife, Ora. Among the guests were Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young, New York Mayor Edward Koch, ambassadors from Malawi, Burundi, Liberia and the Ivory Coast and Arab and Soviet members of the UN Secretariate.

# **SPECIAL INTERVIEW** **SIR ISRAEL BRODIE SAYS** **ORTHODOX JEWS BACK BEGIN** **By Maurice Samuelson**

LONDON, May 15 (JTA)—Warm appreciation of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's attitude towards traditional Judaism and support for his political efforts were voiced here by Sir Israel Brodie, the Chief Rabbi Emeritus of Britain and the Commonwealth. Sir Israel, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that Begin, "who does not hesitate to invoke divine help -- (ezrat hashem) -- in his speeches," has created a "very favorable impression" among Orthodox Jews.

Begin was "more positive" towards religion than his Labor Party predecessors who often had to be "pushed," Sir Israel said. For decades, Orthodox Jews had been unhappy at the way in which Labor Zionists had emphasized the secular demands of Israel. However, by his more positive attitude towards traditional Judaism, Begin had helped to bring together divergent sections of the Jewish world.

Sir Israel, who was 83 last week, also reviewed the changes which Israel had made over the past 30 years. Until the establishment of Israel, there had been a lot of animosity to Zionism. But once Israel was established there was an immediate change, and many of those who had opposed Zionism in theory, supported the Jewish State in practice, he observed. In the past 30 years, Sir Israel added, the idea of belonging to one family had increased, as a result of common suffering and of common hopes.

A life-long Zionist, Sir Israel was appointed British Chief Rabbi in 1948, in the month of Israel's independence declaration, and remained in office until 1965, on reaching the statutory retirement age of 70. He had previously been senior Jewish chaplain to the British armed forces. Born in New castle, England, he studied at Jews College, London, and Balliol College, Oxford. Between the two world wars he spent 15 years in Melbourne, Australia.

For the past 20 years, Sir Israel has been president of the Conference of European Rabbis which he launched in 1957 when he was Chief Rabbi and has remained chairman of the Conference's standing committee which meets twice yearly. The Conference began a three-day meeting today in Paris to discuss major problems affecting Jewish life.

The scheduled guest of honor at the opening Conference session was Rabbi Chaim Yaakov Levin, who served as a rabbi in the United States 30 years before returning to Israel to assume the rabbinic post of Pardes Channa. He is due to deliver an address on the spiritual links between Israel and the diaspora.

## **MOVES TO BLOCK NAZI MARCH IN SKOKIE**

CHICAGO, May 15 (JTA)—Two bills were passed by the Illinois State Senate last week designed to circumvent court rulings which would permit Nazis to stage a much-publicized march in Skokie, a Chicago suburb which is the home of 7,000 Holocaust survivors, the Jewish United Fund (JUF) of Metropolitan Chicago reported.

A JUF spokesman said the bills were sent to the State House which is expected to act on them soon. Supporters of the bills hope to stop the march permanently or to place new roadblocks to delay it for several months. The Nazis have applied to the Skokie Village Council for a permit to

stage their march in Skokie on June 25 but the Council has not acted yet on the request.

Basically, the bills forbid parades by quasi-military hate groups and distribution of defamatory hate literature. State Senator Howard Carroll, a Chicago Democrat who sponsored the bill banning distribution of hate material, said "the issue here is whether or not people have a right to live in human dignity. We are saying that race-baiting and hate mongering have no place in our society."

Carroll's bill, passed by a vote of 44 to 10, established as a new crime, criminal group defamation which would be a misdemeanor, punishable by six months in jail. Under the measure, which meets certain constitutional challenges, local officials in Illinois could get injunctions to bar distribution of defamatory material. The other bill, sponsored by John Nimrod, a Glenview Republican, bans parades by quasi-military hate groups.

Asked about the issue of constitutionality, the JUF spokesman said the measures were patterned after a 1952 Illinois statute which he said had been declared valid by the U.S. Supreme Court but which had been left out of a 1964 revision of the state criminal code.

The Skokie Village Council approved three ordinances designed to prevent the Nazis from staging their march in swastika-adorned uniforms and from distributing hate literature. The constitutionality of those ordinances is being challenged for the Nazis by the American Civil Liberties Union.

## **ISRAELI ANNIVERSARY FETES IN BRAZIL** **By David Markus**

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 15 (JTA)—Israel's 30th anniversary was celebrated here and in other Brazilian cities over the weekend. More than 10,000 people gathered at Rio's Maracanazinho sports stadium where famous Jewish and non-Jewish stars of stage, television and motion pictures participated in a gala salute to Israel program. The singing of Hatikva by the massive audience resounded through the area around the stadium.

In Sao Paulo, more than 5,000 people participated in an anniversary celebration at the Hebraica Club. One of the attractions was the Israeli singing ensemble "Tzavta Israel." Last Thursday, the Sao Paulo post office postmarked all letters with a special stamp commemorating Israel's 30th anniversary.

In Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, the anniversary celebration was officially launched with a ceremony opening the new Israeli Embassy building. Officiating at the ceremony were Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira and Oswaldo Aranha, the son of the late Ambassador Oswaldo Aranha who presided at the historical United Nations session on Nov. 29, 1947 which voted for the Palestine partition plan. Another element of the celebration was a reception at the residence of Israeli Ambassador Moshe Erel.

In the House of Representatives, Milton Steinburgh-Lomackinsky, in the name of the opposition party, and Cunha Bueno, in the name of the government party, paid tribute to Israel.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—President Ephraim Katzir approved Monday an earlier decision by the government not to grant prisoners a general amnesty on the occasion of Israel's 30th anniversary. Katzir's statement was another blow to a public campaign conducted by prisoners' relatives charging that Premier Menachem Begin had earlier promised a general amnesty.