

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## CABINET SET TO DISCUSS U.S. QUESTIONS ABOUT ISRAEL'S PEACE PLAN; BEGIN REJECTS DEMAND TO IGNORE THE QUERIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin said today that the Cabinet would begin discussion at its session this Sunday of the questions posed by the United States regarding Israel's peace plan. He indicated, however, that the discussions would probably require more than one Cabinet session before the answers are formulated.

At the same time, Begin rejected a demand by Herut hardliner MK Geula Cohen that the government completely ignore the American questions and give no replies. The questions relate to the issue of sovereignty on the West Bank after the five years of "self-rule" offered in Begin's peace plan and the issue of a Palestinian voice in determining their future. They were put to Begin and to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance when the Israeli leaders were in Washington three weeks ago.

### Criticism From Hawkish Elements

The Premier, meeting with the Likud Knesset faction at his office, faced strong criticism from his party's most hawkish elements. He insisted that his government was sparing no efforts to achieve peace and claimed that when Likud took power a year ago many foresaw a new war which did not materialize.

Begin said his government instead took immediate steps for direct negotiations with the Arab countries. He claimed, as he has many times before, that the U.S. initially supported his peace plan but withdrew its support after Begin's terms were rejected by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Begin termed the first six months of Likud rule as successful. He said the criticism now raised against his government concerned only the latter half of the year "which is not sufficient time to judge." But he promised to give careful consideration to the points raised by the critics within his own party and promised the Likud MKs another meeting in the near future.

## U.S. DENIES REPORTS IT REFUSED TO PASS ON EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS TO ISRAEL

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA)--The State Department flatly denied press reports today that the U.S. had found the latest proposals by Egypt for resuming peace talks so unacceptable that it declined to convey them to Israel. The reports attributed that information to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Department spokesman Tom Reston told reporters today, "We are rather puzzled with the press reports which we have seen on this subject. We have never refused to pass on anything the parties have asked us to pass on." He added, "We see our role as trying to be a useful middleman in the process. If we start saying what is acceptable and what isn't acceptable, I think that would really harm our role."

According to the press reports from Jerusalem, Dayan told the Knesset yesterday that the Americans had received a partial answer from the Egyptians. According to Israel Radio, they amounted to counter-proposals to Israel's proposals. Dayan was quoted as saying the Egyptian paper "appeared so impossible to the Americans that they, to put it diplomatically, returned it to its author." Other reports said the Egyptians had offered nothing that could be construed as a counter-proposal to Israel's peace plan.

## HIGH COURT ORDERS HALT TO DEVELOPMENT WORK AT GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENT

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--The Supreme Court issued a temporary injunction today against further development work in the Nabi Salah area of the West Bank 20 miles north of Jerusalem, site of a Gush Emunim settlement reportedly slated for expansion. The court, acting on the complaints of Arab residents of the area, ordered Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and the military commander of the West Bank to cease all work immediately.

The court also ordered the removal of a fence erected along what was intended to become a paved road. It gave the Defense Ministry and the military government 40 days to show cause why the seizure of land in that area should not be invalidated.

A spokesman for the Attorney General's office denied the claims of Arab residents that their land was being seized. He said that except in one case, the government had not confiscated cultivated private land. He said the exception was a parcel of land needed for the paved road which, according to the spokesman, was in the "public interest" as defined by the Jordanian laws that still apply on the West Bank. The Arabs' attorneys said their clients protested the seizure of uncultivated lands which are used for grazing.

## IRAQ SLAMS POLAND FOR MARKING THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

LONDON, May 25 (JTA)--Poland's recent commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, attended by world Jewish leaders, has been bitterly attacked by the Iraqi regime. Al-Jumhuriyah, the official Baghdad daily, yesterday accused Poland of submitting to the Western campaign accusing Poland of "participating with the Nazis in extermination of the Jews."

Submission to this "imperialist-Zionist pressure," the paper wrote, was a deviation from Polish-Arab friendship and raised the question of whether this marked the beginning of a series of similar events. Poland's change of position came at a time "when Zionism is being universally condemned as a racist and fascist movement," the paper added.

## ISRAEL ASSAILS W.H.O. FOR ADOPTING ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, May 25 (JTA)--Israel denounced the 31st World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) here Tuesday after it adopted two Arab-sponsored resolutions condemning Israel for alleged acts detrimental to the health and welfare of the populations of south Lebanon and the West Bank. A resolution that accused Israel of destroying medical facilities in south Lebanon carried by

consensus. Another Arab-drafted resolution accusing Israel of "arbitrary practices" that "affect the physical, social and psychological health conditions of the Arabs" on the West Bank was adopted by a vote of 63-21 with 12 abstentions. The U.S. voted against the draft.

The Israeli delegation expressed its "deep concern over the continuing politicization of the WHO as evidenced by its adoption of an Arab-inspired hostile anti-Israel resolution" on the West Bank that "took no notice of the facts in the territories and indulged in unsubstantiated condemnations and utterly irrelevant political statements."

The Israeli delegation observed that the WHO, as the international agency "entrusted with the care for the health situation in the world... should not be distracted into regional conflicts" and "is not mandated to be, nor should it become, a forum for irresponsible political strife."

With respect to the resolution on Lebanon, the Israeli delegate, Dr. Guy Kaiser, noted that it failed to acknowledge the medical assistance Israel has rendered Lebanese citizens through its open fence policy on the border.

#### Israel Defends Its Achievements

Israel pointed out that for two successive years it has accepted a visit by a special committee of experts to study health conditions on the West Bank on behalf of the WHO and while "it is to be regretted that the report produced by the special committee turned out to be a basically political document" that "omitted or belittled many outstanding achievements and improvements in the health system of territories, nevertheless it could not completely ignore many of the essential positive features of the situation which is basically sound and continually progressing."

The delegate from Denmark, which represented the European Common Market in the voting, said he voted against the resolution because it did not reflect the report of the special committee and attacked the freedom of universality.

The American delegate said he voted against the resolution because according to the special committee's report there has been progress in the medical conditions in the territories. He said that by causing the WHO to act on a political resolution, its work has been undermined.

(Meanwhile, observers in Jerusalem said that Israel expected the forthcoming UNESCO meeting in Paris to be turned into a forum for anti-Israel attacks since its agenda contains items concerning Jerusalem. Should those fears materialize, Israel is expected to take the offensive as it did after anti-Israel resolutions came up at the UNESCO meeting in December, 1974. At that time, Israel sought to enlist the support of liberal and academic opinion in the free world against the politicization of UN agencies.)

#### GUR APOLOGIZES FOR WHAT WAS SEEN AS A SLUR ON SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA)—Retired Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur has apologized for what was construed as a slur on Sephardic Jews and explained that his remarks were intended for the benefit of that community. He also apologized in writing to Shaul Ben Simhon, chairman of the Association of North African Jews in Israel.

Gur, who returned from a trip to Europe, faced an uproar caused by an interview published in Al Hamishmar over the weekend in which he was quoted as saying that the reason why there were

so few senior officers in the army of Oriental background was that it takes them much longer than others to master the intricacies of modern Western technology.

The implication was that Oriental Jews lack the mentality to grasp the concepts of sophisticated weaponry. Those views were promptly denounced by the leaders of North African Jews. They said that if Orientals were deficient in any way it was because of poor living conditions and educational disadvantages of growing up in slums.

Gur put through a telephone call from Paris Monday expressing regret that his remarks had been misunderstood. He said he made them only to stress the need for improving the conditions of Oriental Jews and raising them to the level of the rest of society.

He reiterated this to reporters on his return to Israel Tuesday. He said his comments were intended to convey the need that the army must do more to raise Jews from Oriental countries to the senior ranks. He said that during his tenure as Chief of Staff and even earlier when he was commander of the northern front he made efforts to train Oriental soldiers for leadership positions.

But, Gur explained, the army can do just so much and the burden of raising standards of the Oriental community rests with society at large. New methods of training and education must be found to solve the problem and that, he said, was the reason why he spoke as he did.

#### ISRAEL FASHION SHOW YIELDS \$1 MILLION IN ISRAEL BONDS SALE

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)—Determined to help strengthen Israel's economy during its 30th anniversary year, a capacity audience of 650 women today purchased over \$1 million in Israel Bonds at the 1978 All-Israel Fashion Show and Luncheon at the Plaza Hotel. Sponsored by the Greater New York Women's Division of Israel Bonds, the event paid tribute to Mrs. Chaim Herzog, wife of Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, and Mrs. Uri Ben-Ari, wife of Israel's Consul General here.

Mrs. Eleanor Fields, Women's Division chairman, asserted that "today's record sale of Israel Bonds represents woman power in action." Emphasizing the key role that these Bonds play in strengthening Israel's economic framework, she declared that "the building of Israel's economy is an essential element in the Mideast peacemaking process."

Mrs. Stanley Stern, luncheon chairman, noted that "before the end of the year, women throughout the United States and Canada will have invested millions of dollars in Israel Bonds to attend sixty such Israel fashion shows." She indicated that in New York City alone, these fashion shows have realized \$26 million in Bond sales during the past 24 years. The principal speaker was Mrs. Simcha Dinitz, wife of Israel's Ambassador to the United States, who extended greetings to the assembled guests on behalf of her country as the fashion show saluted Israel on its 30th anniversary.

Bess Myerson served as commentator of the show, which featured the latest fashion designs of Israel's top couturieres. A highlight of the show was the appearance of three Tony Award nominees—Eartha Kitt ("Timbuktu"), Anita Gillette ("Chapter Two") and Charlene Woodward ("Ain't Misbehavin'"), who headed a celebrity model roster from the worlds of show business, the arts, society and fashion.

## DULZIN SEEKS AID OF JEWISH GROUPS TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEM OF SOVIET DROPOUTS.

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--In a series of meetings with American Jewish leaders the past few days, Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, urged new efforts to solve what he termed the growing problem of nostrim (Soviet Jewish emigrants who opt to go to countries other than Israel).

"I did not bring with me any solution to this problem," Dulzin said last night in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I came here to place this grave issue on the agenda of the Jewish organizations and urged them to think of ways to reduce the alarming proportion of nostrim."

Dulzin talked with the JTA during a reception in his honor given by the WZO. He attended the reception after addressing a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations where he said he pointed out that more than 50 percent of Jews who emigrated from the Soviet Union this year decided not to go to Israel. He said he also discussed the problem of nostrim with the leaders of HIAS, the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Jewish Appeal and other organizations.

Dulzin said that other purposes of his visit here, his first since he was elected WZO chairman last February, include discussions with Jewish leaders of an Israeli government plan to help rehabilitate some 45,000 families in Israel who are living below the poverty line. He said the UJA has already agreed to participate in this undertaking.

The WZO leader said that since his arrival here last Thursday he has also been dealing with the distribution of four major administrative portfolios in the WZO--treasury, immigration and absorption, settlement and youth aliyah. Dulzin will hold a press conference tomorrow and is due to return to Israel Saturday night.

## GOREN'S REELECTION PROSPECT SUFFERS A SURPRISE REVERSAL

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren's reelection prospects suffered a surprise reversal Tuesday when a group he had counted on for massive support nominated a formidable challenger.

As the selection of the 150-man rabbinical electoral college began, rabbis of the kibbutzim and moshavim movements chose a slate of 14 electors committed to Rabbi Shaul Yisraeli, a judge of the Rabbinical High Court and a lecturer at the Rabbi Kook Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Yisraeli was also supported by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef whose frequent public feuding with Goren has long embarrassed the Chief Rabbinate. Yosef is running for reelection unopposed.

The nomination of Yisraeli, a political dove, has split the National Religious Party (NRP) whose political hierarchy supports the more militant Goren. But Yisraeli is popular among NRP rank and file and rural settlement circles. He once served as rabbi of Kefar Haroeh, an NRP village north of Tel Aviv.

Yisraeli is believed to have wide grass roots support and has spurned a warning from Interior Minister Yosef Burg, leader of the NRP, to stand down or face the party's wrath. He also dismissed urgings from Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook, spiritual leader of the Gush Emunim, not to challenge Goren.

## ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE MONTH IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, May 25 (JTA)--Eminent scholars and theologians participated this week in an Inter-faith Conference, "The Survival of Israel--Theological and Moral Perspectives," which marked the academic highlight of Israel Independence Month in Chicago. The day-long conference Monday at Spertus College of Judaica was presented by the Greater Chicago Committee for the Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Israel established by the Public Affairs Committee of the Jewish United Fund and the Chicago Zionist Federation, in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Chicago Board of Rabbis.

Scores of other events--both festive and solemn--in honor of Israel's anniversary were held this month, proclaimed as Israel Independence Month by Gov. James R. Thompson and Chicago Mayor Michael A. Bilandic. The activities were coordinated by the Greater Chicago Committee under the chairmanship of Philip M. Klutznick.

The celebration began May 3 with the appearance of Israel's Premier Menachem Begin at a major luncheon with leaders of the Jewish United Fund-Israel Emergency Fund (JUF-IEF) and an evening appearance before 8500 at Northwestern University, where Begin received an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Other major events of the month included Chicago's 7th Annual "Walk With Israel" which, despite chilling rain, drew more than 5000 participants from age 3 months to 95 years and raised an estimated \$250,000 for the JUF-IEF. Many Chicago and Illinois political figures participated along with the residents of Drexel Home for the Aged, a JUF-IEF beneficiary, in a "Showcase Kilometer." Among the others who hiked or jogged 30 kilometers were Albert P. Mitnick, 72, who earned \$30,000, and dentist Richard Gershenzon, a participant in the 1978 Boston Marathon.

In another event, a citywide college student celebration May 11 at the University of Illinois Circle Campus (Chicago) was marred when the hundreds of celebrants were attacked by about 50 Arab students.

## SECOND POLICEMAN DIES FROM INJURIES SUFFERED IN ORLY TERRORIST INCIDENT

PARIS, May 25 (JTA)--A second French policeman died here this afternoon as a result of wounds sustained during last Saturday's terrorist attack against El Al passengers at the Orly Airport. One policeman, a senior non-commissioned officer, was shot dead Saturday by the terrorists when he tried to check their luggage.

The non-commissioned officer, Sgt. Maj. Paul Jean, was yesterday named "a hero of the nation" by the French government and posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the French crack police unit of the republican security squads. This second death is liable to further turn French public opinion against the terrorists and their Arab backers. Two more policemen involved in the shoot-out with the terrorists are still hospitalized but their condition was described as "satisfactory." Doctors said they were off the danger list.

TORONTO (JTA)--A Canadian audience of some 2 1/2 million people watched the NBC-TV "Holocaust" series during its four-part screening from April 16 to 19, according to a television poll released this week by the A.C. Nielsen Co. of Canada.

## OFFICIAL SAUDI ARABIAN ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTT LIST MADE PUBLIC IN BRITAIN

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 25 (JTA)--A copy of the official Saudi Arabian anti-Israel boycott list was produced in public today after claims that the British government did not have an authoritative list. The 1000-page volume was shown Tuesday by Will Maslow, general counsel of the American Jewish Congress, to the House of Lords Select Committee studying anti-boycott draft legislation modeled on new American laws.

Maslow said that the volume, which included 1150 British firms and subsidiaries and 1500 American names, had been sent to him by the Chamber of Commerce at Jidda, Saudi Arabia, to which he paid \$25 by check. Maslow told the committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Redcliffe-Maud, that examination of the list revealed the "essential anti-Jewish core" of the Arab boycott.

Many of the blacklisted British companies have Jewish directors. Among them are Great Universal Stores (headed by Sir Isaac Wolfson), Marks and Spencer (headed by the Sieff, Marks and Sacher families), Lex Service Group (controlled by the Chinn family), and Sears Holding (chairman is Sir Charles Clore).

Expressing strong support for the foreign boycotts bill, drafted by Lord Byers, a Liberal, Maslow cited figures to show that the American legislation has not prevented an impressive expansion of U.S. exports to the Arab world between 1975-1977. In that period, exports were worth \$5.3 billion in 1975; \$7 billion in 1976; and \$8.1 billion in 1977. This was in addition to more than \$20 billion worth of construction work being carried out in Arab lands, mostly under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### Trade Not Hampered By Anti-Boycott Laws

The hollowness of boycott threats was also reflected in Arab states' purchase of aircraft built by MacDonnell-Douglas, which also supplied Israel and equipment from General Electric, which provided the engines installed in Israeli jets. Nor was the boycott applied to the Chase Manhattan Bank, which was the fiscal agent for Israel Bonds in the U.S., Maslow noted. "You cannot find a bigger breach of the boycott regulations than that," he said.

Further growth in American trade with the Arab world, despite the anti-boycott laws, was suggested by the current visit of 100 private and public sector Arab business executives to five American cities to discuss trade expansion. The meetings are sponsored by the General Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Maslow said.

### 'Deplorable Actions' By British Firms

Referring to some "deplorable actions" by British companies in dealing with American concerns, Maslow recalled the receipt last August by Brown and Root, Inc., a subsidiary of Halliburton Co. of Houston, Texas, of an invitation to bid for a project in Abu Dhabi from BP Trading (a subdivision of the government-controlled British Petroleum.)

Even though the American anti-boycott laws had not yet been passed, Brown and Root refused to comply with a request, in the draft contract from BP Trading, to declare that it was not in breach of the Arab boycott. Instead, it filed the BP document with the U.S. Commerce Department. Subsequently, Maslow disclosed, BP assured Jewish

circles in Britain that the company would not engage in similar practices again.

Maslow's support for Lord Byer's bill was reiterated by Alan Rose, executive vice-president, Canadian Jewish Congress, who had been invited to give evidence on behalf of that organization. He expressed anxiety that, in the absence of stronger measures in Canada, U.S. companies might yield to Arab pressures through their local subsidiaries in a way which is now illegal in the United States.

However, strong opposition to anti-boycott legislation in Britain was expressed by leaders of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. Tom Boardman, president of the Association, said that any bill would damage British trade. He also opposed action within the European Economic Community.

### N.Y. CHURCH TO BE FIRST TO DEDICATE MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--An interfaith "Service of Remembrance" of the Holocaust which took six million Jewish lives will be conducted at the Cathedral Church of St. John The Divine Tuesday evening, May 30.

Announcing the event, the Very Reverend James Parks Morton, Dean of the Cathedral, said that hundreds of New Yorkers of all faiths are expected to attend and participate in the proceedings which will include the formal dedication and installation of a memorial to those slaughtered by the Nazis.

According to Morton, the memorial--a bronze life-sized sculpture by Elliot Offner of a prone skeletal figure of a death camp inmate agonizingly reaching skyward--is believed to be the first Holocaust memorial to be installed in a Christian house of worship.

### Reminder Of The Tragedy

Morton said that it will be prominently displayed in the crossing under the dome of the Cathedral, the seat of the New York Episcopal Diocese, as "a reminder to congregants and thousands of visitors from every part of the world, of the tragic consequence of religious and racial bigotry."

Jointly sponsored by the Cathedral, the Diocesan Committee on Jewish Relations and the New York Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Holocaust observance will commence with a kosher dinner for leaders and guests of the sponsoring group at Synod House on the church grounds.

Dr. Henry Feingold, professor of history at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Baruch College, will present a paper on "The Significance of the Holocaust for Us Today." A Christian response will be given by Dr. Cynthia Wedel, chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Jewish Relations for the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopate. The "Service of Remembrance" will be held in the Cathedral proper following the dinner. A highlight will be the lighting of six memorial candles.

NEW YORK (JTA)--More than two dozen members of Congress marking the seventh anniversary of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Hillel Butman, sent an appeal on Butman's behalf to Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry's Washington office reported. Co-sponsored by Reps. Newton Steers (R.Md.) and Joshua Eilberg (D.Pa.), the letter points out that Butman's family in Israel has been waiting four years to see their husband and father.