

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

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

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Friday, August 11, 1978

No. 156

## CABINET MEETS TO PREPARE FOR SUMMIT

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The Cabinet met today for two hours for what was the beginning of a series of intensive discussions to plan for the Camp David talks Sept. 5. The meeting dealt with U.S. National Security Council member William Quandt's report yesterday to Premier Menachem Begin on the talks. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Alexandria this week. Quandt was a member of Vance's entourage which had met with Israeli officials over the weekend.

Begin did not disclose what had been discussed at the Cabinet session today except to say that the Cabinet will, in the next three weeks, examine every document relevant to the upcoming Camp David talks where Begin, Sadat and President Carter will meet together for the first time.

The Premier also did not disclose the details of the report given to him by Quandt. He did say, however, that the most important development is that Sadat agreed to participate in the summit. Begin said that Quandt did not indicate whether Vance will be coming to the Middle East again prior to the summit conference, nor is there any indication of an Israeli-Egyptian meeting prior to the Camp David talks. There had been some indication earlier this week that Vance would return to the region within two weeks to help the Egyptians and Israelis prepare for the summit.

Meanwhile, speaking on Israeli television last night, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Simcha Dinitz, said that the U.S. will not submit a plan of its own during the Camp David talks. He said he regards the U.S. initiative as a renewal of the momentum in the Mideast peace negotiations and believes the U.S. will do its utmost to help Israel and Egypt come to an agreement through face-to-face talks.

## U.S. ISRAEL DUE TO SIGN AN ARMS PURCHASE AGREEMENT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA)--An agreement for the supply of American-made planes is to be signed shortly between the United States and Israel, Ambassador Simcha Dinitz said last night in a television interview. The envoy said that the U.S. will continue to supply Israel with the arms necessary to maintain its defense because the U.S. is basically committed to the safety and well-being of Israel.

A high-level Israeli Defense Ministry purchasing mission left several days ago for Washington. The mission, headed by Joseph Mayan, the Defense Ministry's new director general, will seek to sign the arms purchasing agreement this month so that it can be included in this fiscal year's U.S. military budget. The fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

## LANCE APOLOGIZES FOR REMARK ABOUT JEWISH OWNERSHIP OF THE PRESS

ATLANTA, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Bert Lance, who resigned under fire last year as President Carter's budget director, apologized last night

for a suggestion that "Jewish ownership of the press" might be behind intense media coverage of oil-rich Arabs seeking investments in the United States.

Lance made the comment about Jewish ownership in an article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Magazine last Sunday on Gaith Pharoan, a wealthy Saudi Arabian financier who helped Lance resolve a serious debt problem by buying Lance's National Bank of Georgia stock for \$2.4 million. Lance told reporter Margaret Shannon that multi-national investments have been "a strong part" of the American economy "for a long time."

He added he understood the concern developing from growing Arab investment in American enterprises but said "circumstances have changed" and that "there is no special significance to the word 'Arab.'" Then he said, "I don't know whether all the hurrah stems from the great Jewish ownership of the press or not."

After a two-hour meeting Monday with Charles Wittenstein, the Anti-Defamation League's southern counsel and civil rights director, Lance agreed to clarify his remarks. He read a statement last night during his regular broadcast as a commentator for WXIA-TV here in which he rejected any statement "which would inflame prejudice and will continue to express my concern about the way in which any person is grouped or stereo-typed."

Lance added: "In my conversation with the author of the article we had talked in great detail about foreign ownership of American assets and I voiced concern about our needs to combat and overcome prejudice. In the context of the conversation I did not perceive this (Jewish ownership) to be an offensive remark, and if to the contrary my statement offended anyone in any way what-so-ever I truly regret it. I sincerely hope that in no way such a statement would give encouragement to those who might feel any prejudice toward the Jewish people. It is neither relevant nor constructive to talk about the religious affiliation of people in the media or any other vocation or profession and that was the point I was trying to make."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE DILEMMA OF THE LABOR ALIGNMENT

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The Labor Alignment currently faces a severe problem: is it ready to challenge the government's policy regarding the peace negotiations by presenting to the public a clearly different set of alternative views? For the present, the Alignment seems reluctant to advocate such a fundamentally different approach, thus, in effect, confirming the government's contention that there is a basic national consensus with regards to Israel's minimal conditions for peace.

The Alignment's confusion has been accentuated since the Leeds Castle conference in mid-July, where Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan announced Israel's readiness to discuss a territorial compromise over the West Bank. Until Leeds the Alignment had accused the government of missing the change for peace by refusing to suggest to Egypt that territorial compromise might be the basis for a solution to the problem of the West Bank's status.

In the ancient castle of Leeds, Dayan dared to mention that solution, asking the Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel whether his country

would agree to consider it. Kaamel outrightly rejected the proposal, stressing Egypt's formal and oft-stated position that none of the occupied territories are subject to negotiation: they must be returned in toto.

Dayan returned home, informed Premier Menachem Begin of Kaamel's negative reaction and planned the next step: a public announcement of the government's readiness to discuss a territorial compromise over Judea and Samaria. In a TV interview, Begin hastened to announce the Egyptian refusal, preparing the country for an official statement made by Dayan in the Knesset the next day.

On the basis of the Egyptian refusal—already known to the Cabinet, but not to the public—Dayan could easily declare Israel's consent to discuss a territorial compromise. Kaamel's rejection of the offer enabled Begin to respond smilingly to a TV interviewer's question as to whether the Likud government was genuinely prepared to contemplate territorial concessions on the West Bank—part of historic Eretz Israel.

#### A Possible Diplomatic Gambit

Dayan's statement that Israel is ready to hold serious talks about a territorial compromise is interpreted by official circles here as a genuine effort to find new channels of negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Were Kaamel to have responded positively, Israel would indeed have sincerely begun negotiating this possibility, the circles claim.

Some, however, are wondering whether Dayan's move was in fact planned on the assumption of a negative response by Egypt—and that its main objective was to convince Israeli public opinion that the option of a territorial compromise does not really exist.

In fact, Dayan's offer, paradoxically, prompted Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to harden his position by declaring that he would not resume negotiations unless Israel declared it would withdraw from territories occupied in the Six-Day War. It took President Carter's summit plan for Camp David next month to shift Sadat from this new obduracy.

#### Need To Realign Alignment's Position

Whatever its motive, Dayan's maneuver at Leeds Castle compels the Alignment to reconsider its positions with regard to the negotiations. Until now the Alignment claimed in effect that if the government were to suggest a territorial compromise an agreement could be reached. The fact is, however, that Egypt rejected any idea of such a solution. This was Egypt's formal position at Leeds—in spite of earlier informal indications of flexibility.

In order now to challenge the government's policy, the Labor Alignment must decide whether it would accept Sadat's conditions which included: total withdrawal from territories occupied in the Six-Day War; a removal of all Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria and Sinai Peninsula; and the establishment of security measures such as international-manned electronic warning stations and demilitarized zones.

Only by agreeing to such conditions will the Alignment truly represent a significant different view than that now advanced by the government itself, because by advocating its present views (territorial compromise, the existence of Jewish

settlements in selected parts of the administered areas, and so on), the Alignment does not differ substantially, fundamentally, from the government's policy as enunciated by Dayan, and consequently does not fulfil its role as the main opposition party.

For the time being, the Alignment seems to favor the government's view rather than that of Sadat. In doing so, it appears to confirm, perhaps unwittingly, certainly unwillingly, the existence of a "national consensus," as Begin has claimed since he came to power.

#### U.S. LEGAL COMMUNITY URGED TO ACT AGAINST SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

By Reena Sigman Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA)—A group of prominent lawyers yesterday called upon members of the American legal community to recognize and take action against the gross violations of human and legal rights taking place in the Soviet Union.

In light of the recent trials of Soviet Jewish dissidents, the group, which included two past presidents of the Bar Association of the City of New York and members of a recent delegation of lawyers to the Soviet Union, addressed a special session of the American Bar Association (ABA) convention at the Hilton Hotel. The seminar was sponsored by the ABA's section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities and the New York Legal Coalition for Soviet Jewry. The Coalition is an affiliate of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Robert McKay, director of the Program on Justice, Society and the Individual at the Aspen Institute of Humanistic Studies, described his visit to the Soviet Union last April at which time he met with Soviet officials, dissidents and Jewish "refuseniks." Praising the extraordinary faith of the dissidents in the power of law, he said, "It was clear that our Russian friends have no idea of what justice is. They feel that if they could only find the right Soviet law, they would have protection against the exercise of arbitrary authority."

McKay had introduced the resolution Tuesday, which was adopted unanimously yesterday by the ABA House of Delegates, condemning Soviet harassment of Jews and all other Soviet citizens who "attempt to exercise their basic human rights as guaranteed by international accords and Soviet law." The resolution also called upon the ABA to establish a committee on human rights together with its legal counterparts in the USSR. The House of Delegates vote was required to make the resolution binding.

#### Gulf Between Law And Practice

George Ginsburgs, Professor of Law at Rutgers University and an expert on Soviet law, stressed the wide gulf separating law and practice in the USSR. Explaining that there was absolutely no uniformity of law enforcement in the Soviet Union, he described numerous abridgments of individual legal rights in connection with trial procedures, sentencing and the granting of exit visas.

He noted that, according to official Soviet practice, no grounds for rejection of an exit application need be given and that "there is no pattern, precedent or administrative review" governing this procedure. Although increasing numbers of Jews and other dissidents are granted permission to leave, Ginsburgs made it clear that for scientists, academicians and other "valuable" professionals, "the door is tightly closed and is not expected to

open in the near future." Another speaker, who has recently returned from the USSR where he received an invitation from a high-ranking Soviet official to attend the trial of Anatoly Shcharansky, was Orville Schell, former president of the New York City Bar Association. He concurred in McKay's assessment of the Soviet dissidents, describing them as "marvelous, courageous, wonderful, sensitive people." His frank discussion with Soviet authorities, Schell noted, offered insight into the reasons underlying Soviet objections to emigration.

### Outlines Course Of Action

Norman Redlich, Dean of the New York University School of Law, noted that "It is long past due for American liberal intellectuals and Jewish liberal intellectuals to come out of the shadow of McCarthyism and recognize the stake that all of us have in protecting human rights in the Soviet Union." He outlined courses of action which American attorneys are taking and can take in the future, to improve the situation of Soviet dissidents, Jewish and non-Jewish.

Urging American lawyers to travel to the Soviet Union and meet with Russian dissidents, Redlich also called upon them to document Soviet non-compliance with international law and agreements. He disclosed that a collection of legal briefs and memoranda compiled by New York lawyers, which was distributed at the session, had already been submitted to a number of international organizations including the Red Cross, UN Commission on Human Rights and State Department.

Redlich also advocated the introduction of courses in international human rights into the curricula of law schools throughout the country and announced the development of such a program by NYU. He also recommended the establishment of law school clinical programs in which students would participate in the drafting of legal briefs on behalf of individual Soviet dissidents. Such a brief is presently being written by Prof. Alan Dershowitz of Harvard Law School, on behalf of Shcharansky.

### Strong Business-Sponsored Statement

Possibly the strongest business-sponsored statement to date protesting Soviet human rights violations was issued by a group of businessmen present at the seminar. Five lawyer-businessmen who recently returned from the Soviet Union after interviewing Francis Crawford, the Moscow representative of International Harvester Corp. who had been arrested, accused of violating Soviet currency regulations by buying large sums of money on the black market, signed a joint statement. It reads, in part:

"It should also be noted that the arrest of Mr. Crawford has occurred in a climate of growing repression within the Soviet Union. The trial and imprisonment of dissidents and Jewish refuseniks reflect a pattern of lawlessness which has ensnared Mr. Crawford. It is a pattern that can, at any time, reach and catch any other member of the Western business community. There is, in short, no rule of law, no protection of individual rights, in the Soviet Union today." The statement was signed by Sidney Howell, Kurt W. Melchior, Charles Miller, E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr. and Alan Swan. The Soviet Jewry resolution, which had been unanimously adopted Tuesday by some 1000 delegates at the ABA's Assembly, will now be implemented.

### U.S. WILL TAKE DIFFERENT ROLE AT THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT TALKS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The United States will take "a different role" at the summit at Camp David than in previous meetings with Middle East leaders, a top American spokesman said today. Seeking to explain what "a full partner" role by the United States means in the conference beginning Sept. 5 that will bring together Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said:

"What has changed is the participation of the three leaders and that in the President's presence with Begin and Sadat we have obviously become a different kind of participant simply because it is a different kind of meeting than we have had in the past."

Carter made his comment in a discussion with reporters at the State Department who sought an explanation of Vance's agreement with Sadat in Alexandria that the U.S. would be "a full partner" at Camp David—a role that Sadat apparently believes would bring U.S. pressure on Israel to withdraw from occupied territories.

The spokesman's comments followed an hour-long meeting at the White House between Carter and Vance who also met later with the National Security Council. Vance left the White House without meeting reporters.

Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell said that "the President is pleased" by Vance's reports of the "positive attitudes" on the part of Sadat and Begin. "No one underestimates the difficulties they face in the upcoming meeting," he said.

### Urges Quiet, Intense Discussions

Powell refused to discuss the comments Tuesday by a top Administration official that the summit was prompted in part by "the drift towards war." Powell said, "I am not going to be involved in commenting on things like that." At the State Department, spokesman Carter also refused to discuss a report attributed to intelligence sources by two major U.S. television networks that Egypt was building up its military forces.

In the current period before the summit, Powell advised that "intense, quiet discussions are necessary." He suggested that all officials should not "talk in too much detail." He, too, would not define "a full partner" role for the U.S. at Camp David. In a brief interview, National Security Council Chairman Zbigniew Brzezinski said the U.S. would "now and then make constructive suggestions" at the summit but would not provide an American plan for a settlement.

### WJC BOYCOTT CONFAB TO COMBAT RACISM

GENEVA, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Philip M. Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, announced today that the WJC governing board decided that the Congress could not attend the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination beginning here Aug. 14 as an observer. This decision was taken with great regret, and notwithstanding the WJC's repeated endorsement of the program and priorities of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he said. Klutznick said the reason for the decision is that the conference is being convened under UN resolutions which refer to previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including the one equating Zionism with racism.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

NEW BOOK POSES POSSIBLE BRITISH  
COMPLICITY IN HITLER'S 'FINAL SOLUTION'

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Aug. 10 (JTA)--In an explosive new book, one of Britain's leading historians comes close to accusing British officials of passive complicity in Hitler's "final solution" of the Jewish question. Martin Gilbert, official biographer of Sir Winston Churchill, provides a wealth of new documents showing that while the Nazis aimed to murder the Jews of Europe, Britain sought to prevent sizeable numbers of them from escaping to Palestine and other countries.

The allegations are made in "Exile and Return: The Emergence of Jewish Statehood," to be published here next month by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. It reassesses the origins of the State of Israel and the attitudes of the Western powers both to anti-Semitism in Europe and Arab terrorism in Palestine. The prestige of its author, and the evidence he presents, could well have a lasting influence on Jewish appraisals of this period.

A Fellow of Merton College, Gilbert has more than a score of books to his name, even though he is still under 40. In addition to his weightier historical studies, he has also produced a stream of pamphlets and atlases illustrating various facets of Jewish and Israeli history. He spent the past two years as a historical consultant for the lengthy Thames Television documentary account of the Palestine conflict, and was largely responsible for its copious coverage of the Holocaust.

His discoveries about the attitudes of British officialdom to the Jewish question in Europe and Palestine may well tempt many readers to revise their assumptions about the essential relations between Britain and Zionism. To the extent that they vindicate the anti-British, anti-Weizmann school of Zionist thought, they could even be termed "revisionist," but with a small "r."

Chilling Examples Cited

It was in the course of his Churchill researches that Gilbert found much of the documentation on Britain's foreign policy during the 1930s and 1940s. It sheds new light on day-to-day British pressure to prevent Jews from escaping from Europe both during the Hitler years and after the war. Here are some chilling examples:

- Only six months before the war, Britain and the United States asked Hitler Germany to "discourage" Jewish travel in ships bound for Palestine and "to check unauthorized emigration" of Jews from the Reich.

- After the war began, Britain refused to permit 20,000 Jewish children to go to Palestine from Poland on the grounds that to do so would free the Germans from the economic burden of having to feed them, thus helping the Nazi war effort.

- A secret Foreign Office document expressed the hope that all German Jews would be "stuck at the mouth of the Danube for lack of ships to take them." At the height of the war, the government refused to allow into Britain even a few hundred extra Jews who might escape from the Nazis, despite a plea by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Gilbert is no less critical of Britain's extraordinary decision in November, 1947 to curtail the trials of Nazi war criminals and to encourage short sentences. "If sentences err on the side of lenien-

cy, that is a fault on the right side," one official is quoted as saying.

Borne Out By Another Study

That Gilbert's findings are not an isolated reading of the pre-war period is borne out by another study, just released here, of American attitudes towards refugees from Hitler. Writing in "Patterns of Prejudice," issued by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, Michael Mashberg, an American scholar, concludes that racial prejudice was one of the principal reasons for America's inaction and procrastination in regard to the rescue of Jews.

Mashberg's findings add new weight to the conclusions reached, 10 years ago, by the late Arthur Morse in his book, "While Six Million Died." Mashberg writes:

"Although some in the United States government attempted to save the remnant of European Jewry in 1944 and 1945, they were restricted and checked by an almost universal pattern of prejudice. The attempts to save European Jews were stymied by all concerned nations, both Allied and Axis: the Germans wanted to kill Jews; the Poles, Hungarians, Rumanians and others helped; whereas, the Allied and neutral countries refused to permit large-scale rescue operations or to allow the persecuted Jews entry for temporary resettlement.

"Britain, for example, refused to grant asylum to more than a few Hungarians and other Jews in Palestine with full knowledge that such denial meant extermination for each Jew left in Nazi-occupied Europe. France and the United States respectively limited their refuge to a few thousand souls in North Africa and America. With little or no help from the non-Axis countries the machinery in the death camps continued unabated...."

JEWISH COMMUNITY LIFE TO BE ASSESSED

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA)--How healthy is Jewish community life around the world? This assessment will be one of the by-products of an important conference being held in Jerusalem, Aug. 13-17, according to Charles H. Zibbell, president of the International Conference of Jewish Communal Service. More than 500 Jewish community professionals from every continent and scores of countries will be gathering in Jerusalem for formal and informal dialogue dealing with major issues facing the Jewish community. "Every Jewish community is facing major problems," Zibbell noted, "pointing out that the nature of the problems differs from locality to locality."

In Europe, there are many communities that currently question their ability to survive. These include countries like Sweden, Switzerland and Italy. Jewish communities in Africa, particularly South Africa, must deal with issues of race and politics. Soviet Jewry must deal with problems of basic freedom and overt anti-Semitism.

"This conference will give us an opportunity to compare notes and to try to assess what we can do to help each other more effectively," Zibbell stated. "We especially want to explore the relationship of each separate community to Israel and to the Jewish people as a whole." Zibbell, who is the associate director of the Council of Jewish Federations, indicated that a new trend he has noted in recent years is the increased importance for Jewish community professionals to take a more active leadership role in shaping their community.