

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROBE LOOMING INTO ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AGAINST ARAB BOYCOTT OF U.S. FIRMS

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (JTA)--A Congressional inquiry into the administration of federal regulations against the Arab boycott of American companies engaged in trade with Israel was indicated today following a reported shift in the enforcement of the regulations by the Department of Justice.

Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D. NY), chairman of the House government subcommittee on commerce, consumer and monetary affairs, asked for an examination of the circumstances to determine whether the Justice Department's position results in a weaker enforcement of the anti-boycott regulations.

The matter arose after the Department was seen as retreating from a strong anti-trust stand against the Arab boycott following complaints by multi-national corporations, the Business Roundtable, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the State and Commerce Departments. The Commerce Department said it is sympathetic to the concerns of the business groups that the Justice Department stand is incompatible with the Commerce Department's regulations regarding the boycott.

The State Department declined to comment yesterday on the Justice Department's position because the case from which the matter stems is still in litigation. But a State Department spokesman said "We would, however, not wish to characterize the Justice Department's action as a retreat. We supported moves to regulate boycott involvement of U.S. firms and believe that a consistent, regulatory framework, which is clear and workable is the best way to promote all the various interests of the U.S. in this field."

### Basis For The Issue

The issue arises from a Justice Department statement of policy in its anti-trust suit against the Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco, one of the nation's largest construction firms with extensive contracts in the Middle East. Bechtel was accused in January, 1976 of illegal participation in the boycott by serving as a third party to ensure that the Arab market was "closed to U.S. suppliers blacklisted by the Arabs. Bechtel and the Justice Department agreed to a settlement last year but the company now says that new anti-boycott regulations should prevail.

In its latest brief on the case, the Justice Department continued to hold Bechtel to its agreement, but in a footnote said its earlier policy statement was retracted because "it may be subject to misinterpretation." That statement referred to the Department's stringent enforcement of anti-trust laws concerning boycott-related activities. Bechtel contends that the statement is more stringent than the Commerce Department's regulations.

The case is in the form of a consent decree that is now in the hands of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco. Douglas E. Rosenthal, chief of the foreign commerce section in the

Justice Department's anti-trust division, said the Department's position represents "a change of tone." However, Associate Attorney General Michael J. Eagen said "there's no question we pulled back. The footnote is intended to indicate to businessmen that while not in every case will we defer to Commerce, we will certainly give considerable heed to their enforcement program."

## AMNESTY FOR NAZIS REJECTED

BONN, Aug. 16 (JTA)--Demands for a general amnesty for Nazi war criminals were rejected today by West German Justice Minister Hans-Jochen Vogel. "Why should murderers like this enjoy an amnesty today," he said in a newspaper interview.

Vogel was referring to a call for amnesty recently by Franz-Josef Strauss, leader of the ultra-conservative Bavarian Christian Social Union, who had said he has always had reservations about the legality of extending the statute of limitations on war criminals. The West German Parliament in 1969 extended the statute of limitation for war crimes from 20 to 30 years. It runs out next year.

## GUSH ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF SURRENDER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA)--The Gush Emunim accused the government of "surrendering to the pressures" of MK Yossi Sarid and the Peace Now movement, in a statement issued in response to the government's decision to freeze the establishment of five nahal settlements on the West Bank until after the forthcoming Camp David summit. "The government has legitimized the false claim that settlements are a barrier to peace," the Gush statement claimed. The "Movement for a Complete Eretz Yisrael" also issued a protest statement criticizing the government's decision.

## REPORT GERMAN TERRORIST HIDING IN ISRAEL; ISRAELI POLICE DENY REPORT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 16 (JTA)--Hans Joachim Klein, a member of the West German Baader-Meinhoff gang and aide to the notorious terrorist known as "Carlos," was reported today by a French newspaper as hiding in an Israeli kibbutz in the Negev. According to the morning daily L'Aurore, the Israeli secret police agreed to hide him in exchange for information he had given them on West German and Arab terrorist groups. The paper claimed that Klein told Israeli secret police that since his mother is Jewish he was entitled to asylum in Israel under the Law of Return. Israeli sources in Paris stressed they had no knowledge of Klein's whereabouts.

(In Jerusalem, the Ministry of Interior and police officials termed the newspaper story a hoax. The Ministry said it checked its population registry and border patrol files but that neither his name nor anyone resembling him was on any file. Nevertheless, police and security agents began an intensive investigation on the request of Interpol.)

According to L'Aurore, Klein is in hiding from the West German police and his fellow terrorists who feel he betrayed them. According to the story, Klein provided detailed information about Arab terrorist training bases in Iraq and South Yemen and about planned terrorist activities against the

Jewish communities in Berlin and Frankfurt. This information, the paper said, forestalled the terrorist acts.

### DEFENSE MINISTRY TOLD IT CAN HIRE DETECTIVES TO CHECK WOMEN WHO CLAIM ARMY EXEMPTION ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA)--The Defense Ministry can hire private investigators to verify affidavits of women who declare themselves religious for military exemption purposes, acting Attorney General Meir Gabai ruled yesterday. He handed down his legal opinion at the request of Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori who wanted to know whether there was any reason why the ministry could not employ detectives to check whether women who declare themselves to be religious are really so.

However, Gabai added that although it was legally permissible he did not regard it as desirable from a public opinion standpoint and would recommend that such investigations be performed by the police.

Gabai noted that according to previous rulings of the Attorney General, the government could use the services of private investigators, provided the investigation could not be carried out by the police. However, Gabai added, the investigation should be performed by the private agency under tight control. Judging by this ruling, doubt was expressed whether the Defense Ministry will use the services of private detectives.

### U.S., ISRAEL SIGN NEW AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (JTA)--The United States and Israel today signed a new air transport agreement that provides a novel arrangement on air fares and prospects for much greater travel between the two countries. The signing at the State Department by Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz provides for increased access to the United States for Israel's El Al Airline and unrestricted opportunities for American airlines and El Al to operate charter flights at competitive air fares.

The State Department said: "Under the new agreement, unlimited rights for charter flights would be available subject only to conformity with the charter rules of the country in which they originate. Israel would immediately get two new landing points of its choosing for scheduled services in the United States in addition to New York.

"It would get another two points after one year when a new innovative provision on scheduled air fares and charter prices goes into effect, requiring the agreement of both countries before a tariff may be disapproved. This arrangement on tariffs is the first of its kind and provides the opportunity for significantly lower air fares between the United States and Israel."

Israel has not yet announced its new points in the United States but Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago and Boston appear to be the favored points.

### TEACHERS THREATENING TO STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA)--Israeli schools are scheduled to reopen Sept. 1 but school children may have a longer summer vacation than planned as the teachers are threatening a strike.

The Teachers Association charges that the new contract should have been agreed upon during the summer but the government showed little concern and there were few meetings or negotiations. Only when the school year starts and the children remain at home will the government get down to business, declared Dr. Reuben Aviram of the Teachers Association.

Officials of the Ministry of Education say that two meetings were held with the teachers but the gap between them is wide. The Knesset Education and Culture Committee has urged the two sides to settle the dispute as quickly as possible.

### NAZI ITEMS FOUND IN JERUSALEM HOUSE

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA)--Workmen found a cache of Nazi paraphernalia hidden under the shingles of the house owned by an 82-year-old Holocaust survivor in one of Jerusalem's residential neighborhoods last week. A brown paper bag containing Nazi materials, apparently hidden four decades ago, was discovered when workmen started to install a new TV antenna.

The items, untouched by the elements, included a green-felt Nazi hat, a triangular officer's patch, an insignia with a swastika, and a steel knife inscribed with "Blood and Honor" ("Blut und Ehre") in German.

The owner of the items was identified as Erich Imberger. Apparently he lived across the street and hid the items in 1939 when the British began their search for Nazis in the region. The family, meanwhile, plans to keep the objects. "After all," said the survivor's son-in-law, "they do have some historical value."

### PEACE NOW MONUMENT IS ON ARAB'S LAND

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA)--The Peace Now monument, erected outside Shilo on the West Bank last Friday in protest over the government's settlement policies, was put up by mistake on land belonging to an Arab from a neighboring village. "We didn't know the land belonged to an Arab," the movement's spokesman, Tsali Reshef, said after a Gush Emunim member brought the fact to light. He added that the Peace Now movement was certain the land was owned by the government since the Shilo settlement had been established nearby.

The owner of the land, meanwhile, is considering taking the Movement to court because it failed to obtain his consent prior to erecting the monument.

### JEWISH LEADERS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S PEACE POSITION

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA)--American Jewish leaders expressed strong support of Israel's position on Middle East negotiations following an off-the-record briefing to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations yesterday by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz.

Dinitz outlined the major features of Israel's position on the eve of the Camp David summit and emphasized Israel's "openness" in three key areas of negotiation: a willingness to discuss the sovereignty of the occupied areas after a five-year period; a willingness to consider an offer of territorial compromise; and a willingness to accept UN Resolution 242 as a basis for discussion with all parties, including Jordan.

Acting Presidents Conference chairman Howard

Squadron, speaking for the 32 constituent member organizations of the Conference, asserted that "American Jews stand as one with Israel in the effort to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

#### LEBANESE OFFICIAL URGES FORCE 'FROM OUTSIDE' TO THWART SYRIAN ACTION By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (JTA)--Dr. Charles H. Malik, the Lebanese philosopher who has held top positions in the United Nations for many years, today urged the installation in Lebanon of a force "from outside" until the Syrian army there withdraws and the Lebanese national army is "on a sound basis."

"I doubt that the United Nations can supply the outside 'balancing force' to the Syrian dominated 'Arab peace keeping force' and 'therefore other avenues must be explored,' he testified in a hearing on the Lebanese situation before the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Near East. Under questioning of its chairman, Sen. Richard Stone (D. Fla.), he declined to specify from where the "outside force" should come.

Malik, a former president of the UN General Assembly, and of the UN Security Council, said that "it is not fair, neither is it conducive to real peace and stability, for any fundamental political change to be introduced in Lebanon while there are non-Lebanese armed forces on Lebanese soil."

Speaking "purely in my individual personal capacity," Malik "rejected" partition and also opposed "a slavish, unimaginative return to the old" Lebanon which, he said, has "in many respects demonstrated its bankruptcy." In this connection, he said, "America can make it abundantly clear that it supports not just the political independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon without regard to the character of Lebanon society," but that "America respects, encourages and believes" in a "free, open and pluralist" society.

#### Charges All-Out War By Syria

Robert A. Basil, president of the American Lebanese League, said that what is now happening in Lebanon is "an all-out war" by Syria against "the Christian freedom fighters." Syria's desire, he said, is to make Lebanon "a confrontation state with Israel, rather than a democratic buffer state at peace with neighbors and the result of this in regional terms is clearly destabilizing and not in the U.S. national interest."

"We Lebanese Americans, as do Lebanese citizens, do not have as an intellectual point of departure an enmity towards Jews or the State of Israel, or the Arab states, and Lebanon cannot be forced into this mold," Basil said.

Like Malik and Basil, Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East, also rejected partition but he defended Syria's presence in Lebanon. The Syrian-dominated Arab defense force in Lebanon, Draper said, "for more than a year" has "played an absolutely indispensable role in assuring security although it was not possible for it to move into southern Lebanon."

In southern Lebanon, Draper said, where "the UN peacekeeping force has been a great success," the process of the Lebanese army units to establish authority "will inevitably be long

and 'patience is required' to ease the concerns of all involved."

Jean R. Abinader, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, also upheld the Syrian force saying, "The Syrians have committed their army and their prestige to restoring a viable central government in Lebanon," and "are outraged by the open alliance" between "some" of the Christian militia and Israel--"the Arab world's principal opponents in the region."

#### SACHER RAPPED FOR CRITICIZING BEGIN

By Elon Salmon

LONDON, Aug. 16 (JTA)--There has been sharp reactions from some quarters in the Jewish community here to Michael Sacher's letter to the Jerusalem Post last Thursday, in which he called on Israeli Premier Menachem Begin to seek a new mandate for his foreign policy. (See Aug. 14 Daily News Bulletin, P. 4.)

Lionel Bloch, a leading member of the London Jewish community and legal advisor to the Israeli Embassy, sent a letter to the Jerusalem Post in which he attacked Sacher whose views on this matter, Bloch, said, did not represent those of the Jewish rank and file.

Bloch accused Sacher of irresponsibility for publicly criticizing the Israel government at a time when silence was required before the delicate summit talks at Camp David next month. "The note struck in his letter will be seen as symptomatic of the malaise that is rife in a particular section of the Anglo-Jewish establishment," Bloch wrote. The reference was to the attitudes of British Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobowitz and Sir Sigmund Warburg whose letters criticizing Israeli policies have recently appeared in the British press.

Commenting on Sacher, Bloch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "I don't think that political counseling is Mr. Sacher's forte--the slice served up in the Jerusalem Post was half-baked." There has been no official reaction from the Zionist Federation to Sacher's letter but it is no secret that it caused considerable discomfiture, and in the case of the Herut faction in the Federation, even resentment.

#### YADIN SAYS LABOR PARTY UNDERMINING GOVERNMENT'S PEACE EFFORTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin today accused the opposition Labor Party of undermining the government's peace efforts. In an Israel Radio confrontation with Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, Yadin also charged Labor was changing its position.

Yadin said instead of stressing a national consensus in the midst of peace negotiations, Labor was creating the impression among the Arabs that it would be possible to reach an agreement with a Labor government that it could not with the present Begin government.

Peres replied that his party's main aim was peace and not a change in government. But he said that Labor would continue to criticize the government whenever it considers it is wrong, even if this concerns the peace negotiations.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A total of 85 archaeological digs took place in Israel this year, it was reported at a recent meeting here of the Israeli and foreign archaeological delegations. The findings at the digs, representing nearly all periods of history, have contributed to knowledge of the region's past.

**INTERVIEW****102-YEAR-OLD MASHGIACH STILL ACTIVE**

By Rochelle Saidel Wolk

ALBANY, Aug. 16 (JTA)--"Sitting in the house without exercise is no good, so I don't ever want to retire," Rev. Morris Rosenblum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency as he marked his 102nd birthday. Rosenblum, who still works five days a week as a mashgiach, or inspector, for the Vaad HaKashrut of Albany, believes that his positive attitude and active life have contributed to his longevity.

With humor and alacrity that belie his 102 years, Rosenblum said that he "looks for life" in all situations. "Instead of getting scared when I'm ill or something unpleasant happens, I think about living," he said. In addition to serving as an inspector of kosher meat, Rosenblum also goes to daily morning minyan. Extremely independent, he lives alone, takes care of himself, and still does all of his own cooking.

Before he started having difficulty with his eyes several years ago, Rosenblum was also a scribe, an art that he learned in Europe. Although not an ordained rabbi, he has written Jewish legal documents, performed marriages, repaired holy scrolls, and earned the title "reverend." Beginning at age 13, he read Torah for 78 years, and was also a shochet, or ritual slaughterer, for many years.

**Fled To America From Russia**

Rosenblum's long life began in a Russian village near Minsk. After serving in the Russian army for four years, he knew that he was about to be conscripted from the reserves again. This prompted his decision to flee to America, with his brother, in 1904.

Like many immigrants of the era, Rosenblum settled in New York City and became a presser and cutter on the Lower East Side. He later acquired a candy store, a wife and a child, and then decided that life in the teeming city was not for him. He learned that the Jewish Agricultural Society was settling families on farmland in Nassau, New York, southeast of Albany, and the Rosenblum family decided to become farmers. On the Nassau dairy farm, three more children were born.

From this farm, the family moved to a nearby poultry farm in East Schodack in the 1920s. At that time, Rosenblum's Jewish training and his interest in furthering Judaism came to fruition and he organized efforts to build a small synagogue for the community of ten Jewish families. He also served as a scribe for the Albany area, and learned and practiced the skill of ritual slaughtering.

Approximately 15 years ago, Rosenblum moved to Albany. He likes to tell anecdotes about the friends he has made in his travels throughout the city. "I go out every day, so people know me and I know people," he said. Being with people and staying occupied have kept Rosenblum young for 102 years. As he readied himself to go shopping for a new jacket to wear to his birthday party, he told this reporter: "I'd like to see you in ten years--it could happen."

**HADASSAH LAUNCHES WOMAN-TO-WOMAN CAMPAIGN WITH SOVIET JEWS**

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA)--In order to give moral support to a group of 42 Soviet Jewish

women activists, Hadassah has launched a nationwide, multi-faceted campaign to reinforce the lines of communication between them and American Jewish women. It is called "Project Isha-L-Isha" (woman to woman).

"Because of the official Soviet policy which discourages the presentation of Jewish culture and religion, and because of the orchestrated harassment and terror tactics applied to Jews who apply for exit visas, many Soviet Jews are demoralized," Beatrice Feldman, national Zionist affairs chairman of Hadassah, explained.

"Furthermore, with the jamming of the airwaves from the west, the irregularities of the communications systems, not to mention the overt censorship and restrictions against meeting foreign visitors, Soviet Jews often feel cut off and forgotten by their families and friends abroad."

"Through letters, birthday and anniversary greetings," Mrs. Feldman said, "we hope to reassure these brave women that their outspoken and courageous efforts to uphold human rights for Jews in the Soviet Union are known and supported in the world beyond the Iron Curtain." The letters will not be political. They will describe Jewish culture, the participants' trips to Israel, and the work they do for Hadassah on behalf of its medical and educational services in Israel.

One of the notable women to whom Project Isha-L-Isha will direct attention is Ida Nudel, who has recently been exiled to Siberia for four years. "If Ida Nudel is to survive the rigors of this stark existence, so graphically described by Alexander Solzhenitsyn in 'Gulag Archipelago,' we must make every attempt to keep her psychologically afloat," Mrs. Feldman said.

**SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET JEWRY**

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 16 (JTA)--Some 500 people attended a meeting here last night to mark the 26th anniversary of the murder in Moscow of 24 leading Jewish writers and poets and to condemn the recent trials and jailings of Soviet Jewish activists. The meeting was sponsored by the Argentine Committee for the Defense of Jews in the Soviet Union in cooperation with DAIA, the Zionist Organization and Asociacon Mutual Israelita Argentina.

Alfredo Concepcion, Commerce Minister in the administration of former President Frondizi, and Marco Denevi, a leading writer, both non-Jews, and Nehemiah Resnizky, president of DAIA, denounced Soviet violations of human rights. Jacobo Denker, a Jewish actor, read excerpts from the Jewish "samizdat" (underground newspaper) in the Soviet Union.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin celebrated his 65th birthday Wednesday. But the Premier, who only Tuesday returned from a few days vacation, continued business as usual. Friends of Begin promised him a "surprise party" Saturday night.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Several Torah scrolls were stolen recently from synagogues throughout the country, especially in Jerusalem, it was reported. Five scrolls were stolen last week from a synagogue in the Neve Yaacov neighborhood in Jerusalem, worth some IL 320,000. Two of the scrolls were found torn near a village in the Rehovot region. Jerusalem synagogues are installing special locks and alarm systems to prevent further thefts.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Israel Discount Bank has announced that Chaim Herzog, former Israeli Ambassador to the UN, has joined the bank's board of directors.