

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Replication only by previous arrangement

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

Vol. ~~XLIV~~ 61st Year

Friday, August 18, 1978 3

No. 161

BEGIN ON CAMP DAVID: SUMMIT IS NOT 'A FATEFUL MEETING'; ISRAEL WILL SEEK PEACE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT IF PEACE TREATY IS NOT POSSIBLE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin said yesterday that the trilateral summit talks at Camp David "should not be described as a fateful meeting." The fate of our nation will not be decided either at King David or at Camp David. (The King David Hotel in Jerusalem was the site of talks between officials of the former Rabin government and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.)

Begin, in offering this assessment to the graduating class of the recently reopened National Defense College, warned against the threats "of swords or oil. Israel will not bow to threats of this sort. We shall not be influenced by any threats. We ask not to be threatened." He asserted that Israel is going to Camp David with the fullest good will for the summit talks' success. He said Israel is prepared to discuss the problems that will face it at the summit but will discuss them coolly and quietly.

Not Seeking Another Interim Accord

Focusing on those talks, Begin said Israel will advance the view that there is a distinction, not a contradiction, between a peace treaty and peace relations with Egypt. If a peace treaty is not possible because Egypt is not in a position to sign one at this time, Begin said Israel would seek a peace relation that would lead, in time, to a peace treaty.

Israel, he said, is not seeking another interim agreement but a permanent agreement. "We want no more war, no more bloodshed, no more aggression, but peace relations between Israel and its neighbors." He did not, however, discount the possibility of "arrangements" in certain areas but stressed this would have to be "on a mutual basis."

Begin also told the graduating class of 26 senior army officers that it is the task of the army to prepare for war and the task of the political leadership is to prevent war. "This is the correct distribution of functions between the military and political leadership," he said. "But these functions are interlocked. The stronger the military, the more disciplined and swift in its movements, the easier it will be for the political leadership to prevent the outbreak of war."

The National Defense College, the highest military educational institute, produced four classes of senior officers prior to the Six-Day War. It has been closed since then and was reopened again last year. The college is a continuation of the field university that the Israeli army conducts for its senior officers.

BOMBING TRAGEDY AVERTED IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--A recent appeal to the public to be alert to evidence of potential terrorist attacks paid off today in the Carmel market here when police responded to a call from a wary citizen and found two bombs

under cucumber stands. The bombs were safely dismantled. The appeal was issued after a bomb exploded exactly two weeks ago in the Carmel market at the height of the Thursday shopping activities, when the market was crowded with housewives and children on school vacation. One person was killed and 50 persons injured by the Aug. 3 blast.

In response to today's call to the police, police van loudspeakers began urging immediate evacuation of the market by vendors and shoppers alike. Within minutes the market was deserted except for police teams, which included sappers. The first explosive was camouflaged in a cigarette carton. Police began an immediate search for more bombs and found the second explosive. Police rounded up a number of suspects for interrogation. The market, evacuated for about 90 minutes, was reopened in time for the usual Sabbath eve rush.

ISRAEL ZALMANSON ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Israel Zalmanson, 29, the youngest member of the Zalmanson family, who spent eight years in Soviet jails following the first Leningrad trial in 1970, arrived yesterday in Israel. Speaking in Hebrew, he said in a trembling, emotional voice that it is a wonderful feeling to be at last among relatives and friends in Israel.

"My heart is overflowing to be here," he said, "and I can hardly speak." Zalmanson said he was aware of the many letters of encouragement that were written to him but only a few of them reached him. This was so because the Soviet authorities are aware of the importance of such letters as morale boosters to prisoners and therefore relay very few.

Three more members of his family who were also jailed in 1970, are still languishing in Soviet prisons: his two brothers, Shmuel and Wulf, and his brother-in-law Eduard Kuznetsov. Kuznetsov's wife is Silva Zalmanson, who had also been jailed in 1970 and released some two years ago. Silva Zalmanson, who now resides in Israel, waited in Vienna for her brother and accompanied him back here. Several ministers and a large delegation of the Public Committee for the Struggle of Soviet Jews greeted Israel Zalmanson at the Ben Gurion Airport.

BEGIN ANSWERS SACHER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin rejected today a suggestion by British Zionist leader Michael Sacher that Begin should seek a new mandate for his foreign policy because he was elected, fundamentally, on his economic program and not on the issue of peace negotiations with Egypt. In an open letter to Sacher in the Jerusalem Post, in response to Sacher's open letter in the Post last Thursday, Begin also rejected the British Zionist's view that Begin's inflexible foreign policy could lead to another series of wars. The Premier's open letter stated:

"Yesterday, which was the last day of my short vacation, I read your letter in the Jerusalem Post and it left me wondering. During the last year you had numerous opportunities to talk to me in the circle of a few friends, or, if you so wished, privately. But you did not use those opportunities. You never brought your interesting suggestion to me but, preferred, as the Americans say, to go public.

"This is your right. Since I became a disciple of (Zeev) Jabotinsky at the age of 15--it is now 50 years ago--I learned from him, and believe this with all my heart, that Eretz Yisrael belongs to all the Jewish people and not only to that portion of our people that lives here. However, it is my duty to state that a national election being the internal issue in any country, must always remain the legitimate exclusive domain of those who can influence the electorate or be influenced by it.

"Your suggestion or allegation that my colleagues and I were elected by the people mainly on the basis of our economic plan is, to put it mildly, a complete mistake. We campaigned for months on two issues: the political-security problems and the socio-economic problems. Every child in Israel knew exactly what we stood for on the question of peace and security--the more so the adults.

"This was the main theme of the election-television dialogue between the Labor Alignment's candidate for the Premiership, Mr. (Shimon) Peres and myself. After all this thorough public education came the decision of our people. And I venture to say that there never was a more democratic expression of opinion in the annals of our country or of any other state than the Israel national elections of 1977.

"According to the constitution of our land the mandate given us by our people is for a four-year period. Upon taking office I gave an oath of allegiance before the Knesset to the effect that I would faithfully fulfill my duty as Prime Minister of Israel. And, Mr. Socher, I intend to do my best and utmost to fulfill my duty for the constitutional duration of the Ninth Parliament. I shall do so as long as the government I head enjoys the confidence of the House. As far as I am aware, this is called in several countries, including Britain: democracy.

"I must state with a full sense of responsibility that your concept of Israel's security would lead us into untenable conditions of permanent bloodshed, a general war under the most intolerable circumstances, and a direct danger to the very existence of Israel and its people. You will, therefore, understand why your concept is utterly unacceptable to my colleagues in government, in Parliament and to me. We shall go on doing our very best to obtain peace and security not only for our own generation but also for our children and their children...."

ISRAELI GENETICISTS BOYCOTTING MOSCOW CONFAB AS USSR OFFICIALS REFUSE ENTRY TO 16 ISRAELI SCIENTISTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--A delegation of 31 Israeli geneticists planning to attend the International Congress of Genetics in Moscow Aug. 21-30 decided today to boycott the Congress after Soviet officials refused entry visas to 16 of the Israeli scientists. The scientists are members of the Israeli Genetics Society, an affiliate of the International Confederation of Genetics, which is sponsoring the Congress in Moscow.

Ten of the Israeli geneticists came to Israel from the Soviet Union. Those who came from Moscow were refused visas. The 16 who did get visas will be limited in their travel to the Moscow region and to participation in the Congress. The former Soviet Jews who were among those receiving the restricted visas were Jews who had not lived in Moscow prior to their emigration to Israel.

In support of the Israeli geneticists, members of the American delegation have decided that, while they will not boycott the Congress, they will not read their papers at the event. That decision was disclosed in a cable to the Israeli society by American geneticists who reported they intended to stand up at the Congress and announce they would not read their papers to protest the Soviet rebuff to the Israeli scientists. (See related story P. 3)

ISRAEL UNDER FIRE AT UN CONFERENCE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The Soviet Union yesterday sharply attacked Zionism and Israel at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Soviet delegate declared that an explosive situation exists in the Middle East "because of the policies of Israel and its supporters which have denied the right of the people of Palestine to establish their own national state and have set up a regime of discrimination and oppression against the Arab population in the occupied territories." The Soviet delegate also linked Zionism with racist and pro-fascist organizations which "are active in the United States."

Israel's policies in the occupied territories were also assailed by the delegate of Sri Lanka, who expressed concern about the "systematic violation of the human rights of the Arabs in the territories." He accused Israel of mass deportation of Arab inhabitants of the territories, the denial by Israel of their right to return to their homes and of confiscating Arab property. He said these measures aim to change the demographic composition of the territories.

Another attack against Israel was launched during today's debate at the conference by the Foreign Minister of Cuba, Isodoro Malmierca Peoli. He noted that Israel and the United States are boycotting the Conference "together with the representatives of apartheid regimes" and called on the Conference to express its support of the Palestinian people, whose territories, he said, are occupied by Israel.

Observers here said that despite such attacks on Israel the Africans at the conference are determined to avoid an anti-Israel resolution, knowing that such a resolution would not be supported by the West European countries and would divert attention from the issue of racism in Africa.

HELEN SUZMAN NOMINATED FOR UN AWARD

GENEVA, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The World Jewish Congress announced today that it has nominated Mrs. Helen Suzman, for many years the sole representative of the Progressive Party in the South African Parliament, as a candidate for a UN human rights prize. Mrs. Suzman has long been universally recognized as the leading protagonist in the struggle against racial discrimination in her country. The awards are to be made on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

AIR TRANSPORT PACT WELCOMED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--American and Israeli officials yesterday welcomed the new Israeli-U.S. civil aviation agreement that calls for lowering air fare and vastly increased traffic between the two countries.

In the signing ceremony at the State Department, Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher

said the agreement represents new U.S. aviation policy and "a major step forward" in competition in air transportation. He noted Israel's El Al airline can now serve four additional American cities and American airlines can fly from all U.S. cities to Israel.

"This is a significant advance in our partnership with Israel," Christopher said. "It strengthens the enduring and unshakable bonds between our two countries."

Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, who signed the agreement that amends the original U.S.-Israeli pact of 1950, called it "the most liberal air agreement ever signed." He said "it fulfills desire of both countries" for increased passenger traffic at the lowest and most competitive rates. Dinitz said that for Israel the agreement opens the gates to facilitate tourism and more intimate relationship between the peoples of America and Israel.

Senators Richard Stone (D. Fla.) and Charles Percy (R. Ill.), members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Transportation Secretary Brock Adams also lauded the agreement. Stone reported that National Airlines has formally filed application with the Civil Aeronautics Board to fly three times a week beginning in April from Miami to Tel Aviv via Amsterdam, Paris and Zurich. Percy said the agreement reflected American "devotion and support for Israel as an ally and friend of the United States."

The ceremony was attended by representatives of numerous Jewish community organizations, including a delegation from Chicago which is one of American cities in which El Al is expected to have landing rights in the near future. The others are Boston, Los Angeles and Miami.

URGE BOYCOTT OF MOSCOW CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--A distinguished group of American geneticists today joined the Committee of Concerned Scientists in urging Western scientists not to attend the International Congress of Genetics to be held Aug. 21-30 in Moscow. The statement by the Committee and its supporters comes in response to the recent trials of refusenik and dissident scientists in the Soviet Union, according to a Committee announcement.

Signatories to the statement, which will appear as a letter in an upcoming issue of Science magazine, include two scientists who were awarded Nobel Prizes for work in genetics, Alfred D. Hershey and Howard Temin; four past presidents of the Genetics Society of America; a present officer of the Society; and the co-chairmen of the Committee of Concerned Scientists. The Committee is an independent, national organization of 4000 scientists concerned with the advancement of scientific and human rights for colleagues throughout the world.

Citing the recent trials and convictions of Anatoly Shcharansky, Yuri Orlov, Iosif Begun and Grigory Goldstein, the letter charges that the USSR has "unleashed an unremitting attack against our Soviet colleagues." Particular concern was expressed over the use of science "as a weapon" by Shcharansky's prosecutors. The 30-year-old computer scientist, who was sentenced to 13 years in a labor camp and prison last month, was accused of having arranged for the transmission to Western intelligence agencies of "secret information pertaining to Soviet research in genetic engineering."

The letter notes, though, that some geneticists will decide to attend the Moscow meeting

for various reasons. It is being recommended that they express their concern both by discussing the recent trials with Soviet participants in the Congress and by "visiting with the ostracized refusenik and dissident scientists."

CARTER SAYS HE HAS NO COMMITMENTS FROM BEGIN OR SADAT THAT THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR POSITIONS FOR SUMMIT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--President Carter said today that neither Israeli Premier Menachem Begin nor Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made any "commitment" to him to "change their present positions" as a requirement to meet with him at Camp David Sept. 5.

Answering questions at a White House press conference, Carter said that in his invitations for the summit to Begin and Sadat he suggested that Egyptian and Israeli officials "lessen the vituperation" between the two countries and that both sides attempt to show more "flexibility."

The President agreed with a reporter that the Camp David meeting was a "high risk gamble" for himself since, if it failed, he would have to personally share in the failure. He said that "I pray" and urge Americans and others to "pray" for the success of the summit conference because "failure could result in a new conflict in the Middle East which could affect the security" of the United States. Carter said he did not know the result of the conference but that from his talks many times with Begin and Sadat, "I am absolutely convinced that both men want peace."

The President cautioned that he did not expect a peace treaty to result from the Camp David meeting but he did hope both sides would be able to explore areas of "compatibility" and build from there to future negotiations.

Carter reiterated that the U.S. was an "interested" mediator in the talks. He noted that when Sadat went to Jerusalem last November and Begin to Ismailia in December it was "one of the happiest few weeks in my career as President" because he was not "involved" in the negotiations. But he said since then the situation has deteriorated.

COURT RULES NAZI CAN'T BE EXTRADITED

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The higher district court in the town of Hamm in Westphalia, West Germany, decided yesterday that it is very likely that Dutch war criminal Siert Bruins, who was arrested July 4 is now a German national and therefore cannot be extradited to Holland.

Bruins was sentenced in absentia to death by a special Dutch tribunal in April, 1949 for having personally killed, on one of the last days of the German occupation of Holland, Jews who had been discovered in their hiding places. He was recently discovered in West Germany where he has lived ever since May, 1945. The Hamm court took the view that by joining the Nazi SS during World War II Bruins was certified as a German national under a decree issued by Hitler in 1934.

For the time being, however, Bruins will not be released from detention but will be kept in preliminary detention pending an investigation to determine whether he committed war crimes in Germany as well. Johan van der Leeuw, of the Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation in Amsterdam, called the decision of the Hamm court surprising. Hitler's decree, that those joining the SS automatically received German nationality, has never been applied to Dutch nationals of Dutch origin who volunteered for the SS, as Bruins did.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

THE THREE TASKS OF YOSEF KEDAR

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--"I hope you are not going to ask me about my plans, because I do not have any at the moment. I am still learning," Yosef (Paul) Kedar, Israel's new Consul General in New York, who succeeded Uri Ben-Ari, said at the beginning of an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency held at the Israeli Consulate here.

Although he is still "learning," the 53-year-old diplomat--an articulate, easy-going man--has a clear idea of the major tasks of the Israeli Consulate in New York. "My activities will focus on three major fields," Kedar explained. "First, dealing with the large Jewish community here; second, the issue of hasbara (public information); and third, the official contacts with the local authorities of the city and the state."

Kedar, who until his recent appointment as Consul General was the chief curator of Beth Hatfuzoth (museum of the Jewish Diaspora) in Tel Aviv, said that as Consul he hopes to be the link between the Jewish community in New York and Israel. "The Consul here is an instrument, one of the instruments, to project Israel's image among diaspora Jews," he said, adding: "In a way, my task is to strengthen the sense of identity of the American Jew with the Jewish State."

The issue of hasbara, in Kedar's view, is of utmost importance in New York because "this city is a media center" and Israel's cause will be enhanced when hasbara--which has been under constant criticism--is improved.

As a sabra who was born in Neveh Zedek, the first Jewish suburb of Jaffa, Kedar admitted that he has "ambivalent" feelings toward yordim, Israelis who are permanently living in the United States. But he stressed that he believes that any Israeli citizen in New York and elsewhere in the United States is entitled to all the consular services of the Israeli Consulate.

"And as a Jew he deserves the same treatment as any other Jew here," Kedar said. He added: "I do not have a negative feeling toward Israelis here, but at the same time I do not endorse the fact that they have left Israel. I would try my best to contact them and to learn their problems, and I hope I could help some of them to return home."

Bound Up With Israel's Struggle

Kedar's life story is connected with Israel's struggle for independence and the efforts to secure and defend the Jewish state in the last 30 years.

In the late 1920s, his family moved to France after his father, Ben-Zion Homsky, an active Revisionist, was sentenced to a prison term and then exiled. In 1940, when the Germans invaded France, Kedar escaped to Great Britain and joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. After receiving pilot training in the United States Navy in Pensacola, Florida, Kedar served the Royal Air Force both in European and Far Eastern theaters of war.

In 1946 he left the Royal Air Force and was active in the Irgun in Europe until the creation of the State of Israel, when he returned to Israel and joined the newly established Israeli Air Force. Among his numerous assignments as an officer, Kedar also served as Military Attache in

Paris and Turkey. In 1965, he left the Israeli Air Force with the rank of full colonel and joined government service.

In 1970, after the Cherbourg affair, he was appointed head of the Israel Defense Mission in Europe. He returned to Israel from this assignment in 1973 and helped found Beth Hatfuzoth. Kedar is married. His wife, the former Ruth Jacobs, was born in Jerusalem. They have four children, the oldest of whom is now serving in the Israeli Defense Forces.

ADL WELCOMES RELEASE OF LAINO

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today welcomed reports from Asuncion, Paraguay, that human rights leader Domingo Laino has been released from jail. Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal, director of ADL's Latin American affairs department, expressed gratification that the case against Laino, a former member of the Paraguayan Chamber of Deputies and vice-president of an opposition political party, had been dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence.

Laino was released Aug. 7; 10 days after ADL had publicly expressed fear for Laino's safety after he was arrested last month. The arrest occurred one day after Laino returned from a six-week visit to the United States during which he had openly criticized the dictatorial regime of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner for its hospitality to Nazi war criminals and violations of human rights.

Rosenthal said that Laino, when he was a deputy, had proposed a bill calling for the investigation of Nazi influence in Paraguay and the revocation of citizenship granted to Joseph Mengele, the most wanted of Nazi war criminals.

SOUP, GOLDA'S STYLE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Israel may soon produce and export a new soup to be known as "Golda's Soup." The food production department of Koor Industries is expected to be entrusted with the production of this soup, based on a recipe to be given by Golda Meir.

The firm's bulletin reported that Koor management representatives visited Mrs. Meir to greet her on her 80th birthday. While munching her homemade cookies she told the representatives that on a recent visit to the United States she was asked in a television interview to identify her culinary specialty. Without hesitation, she said it was good, clear Jewish soup. Thousands of viewers reportedly wrote to the television station asking for the recipe. Naftali Blumental, Koor manager, immediately suggested that his firm should mass-produce the soup to provide this item for countless salivating palates.

As for Koor Industries itself, which was established in 1944 by Histadrut and is now one of Israel's largest corporations, 1978 is the fourth consecutive year that it has improved its position in Fortune magazine's listing of 500 major industrial corporations outside the United States. Koor is listed in the 196th place, up from 206th place last year, making it among the top 200 firms in the world.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Over 200 French youth gathered Wednesday at the Western Wall in support of the struggle for Soviet Jewry. Avital Shcharansky, wife of jailed Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky, addressed the youth and called on them to engage in "total war for Soviet Jewry in the face of Soviet terrorism."