

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## REPORTS CONFLICT ABOUT JEWS IN IRAN

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Conflicting reports are emerging from Iran on the position of the Jewish community in that country, now torn by internal strife. Maariv special correspondent Shmuel Segev reported from Teheran yesterday that Iranian Jews are convinced that their lives and property are not endangered in the growing uprising by Moslem religious elements and others against the Shah.

But Jews who arrived here yesterday after visiting relatives in Iran said anti-Semitic leaflets were being distributed and that Iranian Jews received anonymous letters warning them to get out of the country. The arrivals, who asked not to be identified, said Iranian Jews do not leave their quarters except to shop for essentials and in some places they are even afraid to go shopping.

According to Maariv, there are 80,000 Jews in Iran, most of them in Teheran where the Jewish community is well-to-do. The newspaper reported that Sheikh Ayatullah Shariyat Madari, the exiled leader of the Shi'i Moslem sect, told his followers to differentiate between the Iranian Jews who deserve the fullest protection of all Moslems and the Israelis who he described as enemies of God and Iran. Some Iranian Jews contended that that remark was made for internal consumption, Maariv reported.

## SAUDIS ARRIVE IN CANADA SEEKING POSSIBILITIES FOR INVESTMENTS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Prince Faisal, nephew of King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, arrived today in Sherbrooke, 60 miles north of Montreal, accompanied by a small delegation of Saudi Arabian dignitaries. Among the personalities accompanying the Prince were Dr. O. Nasir, president of the University of Jidda, and Sam Inkewit, an engineer and architect. The group arrived from Jidda, Saudi Arabia's administrative capital, on the King's personal plane.

They were met at Sherbrooke by Essan Abid Shaikh, Saudi Arabia's Cultural Attache to Canada. They were joined later in the day by a much larger delegation which arrived at Dorval International Airport in Montreal, because Sherbrooke Airport is too small for the delegation's Boeing 707 plane. This evening the delegations are due in Ottawa.

In an exclusive interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Sherbrooke's industrial commissioner, Alex Baptist, disclosed that the Prince and his entourage of professionals and executives were in Sherbrooke "to inaugurate the Gabre Phone Products, a plant for sound reproduction instruments. They intend to produce sound reproduction instruments for the North American market and duplicate the existing plant which engineer Sad Gabre has successfully set up in Canterbury, Britain."

Baptist said Gabre is from Egypt and is a relatively recent newcomer to the exclusive

Hatley Acres area, some 87 miles north of Sherbrooke. "It is my impression that Prince Faisal and his advisers are taking a vivid interest in setting up joint ventures with Canadian companies to produce products they can sell back home," Baptist said. "They are looking for possibilities of investment in Canada and that is why they leave today for Ottawa where they will enter into discussions with the Leigh Instruments Co. of Ottawa for similar communication products."

The amount of the first investment would be an estimated \$30 million, Baptist said. He stated that the group will leave tomorrow for an unspecified destination. Baptist stressed that he had been told that the Saudi Arabians were not hinterested in buying real estate or hotels.

## SCHHEEL LAUDS SYRIA FOR ITS WILLINGNESS TO STRIVE FOR PEACE

BONN, Sept. 12 (JTA)--President Hafez Assad of Syria received the red carpet treatment when he arrived here yesterday for a five-day official visit, the first by a Syrian chief of state to West Germany. He was praised at a banquet given in his honor last night by President Walter Scheel who described Syria's role in the Middle East conflict as one "based on the willingness to negotiate and strive for peace."

Scheel said that Syria's attitude "strengthened Germany in its belief that the conflict can be peaceably settled." But he expressed concern over events in Lebanon where the Syrian peace-keeping force has been battling the Christian militia for the past two months. He said hostilities in Lebanon threatened not only that country's existence but the entire Middle East. Assad and Scheel met earlier for one hour with the participation of the foreign ministers of both countries. A reception was held for Assad to which the foreign/diplomatic corps was invited. The Ambassadors of Israel and Egypt reportedly did not attend.

Official sources here are describing Assad as a "reasonable man" who is "open to persuasion" and "not without influence on more radical Arab states like Algeria or Libya." Apart from the Mideast peace process and the conflict in Lebanon, German economic aid to Syria is expected to be high on the agenda of Assad's official talks.

Syria is a major recipient of West German development assistance. It has received nearly \$200 million since 1974 when it resumed diplomatic ties with Bonn. This includes a promise of \$50 million this year, which Assad may try to have increased. An additional \$42 million in "technical aid" has been granted.

## REPORT FLEXIBILITY BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT AT CAMP DAVID SUMMIT TALKS

By Joseph Polakoff

THURMONT, Md., Sept. 12 (JTA)--Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell said today that "there has been flexibility shown by both sides" at the Camp David summit conference now in its second week and acknowledged that some of the meetings have gone "well" and others "not so well." But he cautioned reporters to avoid such words as "stalemate" or "crucial" in characterizing the various sessions. He denied press reports that King Hussein of Jordan was coming to Camp David to join the conferees. But he disclosed that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has

spoken to Hussein by telephone from Camp David. In the course of his daily press briefing this afternoon, Powell indicated that Israel has made proposals that have been conveyed to Egypt directly or through the U.S. But he dismissed reports that Israel has "reformulated" its position.

In reply to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Powell said "There have been presentations of thoughts and ideas and consideration has been given to them from the outset. I can not productively report plans. That simply is not in the nature of these discussions." Powell also said "There is simply not a good basis for predicting or guessing how the conference will conclude" and that "no one can predict with exactness for how long the conference will proceed."

Powell spoke of "flexibility by both sides" twice under questioning by reporters. His first reference was in response to a question about a news agency report today that despite "gigantic efforts," President Carter has been unable to obtain "major concessions" from Premier Menachem Begin of Israel. "There has been flexibility shown by both sides," he said, and "it is correct that President Carter has made gigantic efforts."

He repeated that there was "flexibility on both sides" when asked what new proposals were made by Israel. He said he did not know how to define what is "publicly new or privately new."

#### The Ebb And Flow Of The Talks

Powell was asked several times about media reports that the summit meeting was at a crucial stage. Referring to "this crucial date business," he observed that the summit as a whole "is a sort of crucial meeting." But, he added, it would be "a superficial and unsophisticated way of assessing the situation." Similarly, when asked if the circumstances indicated a "stalemate," the White House spokesman said "that is inappropriate, that is wrong." He said he stood by his statement of last Saturday that "progress seems to have been made in some areas but substantial differences remain in some areas."

Pressed to say how the summit conference is going, Powell replied, "I can't do so. There is no basis at this point in doing so." He observed that it was "inevitable" in this conference that "one meeting goes well and another not so well. That is why it is not productive, not good for us and less for you, to get into speculation. Just watching attitudes might give you a totally erroneous position."

Asked why there has been no formal meeting since last Thursday between Carter, Begin and Sadat--although the three principals spent four hours together on their trip to Gettysburg on Sunday--Powell replied: "There is no need for one at this juncture. That fact is not relevant to predicting the ultimate success or failure of the conference."

Powell acknowledged that there have been some "leaks" from Camp David but "not informed leaks and some are intentionally misinformed leaks." He did not elaborate. Meanwhile, it was learned that none of the principals will leave Camp David tonight to attend the opening concert of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington. Begin had invited the President and Mrs. Sallynn Carter and Sadat to the performance.

#### ISRAEL'S AID TO LEBANON DEFENDED

THURMONT, Md., Sept. 12 (JTA)--Robert

Basil, president of the American-Lebanese League, which claims a membership of two million, strongly defended Israel's aid to Christians in war-torn Lebanon and denounced the "barbarous Syrian occupation" of that country at a press conference here today. At the same time, the Shah of Iran, whose country is also wracked by internal strife, publicly assured Israel of a continuing oil supply.

Both developments drew the attention of the media assembled here as the secretive Camp David summit conference, now in its second week, failed to yield any substantive news. The Shah made his remarks in a long-distance television interview with ABC News correspondent Barbara Walters. He said, in Teheran, that he "would not bow to Arab pressure" to cut off Israel's oil supply. Iran provides about 60 percent of Israel's petroleum needs.

Commenting on the Camp David talks, the Shah said "Progress is slow but let us not despair." He said that peace in the Middle East "would have a salutary effect on the whole region." But he observed that Iran is not a part of the Middle East but part of western Asia.

#### Appeals For Secure Lebanon

Basil appealed to the conferees at Camp David for a statement affirming Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty as "a Western-oriented democracy." He declared that Syria "no longer is a stabilizing" element in Lebanon but was trying to destroy the Christian community there and to "turn Lebanon into an occupation state."

Questioned about Israel's reasons and motivations for aiding the Lebanese Christians, Basil said "if the difference of Israel's intervention or non-intervention in Lebanon means the survival of the Christians in Lebanon, we fully support Israeli intervention for that purpose."

Asked if he thought Israel's motivations were "completely altruistic," Basil replied, "All nations, including the U.S., have a mixture of motives." When a reporter asked if Israel's intervention in Lebanon was intended to destroy the Palestinians, Basil said "no" and accused the questioner of engaging in "conspiratorial thinking."

He said that "in the strategic concept," Israel has "clearly aligned itself in the camp of the West" and "would be clearly concerned by the demise of another Western-oriented democracy." He said that "for its own national security, Israel would like Lebanon to be a democratic buffer state."

Basil said he was neither pro-Zionist nor pro-Palanganist but that he "fully believes in a pluralistic Lebanon" and the "removal of all foreign elements from Lebanon." Replying to a question, he said, "Palestinians are not Lebanese." (By Joseph Polakoff)

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Foreign currency reserves rose in August by \$29 million, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday. The reserves now amount to some \$1,518 billion. This is the first time in the last few years that the reserves have passed the \$1.5 billion mark. Part of the rise was caused by the decline of the Dollar compared to other currencies. Another result of the decline was a slight revaluation of the Israel Pound compared to the Dollar, an uncommon phenomenon in the Israeli exchange market. The Dollar stood this week at IL 18.36.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Philip M. Klutznick, World Jewish Congress president, will visit the Moroccan Jewish community in October. He will be received by King Hassan, the Foreign Minister and other Moroccan officials.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****FIREWORKS EXPECTED AT UN ASSEMBLY**

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources at the United Nations predict that the 33rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, which opens Sept. 19, will be marked by stepped-up anti-Israeli resolutions, especially if the Camp David summit turns out to be a success.

"In case of a real progress in Camp David it is very likely that the issue of Zionism will be brought up again by Arab extremists who would aim at torpedoing the continuation of any progress toward a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict," a high-ranking diplomat explained. He also pointed out that the Soviets would support new attacks on Zionism, noting that it was the USSR which stood behind the anti-Zionist drive recently at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in Geneva.

In the opinion of UN diplomats and observers, the focus of the anti-Israel forces at the world organization this fall will be the alleged cooperation and relations of Israel and South Africa. Yehuda Blum, Israel's new Ambassador to the United Nations, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he believes that new, harsher series of resolutions condemning Israel's economic and military ties with the Pretoria government will be adopted by the Assembly. "It is clear that this Assembly is not going to be easy for Israel," Blum said, adding: "But we are going to speak out loud and clear not only on behalf of Israel, but on behalf of the entire House of Israel."

**A Number Of Major Issues**

During the three-month Assembly the Middle East issue will also occupy the Security Council at least on three occasions, when the mandates of the UN peace-keeping forces in the Sinai, the Golan Heights and south Lebanon will expire.

The most important test, if progress has indeed been made in negotiations between Israel and Egypt, would come at the end of October when the three-year mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) expires and the Security Council will be asked to vote on its renewal. Egypt's consent or refusal to extend the mandate could be a major indication if the Middle East is heading towards peace or war.

The extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) would come before the Security Council at the end of this month. Sources at the UN said that one of the obstacles for the continued operation of the force in the refusal of a few countries to continue to contribute troops for UNIFIL in view of the tense situation in the area.

Less clear than all is the position of the Syrian government on extending the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which separates Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights. Diplomats say Syria's decision will be influenced by the extent of its involvement in Lebanon and the result of the Israeli-Egyptian peace efforts.

Despite the grim prospects for Israel at the upcoming Assembly, Israeli diplomats stress that it will be a mistake to dismiss anti-Israeli resolutions without "fighting back." They point out that the UN is an international arena from which Israel can publicize its views and atti-

tudes and, by doing so, reduce the harm of the anti-Israeli resolutions.

**PATT: MORE JEWS TO JERUSALEM**

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Housing Minister Gideon Patt is urging more Jews to settle in Jerusalem. Speaking at a meeting of the capital's Economic Coordinating Council Sunday, Patt said he would do his utmost to achieve that objective. "I intend to go out and find private investors ready to put up office buildings and shopping centers throughout the capital," he said.

Patt said that while increasing the Jewish population of Jerusalem the infrastructure of the city should be extended beyond the present confines. He promised to assist investors in getting through the red tape. He also said that present domestic building standards may be lowered in order to allow for lower housing prices in the city. The price of apartments in Jerusalem reached an all-time national record last year. Patt said that this year the government will complete some 13,500 apartments. Of these, some 6,200 flats will be built in Jerusalem and 1100 will be rental units.

**AJ CONGRESS DEMANDS ASSURANCES  
SOVIETS WON'T BAR JEWS AT OLYMPICS**

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has called on the United States Olympic Committee to demand assurances that the Soviet Union will not discriminate against Soviet Jews or Jewish visitors from abroad when it hosts the 1980 Olympics. Howard M. Squadron, president of the AJ Congress, declared:

"We have been informed that Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior of Denmark has been denied a visa to Moscow as a tourist, ostensibly because hotels in that city are booked and the rabbi would have no place to stay. This despite the fact that Rabbi Melchior's travelling companion--Erik Holst, a member of the Danish Parliament--was granted a visa though he, too, had no hotel reservation."

Squadron called upon the United States Olympic and International Olympic committees to take adequate steps to assure: the unhampered participation at the Games of all athletes and their coaches and trainers; the equitable distribution of tickets, hotel space and airline seats to visitors from all countries; the non-discriminatory distribution of tickets to citizens and tourists; and the unimpeded attendance at the Games of all ticket-holders, including Soviet Jews.

Moscow's treatment of Melchior "underscores the fact that there is reason for concern," Squadron stated. "We need a concerted effort to prevent comparable abuse and discrimination, direct or indirect, against any who may be affected by the Moscow Games, whether as athletes, spectators or residents."

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews reported that Sender Levenson, a 30-year-old Prisoner of Conscience who was serving a six-year term, has been released from a labor camp after half his sentence was completed. Levenson, from Bendery, near Kishinev, was charged with "speculation" after applying for a visa to emigrate to Israel.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador Yehuda Blum and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young met for the first time Tuesday for what was described as a "cordial and friendly" discussion.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA****SENEGAL IS FRIENDLY TOWARDS ISRAEL**

By S. L. Schneideman

PARIS, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Most African states under moderate regimes are looking with hope to the initiative of President Carter for a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israel conflict and expect a softening of the "rigid stand" of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin towards Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's "inclination to compromise."

This is the evaluation of the American Ambassador to Senegal and Gambia, Herman J. Cohen, made during his brief visit to Paris in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Cohen stressed that President Leopold Senghor of Senegal and King Hassan II of Morocco are key figures in promoting moderation in troubled Africa, and particularly in supporting the American initiative towards the easing of tension in the Middle East.

Cohen, a native of the Bronx, N.Y., and a son of a Jewish shopkeeper, is a career diplomat who for many years occupied important positions in the American Embassy in Paris. Since 1963 he served in Rhodesia, Uganda and Zaire, and in July 1977 was appointed Ambassador to Dakar (Senegal) and Banjul (Gambia). He is a keen observer of the African scene, of which Dakar is a focal point and main channel for American help for African nations resisting Soviet and Cuban infiltration.

**Looking To Renew Ties With Israel**

According to Cohen, Senghor looks hopefully for the opportunity of resuming diplomatic relations with Israel and maintains uninterrupted friendly contacts with the leaders of the Israeli-labor movement. Only recently former Premier Shimon Peres was a personal guest of Senghor. The Israeli economist, Joseph Golan, is still an advisor of the government of Senegal and is a frequent visitor to Dakar.

The Palestine Liberation Organization maintains an office in Dakar, headed by Dr. Assam Sartawi, considered a moderate in the entourage of PLO chief Yasir Arafat. While establishing an office in Dakar, the PLO was warned by the government that they will be expelled from the country at the slightest incident caused by their activities, Cohen said.

The press in Senegal is supporting the idea of an independent Palestinian State on the West Bank and Gaza, but stresses the necessity for adequate guarantees for Israel's independence and secure borders. The support for the PLO in the press of Senegal is in sharp contradiction to the alarming headlines about the danger of Soviet infiltration in Africa, thus ignoring the incontestable fact that the PLO serves as the Soviet proxy in the Middle East, the Ambassador observed.

Cohen related that at a recent conference of the Foreign Ministers of 50 Islamic countries, held in Dakar, the resolution calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State was considerably modified in its anti-Israeli stance due to the intervention of Senghor.

Speaking about life in Senegal, Cohen stressed that among the population of over six million, only five percent are Christians. The Christian minority, however, occupies key positions in the government and Senghor, himself a Catholic, enjoys great popularity among the predominantly Moslem population.

According to Cohen, there are only two

Jews in Dakar: one is a member of the City Council, and the other is a merchant of Greek origin who takes upon himself the task of mobilizing every year the Jewish tourists passing through Dakar in order to have a minyan for services on the High Holy Days that take place in his own home.

**RABBI URGES SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS TO PROVIDE MORAL LEAD TO JUST SOCIETY**

CAPE TOWN, Sept. 12 (JTA)--South African Jews were urged to give a "moral lead" in the achievement of a just society in this country. Rabbi Norman N. M. Bernhard of the Oxford Synagogue Center in Johannesburg, declared in the keynote address to the 1978 Cape Conference of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies that Jews should "take a firm stand in favor of equity and fair play and dignity for every human being in this country" without fear of consequences.

He said he was disappointed that fear of losing popularity and profit and self-protection inhibited Jews from taking a moral stand. Jews are not just free agents but are committed to a set of spiritual and moral values that they must strive to uphold, he stated. "Dissension itself is not going to cause anybody his living, let alone his life," Bernhard said. "You will not endanger your lives as with Soviet Jewry just speaking out."

He observed: "We have a set of principles and a set of attitudes and a set of laws to which we are committed and which make us Jews. The extent to which we are loyal to those attitudes, outlooks and laws is the index of our Jewishness. We have to see how we can maintain our integrity in a situation which, without question, is basically intolerable in terms of the attitudes and the ideas to which we are heir."

He noted that while he has often criticized the Nationalist government, he believed "that the rate of change and the conscious opening of doors by the government which it knows can never again be closed, are telling, reliable indications of the government's intention to pursue meaningful detente within South Africa as well as beyond its borders."

Dr. I. Abramowitz, who brought greetings from the Board's executive council in Johannesburg, said that while South Africa faced a difficult period he did not believe that meaningful Jewish life in this country would "just wither like grapes on the vine." He said it was true that many Jews had left and might be planning to leave South Africa for a variety of reasons. But, he believed that in the foreseeable future the vast majority would remain.

**TEACHERS' STRIKE CONTINUES**

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Negotiations continued in the two-day old teachers' strike, but no settlement was in sight today. Civil Service Commissioner Avraham Friedman predicted tonight that the strike would last at least through the end of this week. Meanwhile, the walkout by some 60,000 teachers sparked a new dispute between Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren.

Yosef declared the strike contrary to halacha because it deprived children of education. Goren ruled yesterday that the strike itself was legal according to halacha because it was intended to protect the basic social rights of the teachers and did not contradict the laws of the State. However, he said, religious education should be continued. Religious school teachers began instruction in religious subjects in synagogues today.