

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Friday, October 6, 1978

No. 193

## ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER WINS NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

### First Yiddish Writer To Win Award

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Isaac Bashevis Singer was today awarded the 1978 Nobel Prize for Literature, the first Yiddish writer to win this award. The announcement was made in Stockholm. Singer accepted the \$165,000 award modestly. He rejected questions as to which of his many novels and short stories were his favorites, declaring that readers might have favorites but that he did not.

Born in Radzymin, Poland, near Warsaw, 74 years ago, he came to the United States in 1935, convinced that his world was about to go up in flames, as it did four years later. His first writing in the United States was for the Jewish Daily Forward, now the only Yiddish-language daily in this country, where his stories continue to appear.

Outside the world of a circle of Yiddish-speaking followers, Singer wrote in obscurity until Saul Bellow translated into English Singer's "Gimpel the Fool" in 1952. Subsequent translations of his voluminous writings quickly brought him world fame. His writings have since been translated into dozens of languages, including Japanese. His writings are best sellers in Japan.

### Stories Depict East European Jewry

Son of a rabbi, Singer was a student in a rabbinical seminary in Warsaw for seven years. He began his literary career as a journalist for Hebrew and Yiddish publications in Poland. Fundamentally, Singer describes in his stories the lost world of East European Jewry. He wrote his first story during his first year of residence in the United States, "Satan in Goray," published in the Forward. Set in the 19th Century, the book describes the ravages of the Cossacks and the mass murders of Jews in Russia.

Then came "The Magician of Lublin" (1960), "The Spinoza of Market Street" (1961), "The Slave" (1962), "Short Friday" (1964), "In My Father's Court" (1966), "Enemies: A Love Story" (1972), "A Crown of Feathers" (1973), and "Passions" (1976). He also wrote books for children and is currently working on what he calls a spiritual autobiography.

Singer's big family chronicles, "The Family Moskat," "The Manor" and "The Estate" have been compared with the massive Thomas Mann novel "Buddenbrooks." Like Mann, Singer delineates how families are shattered by the new epoch and its demands over a time span from the mid-19th Century to World War II.

An appreciation of his writings, issued today by the Swedish Academy, declared that his writings of the Jewish quarter of Warsaw, destined for destruction by the Nazis during World War II, restored the ghetto to life. The Academy declared that "it is the world and life of East European Jewry, such as it was lived in the cities and villages, in poverty and persecution, and imbued with sincere piety and rites, combined with blind faith and superstition." Singer has always written in Yiddish, and has said frequently that

he not only writes in Yiddish but that he writes "about people who speak Yiddish."

### Never Wrote For Prizes

Simon Weber, editor of the Forward, said that Singer told him that he never wrote for prizes. "I am not forgetting for one moment that writers in previous times did not write for prizes but this did not diminish their greatness," Weber said. Singer had told him.

Singer, Weber added, said he would always remember that he owes everything to the Forward because it was there that his writings first appeared. Weber told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that for him the Nobel award to Singer was "the proudest moment for the Forward and for myself. It is the greatest thing to have happened to Yiddish literature. It is the first time a man won the Nobel award who is known mostly in translation."

Weber said the award would give "a tremendous boost" to Yiddish literature. He said he had been receiving calls all morning, following the announcement of the award, from readers wanting to know where they could get Singer's work in Yiddish. Morris U. Schoppes, historian and editor of Jewish Currents, said "it is high time that a Yiddish writer was recognized with a Nobel award."

### 'Victory For Yiddishism'

In a telephone interview with the JTA from his winter home in Miami, Singer said he was initially surprised when he learned he had won the award but after four or five hours, he was no longer surprised. "I think it is good for the Yiddish language," he said. He called the award a "victory for Yiddishism and for those who love this language." He added: "I am not the only winner of the award. I share it with all my readers and all who love the Yiddish language."

### Well Known In Israel

Singer is well known in Israel among readers of Hebrew. Three of his books, "The Slave," "The Magician of Lublin" and a collection of stories have been translated into Hebrew. His son, Israel Zamir, is a member of Kibbutz Beit Alfa in the Jezreel Valley. Zamir, a writer and journalist and Singer's son from his first marriage, came to the United States to meet with his father after Israel's War of Independence in 1948. The result of that meeting was two stories--one by the father, the other by the son. Both stories appeared in Hebrew.

A well-known Israeli writer, Natan Shacham, presently Israel's cultural attache at the Israel Consulate in New York, said today he was "very glad that Bashevis Singer, the representative of Yiddish culture, has gained the international recognition which he so richly deserves."

### EHRlich CALLS FOR TIGHT BUDGET TO REFLECT COSTS OF SINAI WITHDRAWAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich briefed the Cabinet today on his proposals for the next budget which will have to reflect the heavy costs of military withdrawal from Sinai and the construction of new defense lines in the Negev. The Cabinet met for five hours in special session devoted to budgetary matters. Premier

Menachem Begin, who was hospitalized over the weekend for fatigue, remained at home on doctor's orders and will be briefed separately by Ehrlich.

Ehrlich reportedly outlined a program of tight controls on government spending and a freeze on individual incomes and expenditures for the 1979-1980 fiscal year. He is said to want defense spending held to a minimum because of the expected financial burden of dismantling Israel's infrastructure in Sinai under terms of a peace treaty with Egypt. Consumers will face new hardships as a result of further cuts in government price subsidies for food.

The Treasury believes that if its plans are adopted inflation can be held at 30 percent in the next fiscal year, a substantial drop compared to the present rate. The plans would discourage wage and salary increases from rising in real terms above the inflation rate although employed persons would continue to receive cost-of-living compensation up to 70 percent of inflationary increases. One goal set for the next fiscal year is to close Israel's balance of payments gap.

Officials said that the proposed measures would not hurt low income groups but some independent economists believe otherwise.

#### RABIN URGES CAUTION IN PROVIDING AID TO CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin suggested today that Israel should exercise prudence in its assistance to Christians in Lebanon. He advised the government to continue its aid "but not beyond the present framework." Rabin's remarks, in a speech in the border town of Kiryat Shemona, were seen as a direct reply to Herut MK Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, who had warned yesterday that Israel must not allow the Christians in Lebanon "to go under."

Rabin was the first major public figure in Israel to speak against an escalation of Israel's involvement in Lebanon. He was sharply critical of the Christian leadership which has split into quarreling factions. "First they must prove that they have inner unity before they can come to us with demands for help," Rabin said.

Rabin, who was Israel's Chief of Staff during the 1967 Six-Day War, did not see a military threat to Israel from Syrian activities in Lebanon. He said the Syrian intent was to suppress the Christian community but not cause incidents with Israel that would jeopardize the Camp David agreements.

He said the Syrian army was unprepared for a confrontation with Israel, partly because it was spread thin along the Golan Heights-Lebanese front. "If I were the Syrian Chief of Staff, I would not seek to provoke Israeli intervention," Rabin said.

#### EL AL GROUNDED BY STRIKE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA)--El Al, Israel's national airline, was grounded by a strike of maintenance workers today. Thirty-six flights were cancelled and about 5600 passengers booked to take off today milled around the Ben Gurion Airport terminal as efforts were made to transfer them to other airlines. El Al was reported trying to charter foreign aircraft and crews to maintain a semblance of service.

The airline management branded the walk-out a violation of agreements signed last spring

after a prolonged strike by several unions paralyzed the Israeli air carrier. The maintenance workers are demanding a 15 percent wage hike immediately although wage negotiations have been in process for some time.

Mordechai Hod, director general of El Al, offered the workers advances on account of future wage increases but would not accede to their demands while contract talks are underway. He said the walk-out was a "wildcat strike" in violation of the agreement last spring that no workers group would act unilaterally. Histadrut pledged at that time not to support an unauthorized strike.

With the resignation of Transport Minister Meir Amit three weeks ago, there is no one at Cabinet level to deal with today's strike. The Cabinet, which met in extraordinary session today on the new budget, reportedly added El Al's troubles to its agenda.

#### EBAN URGES CONFIDENCE IN ACTIVE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MIDEAST PEACE TALKS

By Jan Levine

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 (JTA)--The Israeli people should have confidence in the "active participation" of the United States in a Middle East peace agreement, former-Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night at the annual Liberal Party dinner, held at the Americana Hotel.

Eban, a featured speaker at the fund-raiser where the Democratic State gubernatorial ticket was endorsed by the Liberals, said that the significance of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's journey to Jerusalem last November was the fact that it "separated us from our past." For the first time, Eban said, the Arab world was presented with a vision of the Middle East which included Israel as a sovereign state. For the Israelis, he said, Sadat's visit incurred a "sudden breach in Jewish skepticism which is part of our character."

Eban said that, until a few weeks ago, the "gulf of alienation" between Israel and Egypt had grown again, and a third party was needed to breach the misunderstandings. He stressed that without American mediation, Israel and Egypt could not have achieved the 1974 and 1975 interim agreements in Sinai and they could not have proceeded to Camp David where a signed agreement resulted between them.

Eban said that the Knesset's vote last week to approve the Camp David accords indicates the Israelis' feeling that "peace is an objective which must also incur risks." The alternative of eliminating Israel, he said, has proved "illusory" to the Arabs, and "it is only when you close the door to aggression that you open it to reconciliation."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin has appointed a committee to prepare for negotiations on the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip within the framework of the Camp David agreements, the government press office announced Thursday. The committee, headed by Dr. Eliahu Ben Elissar, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, has held several meetings and has set up various working groups, the announcement said.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--A new recreation area, established in the heart of the coastal Sharon region, has been inaugurated. The recreation area, established in the Jewish National Fund Kadima Forest, covers an area of some 400 acres of forest land planted by the JNF as far back as 1942. The recreation area was established with the financial assistance of the forestry division of the JNF, the sports division of the Education Ministry and the local government council of Kadima.

## CHURCH PROPOSES U.S. INCENTIVES FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) urged the Carter Administration to bolster U.S. policy in the Middle East with a strategy "that rewards those who work with us" for peace and extracts "a price from those who work against us."

Church, who will assume the chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January, outlined his "incentives for peace" in remarks prepared for delivery tonight at a dinner of the American Friends of Haifa University in New York. The organization will present him with the Carmel Laureate Award on the occasion of Haifa University's eighth anniversary.

In his speech, Church urged all countries in the Middle East to support the Camp David accords and emphasized especially the roles of Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He indicated that the U.S. should demand more than "benign indifference" from the Saudis. He noted that the U.S. has always been a "staunch supporter" of Jordan and declared that "Now is the time to bring our full weight to bear upon Jordan to support the Camp David accords."

Church also said that, as the U.S. begins "its new partnership" with Israel and Egypt in the peace-making process, it should halt economic aid to Syria if that country refuses to withdraw its forces from Lebanon or refuses to establish "a secure, recognized border on the Golan Heights."

Church said that U.S. military assistance for Israel must continue and warned that "Israel will be confronted for years to come with those Arab extremists bent on the destruction of the Jewish State."

### Urges Firm Line With Saudi Arabia

He called for a firm U.S. line with Saudi Arabia which, "through its massive financial aid to Egypt, Syria and Jordan... exerts much leverage on the policies of those three countries." He said "It is imperative that we make clear to the Saudi government that our strategic concerns are mutual, that our interests are intertwined and in the last analysis it is the American security umbrella which shields the kingdom from potential Iraqi or Soviet aggression."

In such circumstances, Church declared, "we have every right to expect the full and forthcoming cooperation of Saudi Arabia in our quest for a regional peace... Even a Saudi policy of benign indifference falls immeasurably short of what we, the de facto protector of Saudi Arabia, should expect."

Church recalled that the Administration justified its sale of 60 F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia last spring by what it called "the immense importance of Saudi Arabia in promoting a moderate and responsible course both in Middle East regional developments including peace-making and international economic and financial affairs." He declared that "Tonight, I remind the Administration of its own words."

### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO APPEAL COURT DECISION ON FORMER NAZI

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA)--In response to an "urgent request" from the American Jewish Congress, the Department of Justice has agreed to appeal a Federal Court decision permitting a former-Nazi concentration camp guard to keep his American citizenship, even though he lied to obtain it.

Howard M. Squadron, A.J. Congress president, said he was "deeply gratified" by the action of Solicitor-General Wade Hampton McCree Jr., to appeal the District Court ruling to the Circuit Court of Appeals. Last week a delegation of A.J. Congress leaders met with McCree and other Justice Department officials and urged that an appeal be taken.

The former Nazi--Feodor Federenko, now a resident of Miami Beach--concealed his past as a guard in the Nazi death camp of Treblinka when he entered the United States in 1949 and when he applied for citizenship in 1970. At a denaturalization proceeding last June, Federenko admitted having portrayed himself as a Polish farmer who had been forced to work as a laborer for the Nazis. But he denied testimony by six Israeli survivors of Treblinka that they had seen Federenko torture and shoot prisoners there.

The trial was held near Waterbury, Conn., where Federenko once lived. On July 26, U.S. District Court Judge Norman C. Roettger ruled in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. that Federenko could keep his citizenship. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, he ruled, had failed to prove the Ukrainian-born Federenko guilty of having committed any atrocities. Roettger also said that the defendant had lived an exemplary life since entering the United States.

The A.J. Congress meeting with the Justice Department officials followed a letter to McCree from the A.J. Congress which said the trial judgment was "defective," that Roettger was guilty of "gross judicial impropriety" and that there was "sufficient and necessary basis for reversal on appeal."

The letter was written by Phil Baum, director of the A.J. Congress Commission on International Affairs, who argued that the judge's view that Federenko had committed no war crimes did not justify the ex-Nazi guard's false statements when he entered the U.S. and that Federenko's behavior as an American had no bearing on the case. Baum also said that Roettger had violated judicial propriety by holding a press conference while the trial was in session.

### SPIRIT OF CAMP DAVID ABSENT AT UN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 5 (JTA)--Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said here last night that "the spirit of Camp David" did not touch the United Nations and the deliberations of the ongoing 33rd session of the General Assembly.

Addressing a press conference attended by representatives of the American Jewish media, Blum charged that the "rejectionist" Arab states--Syria, Libya, Iraq, Algeria, and South Yemen--and their Soviet bloc allies are using the deliberations of the General Assembly to sabotage the summit agreements. He predicted that further attacks on Israel and the Camp David accord will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Blum noted, however, that in private conversations at the UN many diplomats are very supportive of the Camp David accords.

Blum said that the accords should not be viewed as a one-sided victory for Egypt or Israel. "It was a compromise," he said, noting both sides made concessions. Israel made far-reaching concessions, Blum asserted, by agreeing to depart from the national consensus that the Rafah salient is vital to Israel's security and should be retained, and that Sharm el-Sheikh will never be abandoned.

### SPECIAL U.S. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS INVOLVE SIX JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AND ISRAEL IN AIDING THIRD WORLD NATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA)—Two special U.S. educational programs, one involving a newly formed consortium of six Jewish organizations and Israel in an assistance program for Third World nations, and another encouraging Arabs to study in Israel and Israelis in Arab countries, are on their way towards practical fulfillment.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) has provided a grant of \$1,051,000 to the Consortium for Community Self-Help (CCSH) for its use over a three-year period that will help make available the expertise and technicians of the six Jewish organizations to the poorest nations of the developing world.

This grant was signed Sept. 29 in the office of Rep. Clarence Long (D.Md.) chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on AID, by Robert Mooter, AID deputy administrator, and Irving Kessler, the consortium board's acting chairman who is executive vice-chairman of the United Israel Appeal. Besides the UIA, the consortium members are Hadassah, the Joint Distribution Committee, Pioneer Women of America, American Mizrahi Women, and the National Committee for Labor Israel.

Maurice D. Atkin, of Robert R. Nathan Associates, consultant to the CCSH, is serving as temporary executive director of the consortium until its board selects a permanent staff.

For many years, Atkin observed, the consortium organizations have been carrying out development projects that have contributed towards making Israel a developed nation. By combining their resources, the consortium will be able to assist in a broad range of development programs in community health and nutrition, educational and vocational training, food production, processing and marketing, improving the status of women, cooperative development, and community and leadership development.

#### Elements Of The Programs

Under the program, Israel will teach trainees in Israel from Third World countries and Israeli experts will go abroad. The consortium, which is registered with the State Department as a private voluntary organization, will cooperate in joint projects with United Nations development groups, AID, the Organization of American States and other international bodies, Atkin said. The consortium expects to have projects operating in at least five countries in its second year of service and involve as many as 50 countries before the three-year grant period ends.

A House-Senate conference committee, acting on the foreign aid appropriations bill for the coming fiscal year, has earmarked \$1 million for support of Israeli students studying in American-sponsored centers of learning in Arab countries and Arab students in such centers in Israel.

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D.Hawaii), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, asked for \$3 million in introducing the legislation in the Senate with the support of Sen. Richard Schweiker (R.Pa.), the subcommittee's ranking Republican. However, this sum was reduced in conference. The lower amount is expected to be approved by both House and Senate when they consider the foreign aid bill before Congress is due to adjourn Oct. 12.

This fund is to be part of the \$25 million

being provided in the U.S. assistance program for schools, libraries and hospitals which were founded or sponsored by U.S. citizens and have served, Inouye said, as study or demonstration centers for ideas and practices of the United States.

He pointed out that the Camp David summit conference "has presented us with a unique opportunity to foster peace and understanding in the Middle East;" and the AID program he outlined would be "a most appropriate way of encouraging understanding in the Middle East."

### GHORBAL'S VIEW OF THE SUMMIT ACCORDS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA)—Ashraf Ghorbal, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United States, envisions the Camp David accords as bringing about "full withdrawal" of Israeli forces from the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as from Sinai, and "independence" for "the Palestinian nation."

Ghorbal, a member of the Egyptian delegation at Camp David, addressed the annual conference sponsored jointly by the Middle East Institute and the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies at the Mayflower Hotel here last weekend. His text was provided by the Egyptian Embassy to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency which had requested it.

Ghorbal told the gathering, "Let me emphasize that at Camp David we didn't hear objections to the application of withdrawal provision to the Golan Heights. All we heard was, 'How can we Israelis discuss the Golan Heights while Syria does not recognize our country, Israel?' These were the very words of Foreign Minister (Moshe) Dayan at dinner one night at Camp David. We explained that the disengagement agreement between Syria and Israel is a proof of the recognition he is concerned about."

Ghorbal continued: "I have full confidence that the principles that have been incorporated in the framework applicable to Sinai in terms of full withdrawal, including the Israeli settlements, mutual security and otherwise, will also apply to the Golan and will be incorporated in due time in the peace treaty between Syria and Israel."

Outlining the measures in the two frameworks adopted at Camp David that include "full autonomy" for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, Ghorbal noted: "Above all, let us ask ourselves the question, when did the full autonomy anywhere in the world not lead to the self-determination and finally to independence?—What we have done in Camp David is to change the course of events and to create a momentum that will ultimately take the Palestinians to their goal of self-determination. A new horizon has already started to dawn on the Palestinian nation. Let us rise with it and help a collective responsibility to move things and not freeze them."

Saying that negotiations over the West Bank will also resolve the question of minor rectifications included in the 1967 lines, Ghorbal added that "these will be governed by two factors—first the legitimate rights of the Palestine people and their just requirements as well as the nature of security arrangements." He said that "border adjustments will be no more than minor rectifications" and urged: "Solve and do not create irredentism is, I believe, the new motto. It must be. It will be."

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated Oct. 9 due to Columbus Day, a postal holiday, and no Bulletins dated Oct. 11 and 12 due to Yom Kippur.