

# 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

Thursday, October 26, 1978

No. 204

## CABINET VOTES 15-0, 2 ABSTENTIONS TO APPROVE PEACE TREATY 'IN PRINCIPLE' WITH CERTAIN 'ALTERATIONS'

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The Cabinet voted 15-0 today to approve "in principle" with certain "alterations" the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty draft and directed Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman to return to Washington "to continue negotiations for the signing of the peace treaty."

The vote, late this afternoon, ended 17 hours of intensive debate that began Monday night. Abstentions were registered by Health Minister Eliezer Shostak of Likud's La'am faction and Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai of Likud's Liberal Party wing. Premier Menachem Begin read a statement to reporters directly after the Cabinet adjourned. The statement said:

"The government session which discussed the draft peace treaty between Israel and Egypt lasted altogether 17 hours and at the end of the discussions it reached the following decisions: with 15 votes for and two abstentions and no opposition. The government approves in principle the draft peace treaty between Egypt and Israel presented to it by the delegation to the peace conference in Washington.

"The government approves the proposed amendments put forward by the Prime Minister to the draft peace treaty. In accordance with this, the government handed instructions to the delegation and authorized it to continue in the negotiations for the signing of a peace treaty. The government also approved instructions to the delegation proposed by the Justice Minister. The final draft of a peace treaty with Egypt with all its appendices will be brought to the approval of the government and the Knesset."

Dayan, Weizman Returning To Washington

Dayan and Weizman are expected to leave for Washington tomorrow or Friday. Begin is scheduled to brief the Likud Knesset faction this evening in an attempt to ease the anxiety among some members over the draft treaty.

Earlier today, members of the La'am faction called on their colleagues, Zalman Shoval, advisor to the Foreign Minister, and Shostak, to resign from their respective positions if the treaty draft was approved. Another La'am figure, Yigael Horowitz, resigned as Minister of Commerce and Industry last month in protest against the Camp David agreements.

No indication was given by Begin or any other source as to the nature of the proposed amendments to the treaty draft. As Begin indicated, they were made at the request of Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir who had previously expressed concern over several legal aspects of the document.

## UN CHARGE OF ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN LEBANON RALLY TERMED A MISTAKE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Gen. Ensi Siilasvuo, commander in chief of all United Nations forces in the Middle East, said today

that UN headquarters in Jerusalem had made a "mistake" when it accused Israel on Oct. 16 of organizing a demonstration by Christian militiamen in Lebanon against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the border village of Nakoura.

The accusation, contained in an unprecedented public statement issued to the local and foreign press here, brought an angry protest to Israel from UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in New York. The UN alleged that Israeli army officers were present and had "fully supported" the demonstration which culminated in the kidnapping of two Lebanese army officers serving as liaison with UNIFIL. Damage was done to UNIFIL property. Siilasvuo told reporters today that he hoped his acknowledgment of the "mistake" would put an end to the entire incident.

## BEGIN SUGGESTS MOVING SOME MINISTRIES TO EAST JERUSALEM

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Israel Radio reported this morning that Premier Menachem Begin has suggested that the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry be moved to East Jerusalem. He made the proposal in the course of the 17 hours of Cabinet debate on the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty draft.

Informed sources confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency later that the Premier indeed is considering the shift which would reinforce Israel's claim that a united Jerusalem is its capital in perpetuity. The leak from the Cabinet session is believed to have been deliberate and a none too subtle hint to the U.S. which has refused to recognize Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

According to the radio report, Begin's proposal was well received by the Cabinet and may, in fact, have been intended to influence some ministers who were wavering over support for the treaty draft. The proposal is also expected to affect the future course of peace negotiations.

Sources here conceded that if the two key government offices are shifted to East Jerusalem, complications could arise. Many foreign diplomats may refuse to conduct their duties at the new location just as many had refused to officially visit Yigal Allon when he was Deputy Foreign Minister in a Labor-led government and lived in East Jerusalem.

## JDC JOINS WITH PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC GROUPS IN EFFORT TO END WORLD HUNGER

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) joined today with American Catholic and Protestant organizations involved like it in international relief work in what was termed an "unprecedented ecumenical coalition" aimed at eradicating hunger in the world.

A campaign urging Americans to contribute at least \$10, the "cost of a Thanksgiving meal for one person," to the Thanksgiving Hunger Fund was launched at a press conference conducted by Bishop Edward B. Broderick, executive director of the Catholic Relief Service; Dr. Paul McCleary, executive director of the Church World Service, a

Protestant group; and Donald Robinson, president of the JDC.

Robinson, who described the more than 60 years of experience that the JDC had in fighting hunger and hunger-related problems among Jews, said his organization was pleased to be cooperating with the other two groups in a program which would first explain to the American public the extent of the hunger problem and then seek to provide food and good nutrition throughout the world.

Broderick, who is president of the board of trustees of the Thanksgiving Hunger Fund, a post that will rotate among the three groups each year, pointed out that almost 30 percent of the world's population is starving. He said the three groups want to "ensure the implicit right of all people to have enough to eat." The Catholic Bishop said he saw the program as a "big breakthrough in ecumenical" cooperation and hoped it would lead to the development of programs to eradicate hunger.

McCleary pointed out that many of the people who die throughout the world because of hunger do so not from starvation but from malnutrition. He stressed that 15 percent of the funds raised will be used to meet the problems of hunger in the United States.

McCleary said the campaign, which runs through Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, will include strong local level appeals conducted by local chapters of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and other groups. He said in addition to seeking the \$10 contribution from individuals, corporations and foundations were also being urged to donate funds.

Broderick noted that only five percent of the amount raised would go for administrative purposes. Bob and Dolores Hope are the 1978 national honorary chairpersons of the fund-raising drive.

Donations can be sent either to the Thanksgiving Hunger Fund, Box 1983, Chicago, Ill. 60690 or to the three individual organizations, McCleary said. He said all three organizations will share equally in the funds raised, but stressed that none of the money would be used for any of the organizations' administrative expenses.

#### ARAB BLOC DEFEATED IN UNESCO

PARIS, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The Arab bloc and its allies suffered a decisive defeat yesterday in a surprise bid for the presidency of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Napoleon LeBlanc, of Canada, won a 60-54 victory in the nominations committee over Abdul-Salam Majali, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister of Jordan. Majali then withdrew his candidacy.

Until now, the presidency of UNESCO has been rotated, without challenge, among the five regional groups making up the organization. This year, it is the Western group's turn and LeBlanc, the selected candidate, is expected to be approved without opposition. But the Arab states, grouped with the Africans, had insisted the time had come for one of their members to take the chair regardless of the sequence of rotation. The last Arab nation to hold the presidency of UNESCO was Lebanon in 1948.

#### ADL LEADER RIPS UN

NEW YORK, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- A slashing attack on the United Nations by Arnold Forster, national general counsel of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is contained in a speech prepared by Forster for delivery tonight at the

Hillcrest Jewish Center in Queens, the day after the world organization celebrated the 33rd anniversary of its founding.

According to Forster, the UN has betrayed the high hopes held for it and has been taken over "by the Soviet bloc countries, the Arab and Third World militants." He implied strongly that the United States should withdraw financial support from the UN. "I have examined the UN Charter very carefully and nowhere do I read that we in the United States are obligated to pay for our own execution," Forster stated.

He observed that the late Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the early patrons of the UN, "would have walked out in disgust, as many Western diplomats did a few weeks ago in Geneva when the United Nations once again ... deliberately ... and with full knowledge of the significance ... reaffirmed the obscene racism is Zionism resolution."

#### Bitter Attack Against PLO Film

Forster's most bitter attack was aimed at the UN-sponsored PLO film "to romanticize Yasser Arafat .... And your local television stations will be asked by the UN to put it on," he said. "This film, made entirely by the UN staff, glorifies the world's number one terrorist, Yasser Arafat, whose PLO has as our own Anti-Defamation League report disclosed earlier this year, murdered 1131 people, killed 2471 and taken 2755 hostages."

Forster said that according to the outline of the film he has seen, "the UN promises to show the PLO as benevolent as the PTA. To give the Madison Avenue treatment to their leader Yasser Arafat .... And remember, good people, the United States is paying 25 percent of the bill."

Forster noted an appeal to President Carter by 28 Congressmen to withhold the U.S. contribution. "This is a dirty film, an obscene film," he said, "and neither the people nor the government of the United States should have any part of it whatsoever."

#### EL AL MAY CLOSE SERVICE TO MEXICO

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- El Al may close down its weekly air service to Mexico which it says has lost about \$2 million a year since it was inaugurated two years ago. The reasons are insufficient traffic and high costs, according to a report in Yediot Achronot today.

But the national air carrier will make no final decision before consulting the government because of the political ramifications involved. The Mexico service was established both to stimulate tourism with that country and as a gesture of good will after a period when Israeli-Mexican relations were strained over the latter's anti-Israeli votes in the United Nations.

But the line has been operating at only 34 percent of capacity. It cost the company \$4.6 million to maintain during the last fiscal year, due partly to the need to fly a special staff to New York and from there to Montreal which is the stop-over point on Tel Aviv-Mexico City flights.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Yehuda Dominitz was named this week director of the Jewish Agency's Aliya Department, succeeding Gen. (Ret.) Uzi Narkiss. His appointment, by Executive chairman Leon Dulzin, was unanimously approved by the Executive. Dominitz, 52, is highly regarded for his experience and expertise in dealing with aliya from "sensitive" countries whose governments take a negative view of Zionist endeavors. He joined the Jewish Agency in 1946 and served as deputy director of the Aliya Department before his appointment to the top post.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW****DRAFTING OF A PEACE TREATY**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The son of a Polish immigrant who made a living for his family as a small retail merchant in Pennsylvania and Ohio is a key American figure in the drafting of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel at the Blair House conference.

He is Herbert Hansell, legal advisor to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the legal counsel and supervisor of the State Department's legal affairs. He is thus the chief lawyer for the American government in international negotiations and accords. Hansell, who was named to the State Department post shortly after President Carter was inaugurated last year and then speedily confirmed by the Senate, has been literally working night and day, weekends included, since the Blair House conference began Oct. 12.

One of the eight members of the American delegation to the Blair House talks, Hansell is credited with having "a large part" in the writing of the two treaty negotiating drafts that the United States presented to Egypt and Israel. From these papers and supplementary writings, the Egyptian and Israeli delegations reached agreements that were sent to Cairo and Jerusalem for the governments there to consider.

"It's been pretty much of a continuous process since the negotiations began," Hansell told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview in which he was highly reluctant to discuss his part, let alone the substance of his work in the negotiations. However, it was learned his mornings at the State Department for the past two weeks have begun at 6 or 6:30 and that the activity, either in the State Department or Blair House or the Madison Hotel, where the delegations are staying continued until midnight and beyond.

**Worked On Camp David, Panama Treaties**

Hansell, who will be 53 on Nov. 16, also had an important role in the legal work connected with the Camp David conference and a principal part in the tortuous negotiations that finally resulted in the Panama Canal treaty. While he did not go to Camp David himself during the 13-day conference there last month, he prepared much of the legal papers in the State Department that was funneled into the writing of the two Middle East settlement frameworks that emerged from the conference.

His extensive involvement in the Panama treaty talks was indicated by his participation in the treaty signing in September, 1977, when the leaders of Latin American governments came to the White House for an unprecedented ceremony. "Hansell was the guy who handled that treaty signing," JTA was informed. The government of Panama's stamp commemorating the White House scene shows Hansell standing behind President Carter.

Hansell and his wife, the former Jeanne Harris, have three children. They are members of a suburban temple in Cleveland where Hansell was long active in Jewish affairs, including the Jewish Welfare Federation. Mrs. Hansell, a social worker who had previously served at the Fair Hill Mental Center in Cleveland is now a practicing therapist in Washington.

Before joining the State Department, Hansell was with the Cleveland law firm of Jones, Day Reavis and Pogue for 24 years. He had also been with a law firm in New York for

two years prior to that and served the National Science Foundation as its general counsel for two years. Hansell was chairman of the Advisory Committee on Law and Technology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and of the committee of the law school of the Yale University Council. He received a BS degree at MIT in 1946 and his law degree from Yale three years later.

**UN UNIT ADOPTS ANTI-ISRAEL PROVISIONS**

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The General Assembly's Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (the Third Committee) last night adopted two draft resolutions with strong anti-Israel provisions.

The first resolution, on the international convention on the suppression and punishment of apartheid, had among its provisions the declaration and program of action adopted recently in Geneva by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The declaration and program of action links Zionism with racism, recalling the infamous 1975 resolution by the General Assembly.

The anti-Israel provision was voted on separately and was adopted by a 97-21 vote with 10 abstentions. Israel, the United States and other Western countries were among those who voted against.

The other resolution, regarding the self-determination of peoples in colonial countries, included provisions condemning Israel's "expansionist activities in the Mideast" and condemned governments which did not recognize the right to self-determination of all people, "notably the people of Africa and the Palestinian people." The vote on the draft was 95-21 with 10 abstentions. The Western European countries, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Israel and the United States voted against the draft. The two resolutions are expected to be approved by the General Assembly.

**PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWRY**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- A British journalist who has recently returned from Damascus says that he was arrested there when he tried to interview a rabbi on the plight of Syrian Jewry. Kevin Murphy, of the London Evening News, was arrested 10 minutes after entering the Damascus home of Rabbi Ibrahim Hamra and taken to a police station. The young rabbi, who had been due to attend synagogue prayers, arrived there at the police station afterwards. Later, the interview was permitted in the presence of the chief of police, his deputy and an interpreter.

"The supervised answers painted a pleasant picture of Jewish life in Syria," Murphy said. This contrasted with his own conclusion that the life of Syrian Jews was harsh. "Jews are closely watched by a network of informers and are not allowed to receive foreign visitors freely."

Another Damascus Jew had told him: "The Jews would like to leave Syria but they are not allowed to emigrate." If they want to visit another country they have to give the Syrian government a 3215 Pounds Sterling bond to ensure their return. A third Jew had suggested that illegal emigration by any of the Jews would prompt a fierce reaction from the government against those left behind, Murphy adds. Commenting on the report, Adnan Omran, the Syrian Ambassador in London, said: "Jews in Syria enjoy the same civil rights as the Arabs."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****ANOTHER SIDE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II**

By Edwin Eytan

—PARIS, Oct. 25 (JTA)—The Vatican and its all-powerful head, the Pope, have played a crucial role in Jewish life for half a century now. Voluntarily like Pope John XXIII or involuntarily like Pope Pius XII they have affected the lives, and, some say the deaths, of millions of Jews throughout the world.

Historians are still scanning the "silences" of Pius XII whom many blame for Hitler's rise to power and the "final solution." Rabbis and liberal groups still act on the basis of the dialogue instituted by Pope John while political leaders take into consideration Paul VI statements on Jerusalem and the Middle East.

For the first time in contemporary history the Vatican has at its head a man who seems never to have taken an interest in the Jewish question and this in spite of the fact that the greatest Jewish Holocaust took place in his native country, Poland, and never to have made a statement on the Jews, Jerusalem or the Middle East. The newly elected Pope, John Paul II, has steadfastly remained aloof from all these problems.

As Karol Cardinal Wojtyla of Cracow, he has never had any contact with the Polish Jewish community or with visiting foreign Jewish delegations. He has never visited what was left of the Warsaw Jewish ghetto in which over one million Polish Jews suffered before their final deportation and death, nor that of his own home city of Cracow in which he lived all his life. Catholic priests who had worked with him at his See explained that "Warsaw is outside his diocese" and that "there was no ghetto in Cracow."

**Seemed Uninterested in Jewish Issue**

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has talked with a number of his former aides in Poland and has also contacted the Polish news agency "Interpress" for details concerning the new Pope's former life and work. As one Catholic priest who had worked with him for years told the JTA by telephone from Poland, "The Cardinal simply seemed uninterested in this issue. He was far too busy and overloaded with what seemed and were more urgent problems such as defending and making the Catholic church prosper in a Communist state."

During the war years, young Karol Wojtyla was mainly interested in theatrical activities. He organized and ran an amateur group, "Rhapsodia," which played a variety of plays including some by William Shakespeare and other British authors. Several prominent Polish Catholics told JTA that this activity "is considered by us as an act of resistance to the German occupation." The group also played in Catholic schools and for various workers groups.

Young Wojtyla, who had always been highly religious and interested in theology, in 1942 joined the Catholic seminary. He also started working in the chemical factory belonging to the "Solvay" group to obtain an "arbeitskarte" which would protect him from possible deportation to a German work camp. He seems to have worked only part time at the "Solvay" factory and when arrested once as a hostage by the Germans he was immediately released after the intervention of the Catholic Bishop.

Both local priests and Interpress told JTA that he was not active in the resistance aside from his theatrical activities and had had no con-

tact with Jews nor the opportunity to help any of them. Both these sources added, "He might have done some things during this period about which we have no knowledge." But both sources said this "seems highly unlikely."

Wojtyla was ordained in 1946 and after a doctorate in philosophy proceeded to take one in theology. Part of these studies were at the Lublin Catholic University where he picked up some Hebrew. Some of his former aides say that his Hebrew "is good enough to read even some modern texts and the Cardinal might possibly even speak a few words in this language."

The Cardinal learned Hebrew, these sources explain, as part of his theological studies and not because of any particular interest in the language. "The Cardinal is just very gifted for foreign languages and probably picked up more Hebrew than someone else would have done in the course of similar studies," the sources say. The Pope speaks Polish, Russian, English, French, Italian, German and Spanish besides Latin and ancient Greek.

**Never Met With Jews**

The Cardinal also never met, as far as his former aides can remember, with surviving Polish Jews or visiting Jewish delegations. His former secretary told me "the Cardinal most probably would have received a Jewish delegation but none ever requested an audience. It just simply never happened. The Cardinal never had the opportunity to meet Jews."

Local Jews still living in Cracow told the JTA they never had an opportunity to call on him. "You must understand," a local Jew said, "that for us here he was a more important man than (President Edward) Gierk himself. For us the Cardinal was a very important man, not only the head of the local Catholic church but somehow he appeared to most as the ruler, the Prince of this very Catholic city with its dozens of churches, seminaries and social centers. We would never have dreamed to ask to meet him or to invite him to a Jewish function. It just seemed inconceivable."

The same local Jew added: "Our relations with the local Catholic church have been very good and we were even told that at the time of (President Wladyslaw) Gomulka's anti-Jewish and anti-Israel statements (in 1968), the Cardinal protested. It was a rumor and we never had any confirmation that it was true. It helped us, however, in our daily relations with the local Catholic parishes and faithful."

**A Complete Enigma**

The conclusion from all these interviews and conversations is that the new Pope has up till now refrained, either voluntarily or because of lack of interest, from any contact with Jews in Poland or abroad. He has often visited Paris, Rome and other West European capitals but as far as it is known has never met a Jew.

He has also never shown any apparent interest in the Holocaust and the martyrdom of Poland's Jews except within the wider context of "human persecutions." On the Middle East he never took any stand except to pray for Jerusalem "the city of Christ" and to launch a plea on behalf of Lebanon after his election.

Pope John Paul II is the first Pole to head the Catholic church. He is also the first Cardinal in recent years who is a complete enigma to Jewish observers and to Middle East scene watchers. Relatively young, 58, no one can even dare to guess whether his reign will be more like John's or more like Paul's.