

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

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

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Tuesday, December 12, 1978

No. 236

THOUSANDS OF MOURNERS FROM ISRAEL AND ABROAD FILE BY MEIR'S COFFIN

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Thousands of mourners filed by the coffin of former Premier Golda Meir today. Her body will lie in state in the forecourt of the Knesset building until six tomorrow morning. Memorial services will be held in the Knesset chamber and the funeral procession will then proceed to Mt. Herzl where Mrs. Meir will be buried near the graves of other leaders and founders of Israel.

Despite cold, rainy weather, the lines were long outside the Knesset today. Mourners from all over Israel and visitors from abroad walked slowly past the flag-draped casket to pay their final respects. Police estimated their number at about 5000 an hour. Military chaplains recited psalms over the coffin. A blue uniformed honor guard stood at rigid attention.

In Tel Aviv, too, throngs gathered outside Mrs. Meir's home in the Ramat Aviv quarter where members of her family were sitting shiva. Many were family friends and long-time associates of Mrs. Meir in the Labor movement, and Jewish leaders from abroad.

But most were ordinary Israelis for whom the Meir home has become a shrine since her death Friday at the age of 80. Parents were heard whispering to children, "Here is where Golda lived." A policeman posted at the gate could not conceal his sorrow. He recalled that before Mrs. Meir was hospitalized she would always bring a hot cup of coffee or tea out to whatever policeman happened to be on duty guarding her home.

U.S. Delegation Arrives

Meanwhile, the official American delegation to Mrs. Meir's funeral arrived at Ben Gurion Airport today, headed by Mrs. Lillian Carter, President Carter's mother. They were greeted warmly by Acting Premier Yigael Yadin. (See separate story for names of the American delegation members.)

Mrs. Carter said she was always interested in Mrs. Meir's career, especially since there are only a few months difference in their ages. "I do not eulogize Golda. I wanted very much to tell her that I wished I could have known her," Mrs. Carter said. She told Yadin and the reporters assembled at the airport, "To all of you I offer the deepest condolences from me and my son on the passing of this wonderful woman, Golda Meir."

A cable was received by President Yitzhak Navon in Jerusalem today from Soviet Jewish activists in Moscow, Leningrad and Tbilisi. It said, "We express our sorrow and participate in the grief of the entire Jewish people over the death of the great stateswoman, one of the founders of the State of Israel, the illustrious woman, Golda Meir." No mention of Mrs. Meir's death was carried in the Soviet news media but news of her passing spread rapidly among Soviet Jews nevertheless.

Thousands are expected to attend the funeral tomorrow which will be covered live by radio and television. Police and army units have

begun security preparations which will be especially strict in view of the large number of important persons from Israel and abroad who will be in the procession.

41-MEMBER U.S. DELEGATION TO MEIR'S FUNERAL IS LED BY LILLIAN CARTER

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The United States will be represented at Golda Meir's funeral tomorrow by an official delegation of 41 men and women led by President Carter's mother, Mrs. Lillian Carter, as his personal representative.

The delegation members were recommended by the State Department in consultation with the White House, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was authoritatively informed. Most of the members departed for Israel as a group from Andrews Air Force Base last night. The party will return here Wednesday night.

Sen. Jacob Javits (R. N.Y.) who was traveling in Europe, Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, and Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organization, were making their own way to Israel, the State Department said.

Another member of the delegation, Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, is already in Israel. Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. N.Y.) who was in Ireland, met the plane in Tarrejon, Spain, where it refueled.

The delegation includes Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Mrs. Vance; the U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and Mrs. Lewis; Ambassador at Large Alfred Atherton and Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders who are also in the Middle East seeking to induce Egypt and Israel to sign a peace treaty.

The delegation also includes Sens. Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.), Muriel Humphrey (D. Minn.), Reps. Clement Zablocki (D. Wis.), Sidney Yates (D. Ill.), Lee Hamilton (D. Ind.), Charles Rangel (D. N.Y.), Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.), Benjamin Gilman (R. N.Y.), former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former UN Ambassador Arthur Goldberg, Senator-elect Carl Levin of Michigan and Robert Graham, Governor-elect of Florida.

Also, Mayor Henry Maier of Milwaukee; Edmund Edelman of Los Angeles; Sol Chaikin of New York; Methodist Bishop Joseph Coles of Atlanta; Irwin Field of Los Angeles; Max Kampelman of Washington; Isaiah Kenen of Washington; and Stanley Lowell, Rabbi Israel Miller, Rabbi Henry Siegman, Mrs. Rebecca Shulman and Mrs. Isaac Stern, all of New York; Gordon Martin Jr. of Boston, Marie Syrkin of Los Angeles, William Winn and Edward Sanders of Washington, and Mrs. Harriet Zimmerman of Atlanta.

Tributes Continue To Pour In

Meanwhile, tributes to Mrs. Meir continued today. Moynihan said she was "the most formidable, female political leader of this century" who led her nation "with extraordinary courage in times of danger." Ribicoff said that "in crucial times" Mrs. Meir's "inspiration and common sense gave Israel the wisdom and leadership the country needed."

House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D. Mass.) said Mrs. Meir was "a wonderful woman and an

inspiration to all who knew her." Rep. Louis Stokes (D. Ohio), former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said "I have always held her in the highest regard" and "we all mourn her death."

Gen. Aharon Yariv, former head of Israeli military intelligence and director of the Institute for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, said at an Israel Bond Organization dinner honoring William H. Wynn, president of the Retail Clerks International Union, AFL-CIO, that Mrs. Meir's strength as a leader had played a major role in convincing President Anwar Sadat of Egypt of the necessity of negotiating with Israel.

Jacques Torczyner, a member of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives and chairman of the World Union of General Zionists, delivered a eulogy to Mrs. Meir at the opening session of the Zionist Organization of America's national executive committee meeting. He called Mrs. Meir a "strong partisan who never forgave and never forgot but who also had a great sense of humanity She was a great lady who served her people well."

Statements From U.S. And Abroad

Other statements of tribute in this country were issued by Carl Glick, president, HIAS; Raymond Epstein, chairman, Public Affairs Committee of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago; Judah Shapiro, president, National Committee for Labor Israel; Ronald Shapiro, president, Baltimore Jewish Community Relations Council; and Bernard Harkavy, president, Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair.

Statements from leaders abroad were issued by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing; French Socialist opposition leader Francois Mitterand; former French Prime Minister Pierre Mendes-France; British Prime Minister James Callaghan; former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, who will represent Britain at Mrs. Meir's funeral tomorrow; West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt; former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt; Lord Fisher, president, Board of Deputies of British Jews; Dr. S. Levenberg, the Board's vice-president; and pianist Artur Schnabel.

BEGIN TELLS UJA THAT ISRAEL IS FAITHFUL TO THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

By David Friedman and Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Climaxing three emotion-filled days which included moments of both sorrow and celebration, some 3000 delegates to the United Jewish Appeal 40th Anniversary National Conference heard Saturday night Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, in a message filmed in Jerusalem on the eve of his departure for Oslo, restate Israel's commitment to work for peace within the framework of the Camp David agreements.

"We are true and faithful to the Camp David agreements," he declared, "and we want to carry them out as we wrote them and as we signed them. We have made great sacrifices for the sake of peace, and we want peace with all our hearts."

The message, screened at the banquet session at the New York Hilton, included a call for active support by American Jews of "Project Renewal," a comprehensive social rehabilitation plan for 300,000 people living in distressed immigrant urban areas in Israel. Project Renewal, a drive for funds over and above regular annual contributions, is a cornerstone of the UJA 1979 campaign.

UJA national chairman Irwin S. Field said

that the spirit of affirmative action, which began in 1939 with the formation of the UJA, in reaction to Kristallnacht -- the Nazis' attack on the lives and property of German Jews -- is epitomized by Project Renewal.

Elie Wiesel, the author, who led the gala celebration and was the keynote speaker, said that the Jewish people should be proud of its achievements in the last 40 years. He said the greatest of Jewish virtues is Ahavat Yisrael -- the love of Israel -- and its meaning is "solidarity and profound kinship." He said that by celebrating the UJA 40th anniversary, we are celebrating "Jewish solidarity."

Urges Support Of Jerusalem

At an earlier session, Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, called on Jews throughout the world to visit Jerusalem to demonstrate their support for the united city as the capital of Israel as an answer to an expected assault that East Jerusalem is occupied Arab territory.

Recalling President Kennedy's famous statement at the Berlin Wall, Dinitz declared "Every Jew should go to the wall in Jerusalem and say 'I am a Jerusalemite.'" Dinitz took particular note of President Carter's statement last Thursday warning that the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement should be signed by the Dec. 17 deadline. The envoy said that Israel also is anxious to reach the signing of the agreement by Dec. 17. "It is not Israel which delayed the peace process for 30 years and it is not Israel's responsibility for the delay in the last 30 days," he said. Dinitz said Israel was ready to sign the agreement but Egypt had made new demands. He said Israel will not be pressured to approve conditions which would endanger its security.

France's Mideast Policy Defended

Another speaker, Baron Guy de Rothschild, president of the Fonds Social Juif Unifie for more than 25 years and co-president of the United Jewish Appeal of France, defended France's Mideast policy as sometimes "more irritating than necessary" but "not a hostile policy" toward Israel. "There are very few countries in the world where Israel is so popular as in France," he stressed. He said France must maintain good relations with its neighbors to the south, the Arab countries of North Africa. He said it is this and not oil that is the reason for France's policy.

Rothschild also noted that every government in France has maintained "an open door" for all victims of discrimination and persecution. He said no country except Israel has done more to accept refugees from persecution.

In a wide-ranging speech, Rothschild declared that nothing is more important for Israel than that there be a vivacious and strong diaspora. He said both Israel and diaspora Jewry should exchange advice and help, but when it comes to life and death decisions on Israel's security, it is only those who put their life on the line who can make decisions about Israel's future. At the same time, he said, diaspora communities, particularly the smaller ones, must not allow Israel to run their institutions.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel has formally requested the Dutch government to extradite Pieter Menten, the 79-year-old convicted Nazi war criminal, who was set free by a Dutch court last week. State Attorney Gavriel Bach returned Sunday to Israel from Holland where he expressed Israel's concern over the decision to free Menten. The Dutch authorities reportedly promised Bach careful consideration of the Israeli request. The Dutch Labor Party will demand next week that Menten be prevented from leaving until steps to renew his trial are taken.

BEGIN SAYS PEACE PRIZE WILL HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON PEACE EFFORTS

By Edwin Eytan.

OSLO, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said here today that he believed the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt would have a positive impact on current efforts to conclude an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. The award "will have a psychological effect," the Israeli leader told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency just before his departure for home.

Begin left Oslo after a one-hour meeting with the Norwegian Prime Minister Odvar Nordli and Foreign Minister Knut Frydenlund. He is due in Israel late tonight and is expected to go directly to the Knesset building to pay respects to the late Gold Meir whose body lies in state there. Former Premier Trygve Bratelli and his wife left for Israel with Begin aboard his Israel Air Force plane. They will officially represent Norway at Mrs. Meir's funeral tomorrow.

Immediately after the funeral, Begin will meet with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who is currently on a mission to try and break the current deadlock in the Israeli-Egyptian talks. Vance and his wife are members of the American delegation to the funeral.

Still Hopes To Meet Dec. 17 Deadline

The Israeli Premier told a press conference here today that he still hopes to meet the Dec. 17 deadline set by the Camp David conference for a peace treaty with Egypt. "I know time is running out and only six days are left but there is always some hope left. Israel was ready two weeks ago to sign the treaty and is ready to do so now. It is up to Egypt," Begin said.

He refused to say whether Israel will continue to freeze the establishment of new settlements on the West Bank during the forthcoming negotiations should the Dec. 17 deadline not be met. "It is up to the Israeli government to decide," the Premier said, refusing to reveal how he felt personally on this issue.

He also refused to say which of the three points raised by Egypt, Articles IV and VI of the treaty, and the linkage issue, he finds "of lesser importance" thus indicating a possible compromise solution. "All three items are of equal importance," the Premier said. Article IV deals with security arrangements and Article VI deals with the priority of the treaty over previous treaties between Egypt and Arab countries.

Begin met this morning with Nordli and Frydenlund who called on him at the Royal Palace. The meeting was described by Israeli and Norwegian spokesmen as very friendly. Begin reported to the two Norwegian ministers on the current peace talks saying that he felt that a peace treaty will ultimately be signed in spite of current difficulties. Nordli asked Israel to use its influence to improve the conditions under which the Norwegian force serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) operates.

Begin told the Norwegians that Israel might have oil problems at some future date and may have to import Norwegian oil. Norway is due to become one of Europe's largest oil exporting countries thanks to the North-Sea oil it is producing.

Egypt Seeking Early Peace Accord

In other Middle East developments over the weekend, David Landau reported from Jerusalem

that Vance met with Sadat yesterday at the latter's retreat outside Cairo and was due to meet with him again today before flying to Israel. Egypt's Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Osama el-Baz, was quoted as saying yesterday that Egypt wanted a peace agreement concluded as soon as possible, hopefully by the Dec. 17 deadline.

"But if we overstay the deadline by a few days it won't be terrible," he told the Maariv correspondent in Paris. El-Baz, who participated in the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations in Washington, also reportedly said that the next move in the peace process is up to Vance, whose latest mission to the Middle East was ordered by President Carter. "The ball is now in Vance's hands," the Egyptian official told Maariv. According to the correspondent, he gave the impression that there had been a narrowing of the gap between Israel and Egypt on the "linkage-timetable" issue. He did not mention Article VI of the draft treaty that Egypt wants amended.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan wound up a three-day official visit to Switzerland Friday. He said at a press conference in Berne that Israel would not accept a new peace treaty with Egypt nor would it agree to any amendments to the present draft. Dayan and his wife were hosted by Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Auber who was, for many years, president of the Swiss-Israel Friendship Association. It was understood that the Swiss were ready to act as mediators in the Middle East conflict and also serve as a point of exchange in contacts between Israel and the Eastern European Communist bloc.

REPORT ADMINISTRATION MAY CUT FOREIGN AID IN NEW NATIONAL BUDGET

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Reports that the Carter Administration may reduce foreign aid in the new national budget for the fiscal year 1980 that may surprise both Egypt and Israel were partially confirmed by the State Department today. The reports coincided with President Carter's expressed impatience with the failure of Egypt and Israel to complete a peace treaty and his December 17 "deadline" for a treaty as targeted in the Camp David accords.

Department spokesman Hodding Carter was asked about the reports that the President is taking a strong stand against any new major aid packages to Israel and Egypt which are receiving about \$3 billion this fiscal year that ends next Oct. 1. Israel gets about two-thirds of that amount. However, it is understood that Egypt is to be rewarded with a generous increase in aid for its decision to negotiate with Israel on a treaty.

"We are in the process of setting budget," Carter replied. Noting that the President will announce his budget decisions in the new year, Carter added, "as he approaches what are going to be hard decisions across the board, he is aware of our foreign assistance programs, both to other nations and our own national interests. It is also obvious," the spokesman said, "that foreign aid programs are being looked at very carefully as all our programs in the context of the necessity to fight inflation."

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Private investigations by residents of the province of Groningen in the northeast of Holland have led to the location of five more Dutch war criminals originating from the province and the nearby province of Drenthe. Three of them were sentenced in absentia after World War II to life imprisonment and two to death. Most of them are living in West Germany under their own names.

SINGER RECEIVES NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE; DEFENDS YIDDISH AS THE "HUMBLE LANGUAGE OF US ALL"

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Isaac Bashevis Singer was awarded yesterday the 1978 Nobel Prize for Literature. He was one of nine Nobel Prize winners, six of them Americans, who received their gold medals and checks for \$165,000 from King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in a ceremony in Stockholm's concert hall. The nine laureates, including one from Britain, one from the Soviet Union and one from Switzerland, were honored for their work bestowing "the greatest benefit on mankind" during 1978 in the fields of science, economics and literature.

The winners, in addition to Singer, were Herbert A. Simon, who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science; Arno A. Penzias and Robert R. Wilson of the U.S., and Pyotr Kapitsa of the Soviet Union, for physics; Peter Mitchell of Britain, for chemistry; and Daniel Nathans and Hamilton O. Smith of the U.S., and Werner Arber of Switzerland, who shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Simon, Penzias, Nathans and Kapitsa are Jewish.

Singer, the 74-year-old Yiddish writer, who fled his native Poland in 1935 and made his home in New York, presented his Nobel Prize Lecture on Literature last Friday to a distinguished audience of about 400 gathered at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm. In his lecture, which included a sentence in Yiddish, he said that Yiddish is the "wise and humble language of us all, the idiom of the frightened and hopeful humanity."

A Recognition Of Yiddish Language

He scoffed at those who insist that Yiddish is a dead language, noting that Hebrew was also termed a dead language for 2000 years. He said Hebrew "has been revived in our time in a most remarkable way."

Yiddish, Singer said, "has not yet said its last word. It contains treasures that have not been revealed to the eyes of the world. It was the tongue of martyrs and saints, of dreamers and Cabbalists -- rich in humor and in memories that mankind may never forget."

Speaking in Yiddish, he declared: "The high honor bestowed upon me by the Swedish Academy is also a recognition of the Yiddish language -- a language of exile, without a land, without frontiers, not supported by any government." After translating that into English, Singer continued, "a language which possesses no words for weapons, ammunition, military exercises, war tactics; a language that was despised by both gentiles and emancipated Jews."

The Prophet In The Artist

Discussing the present generation, Singer declared: "Not only has our generation lost faith in Providence but also in man himself, in his institutions and often in those who are nearest to him. In their despair a number of those who no longer have confidence in the leadership of our society look up to the writer, the master of words. They hope against hope that the man of talent and sensitivity can perhaps rescue civilization. Maybe there is a spark of the prophet in the artist after all."

Singer, continuing, declared: "The truth is that what the great religions preached, the Yiddish-speaking people of the ghettos practiced day in and day out. They were the people of the book in the truest sense of the word. They knew of

no greater joy than the study of man and human relations, which they called Torah, Talmud, Musar, Cabbala.

"The ghetto was not only a place of refuge for the persecuted minority but a great experiment in peace, in self-discipline and in humanism. As such it still exists and refuses to give up in spite of all the brutality that surrounds it."

Singer, who has been writing for the Jewish Daily Forward for decades, joked afterwards that he was going to buy a new Yiddish typewriter with his \$165,000 in prize money. He said his old typewriter, after 40 years, had turned critic and refused to write when it did not like what he was writing.

Referring to the Jewish mentality, Singer, who has written 30 books, several collections of short stories, three volumes of autobiography, and 11 children's books, stated: "The Yiddish mentality is not haughty. It does not take victory for granted. It does not demand and command but it muddles through, sneaks by, smuggles itself amidst the powers of destruction, knowing somewhere that God's plan for Creation is still at the very beginning."

LEVICHES ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Prof. Benjamin Levich, who arrived in Israel Friday with his wife, Tanya, ending a seven-year struggle to emigrate from the Soviet Union, said that his joy was mixed with sadness for the Jewish refusniks still in the USSR. Speaking from his own experience, he said, efforts on their behalf should continue because they will bring results.

Levich was welcomed by a large group which included Absorption Minister David Levi, Minister-Without Portfolio Chaim Landau, relatives and numerous other Soviet immigrants, and representatives of Tel Aviv University and the Haifa Technion. Both universities have offered posts to Levich, a Corresponding Member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the highest ranking Soviet scientist to apply for an exit visa.

One of the first persons Levich met in Israel was a policeman who smiled broadly at him and shook his hand. "I had a good feeling shaking the hand of a friendly policeman," Levich said.

HOFFBERGER ELECTED UIA CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Jerold G. Hoffberger was elected chairman of the United Israel Appeal at the annual Board of Trustees meeting last Friday, as honorary chairman Max Fisher lauded the seven years of public service of outgoing chairman Melvin Dubinsky.

Hoffberger, who last month concluded a three-year term as president of the Council of Jewish Federations, declared: "The time has come for renewal as we plan for an Israel hopefully at peace. Just as we linked Israel's survival to Judaism's survival, we must now link Israel's self-sufficiency to Jewish dignity."

Fisher, saying UIA has played a unique role as a bridge between American Jewry and the people of Israel, administering and monitoring United Jewish Appeal funds for the Jewish Agency, applauded the leadership of Dubinsky, a St. Louis businessman, and said he will continue as chairman of the Jewish Agency's budget and finance committee.

Dubinsky said: "Project Renewal is the newest challenge confronting UIA and world Jewry: the responsibility of completing the absorption of earlier immigrants." As UIA's new chairman, Hoffberger will work with Irving Kessler, executive vice-chairman, and a staff in New York and Jerusalem.