

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Wednesday, January 3, 1979

No. 2

## MEASURE'S BEING ADOPTED TO EASE INFLUX OF IRANIAN JEWS INTO ISRAEL

By David London

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency announced yesterday that it was dispensing with regular health checkups and lifting the standard restrictions on persons of ill-repute in the case of Iranian Jews who want to settle in Israel. Passengers arriving on an EL Al flight from Tehran told reporters that the situation in the capital was worsening. They said economic life was virtually paralyzed and there was a growing fuel shortage.

The Jewish Agency and the relevant government departments have been preparing for some weeks for a possible mass influx of immigrants from Iran. So far it has failed to materialize and some circles expressed fear that by the time Iranian Jews decide to leave it may be too late for them to do so.

Jewish Agency Treasurer Akiva Lewinsky saw a parallel between the situation of Iranian Jews today and the Jews in Germany before World War II who persuaded themselves that they were safe despite all signs to the contrary.

Addressing a Labor Zionist youth seminar, Lewinsky claimed that most Iranian Jews were trying "to convince themselves that the talk against Israel and Zionism has nothing to do with them as Jews." He urged Iranian Jews to immigrate to Israel as quickly as possible and promised that the Jewish Agency and the government would do everything possible to facilitate their smooth absorption.

## SUSPECTED TERRORISTS HELD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Several youths were detained here this morning on suspicion of membership in a terrorist organization. The arrests were made after a blast in an apartment building in Isawiya village near Jerusalem killed two young men who were allegedly preparing explosive devices for terrorist attacks in Jerusalem.

The dead men were identified as Abed Kashur and Abed Shakur. Kashur's wife of 10 days was slightly injured when the explosives detonated accidentally at 10:30 p.m. last night. Her husband and his companion were killed instantly by the force of the explosion that dismembered their bodies.

Police rushed to the scene after neighbors reported a "gas explosion" in the new building that contained five flats. Evidence indicating the true nature of the blast prompted an immediate search for terrorist collaborators which led to the arrest of the suspects this morning. Police said the accidental detonation probably spared Jerusalem a major sabotage attempt.

In an unrelated incident, police found a bomb near a Beersheba movie theater. It was removed and safely dismantled. Meanwhile, a Palestine Liberation Organization call for a general strike on the West Bank went unheeded. Merchants kept their shops open and school children, studying for mid-term examinations, attended classes.

## BEGIN PRAISES ISRAEL-SWAZI RELATIONS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin expressed the hope yesterday that the warm ties between Israel and Swaziland would serve as a model for future relations with other African states. Begin spoke at a dinner in honor of Swazi Premier Maphexu Dhlamini, who was accompanied by the Swazi ministers of finance and justice and that country's attorney general. Begin called for increased cooperation between the two countries.

In his reply, Dhlamini said he was deeply impressed by the achievements he saw in Israel. "The Swazi people are by nature a peace loving nation," he said. "As such we have always shared the concern of other nations upon the difficulties of finding a lasting peaceful solution to the problems of this region." Dhlamini was scheduled to leave Israel this evening after signing a joint communique with Begin.

## NEW SETTLEMENTS PLANNED FOR NEGEV

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency and the government of Israel plan three new settlement regions in the Negev, Raanan Weitz, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Settlement Department, told a meeting yesterday of immigrants at Kibbutz Ramat Rahel near Jerusalem. Under the new plan, he said, settlements presently located in the Rafah salient and the Yamit region will be moved to the new region of Pithul Shalom (Peace Opening) in the northwest corner of the Negev, on the Israeli side of the Green Line.

Settlements presently located on the coastal area between Eilat and Sharm-el-Sheikh in the Sinai peninsula will be moved to Kikar Sdom (the plain of Sodom), south of the Dead Sea. In addition, three experimental settlements will be established on the Negev's central plateau, south of Beersheba.

Weitz said that an existing plan for digging a canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea is also most operable. The canal will extend from an area near the Gaza Strip, cross the Negev and end with a waterfall south of the Dead Sea. The canal, he said, will also enable the digging of two artificial lakes in the Negev whose functions will include supplying cooling water for nuclear power stations.

## EHRlich SEES PEACE TREATY SOON

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich predicted today that a peace treaty with Egypt will be signed soon because "only two of three points" that are "not so significant" remain to be settled.

Addressing the Jerusalem Economic Club, Ehrlich criticized the United States by implication for the way that it has handled the outstanding issues in dispute. He spoke of "haste by a certain party -- not Israel -- which has been ill-advised." The Finance Minister also warned that the conclusion of a peace treaty would bring "three tough years in economic terms" for Israel. "The central questions," he said, are "is it worth it, and will Israel pull through the three lean years? My answer to both is a resounding yes."

Ehrlich pledged a "war unto death" against "black money" and "undeclared taxable income." "If we don't destroy it, it will destroy us."

he told the audience of businessmen. He said the battles against tax evaders and inflation were his ministry's top priority.

(In Washington, the State Department said today that there are no new developments to report with respect to efforts to resume peace treaty negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Replying to reporters' questions, the Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said, "We have nothing at this point to tell you about responses we have gotten from Cairo or Jerusalem.")

#### GUSH SETTLERS ABANDON A HILLSIDE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- A group of 50 Gush Emunim settlers abandoned a hillside north of Jerusalem late yesterday after an army unit arrived with orders to remove them physically if they persisted in trying to establish an unauthorized settlement on the site.

The Gush had arrived only a short time before at the hill near Beit Horon on the Jerusalem-Ramallah highway and announced they were about to "thicken" an existing settlement at Beit Horon. They erected prefabricated structures and locked themselves inside. But they left peacefully after the commander of the army unit made it clear he would use force if necessary to evacuate them. The incident was described as the shortest-lived Gush settlement attempt to date.

Meanwhile, another group of would-be settlers camped for the second night of an army roadblock near Nablus. The military has barred their advance toward Nablus since Sunday but has taken no steps to remove the 25 families and their equipment from the roadside.

The Gush group, which had been living within the army base at Kadum in the Samaria district of the West Bank, announced its intention to establish a settlement on the outskirts of Nablus, the largest Arab town on the West Bank. They have the support of several Knesset militants of the Likud and National Religious Party. The Gush told reporters they had "no time limit" and would stay put until the government ordered the roadblock removed.

#### DULZIN: ZIONISM QUIZ WILL BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The first international youth quiz for Zionism was held here last week and its success inspired World Zionist Organization Executive chairman Leon Dulzin to pledge that it will become an annual event, along the lines of the world youth Bible quiz held on Independence Day. The Zionism quiz final will be held in the future on or about the 28th of Jyar -- "Jerusalem Day."

The winner of this year's quiz was 17-year-old Yoav Reisman of the Herzliya high school in Ramat Gan. Runner-up was Hanna Yersolinski, also 17, of Uruguay, who studies at the "Integrated" Jewish high school in Montevideo. The margin between them was one point: Yoav attained 87 of a possible 100; Hanna, 86. The subject of this first quiz was "One Century of Aliya and Land Settlement." The finals were held -- as is that of the Bible quiz -- in the Jerusalem Theater.

Competing in the finals were 21 youngsters from 18 countries. Each of them had won his local contests to reach the last round in Jerusalem. Dulzin urged them to realize Zionism themselves by making aliya and persuading their friends and families to do likewise. The idea was catalyzed by the United Nations General Assembly anti-

Zionism vote of 1975. Participating in the organization of the quiz are the WZO, the Jewish National Fund, the Shazar Foundation, Keren Hayesod, the Education Ministry and the Council for Zionism in Israel.

Moshe Rivlin, world chairman of the JNF, headed the panel of judges. He praised the finalists for their deep and broad knowledge of the subject matter and expressed the hope that their performance would "breathe a refreshing spirit" into the Zionist movement. President Yitzhak Navon held a reception at his residence for all 31 finalists. The youngsters also called on Premier Menachem Begin at his office.

#### HUMPHREY PARKWAY DEDICATION JAN. 5

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- A delegation of American communal leaders from all parts of the country will leave tomorrow for the dedication on Jan. 5 in the American Bicentennial Park outside Jerusalem, of the Hubert H. Humphrey Parkway, it was announced here by Rabbi William Berkowitz, national president of the Jewish National Fund. Heading the delegation will be the sons of the late Senator, State Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey III, Robert Humphrey and Douglas Humphrey, and Burton L. Joseph, outgoing president of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The ceremonies on Jan. 5 at the entrance to the Humphrey Parkway will highlight addresses by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, Samuel Lewis, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Moshe Rivlin, world chairman of the JNF, and many other dignitaries.

The Humphrey Parkway, which will be the major highway of the American Bicentennial Park, is being constructed by the JNF as a joint Israel-American tribute to the late Senator. The scenic road, which will run for several miles along mountain ridges and down rocky slopes, will serve as the access to park facilities and as a much-needed link between the coastal plain, the mountain settlements in the region, and Jerusalem, Berkowitz noted. Honorary chairman of the National Committee for the Humphrey Parkway is Vice President Walter F. Mondale.

#### WZO COMPTROLLER'S REPORT FINDS DEFICIENCIES IN WZO OPERATIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The 21st annual report of the Comptroller of the World Zionist Organization, published here Sunday, found glaring deficiencies in the operations of the WZO in Israel and overseas. Hardly a department emerged unscathed and even the Jewish National Fund was criticized for alleged irregularities in issuing tenders. The JNF responded immediately that the report failed to take note of faults that have been corrected.

The report charged that the Youth and Hechlut Department had vastly exceeded its approved budget for accommodations and tours. It spent about 1L 23 million against a budget of 1L 9.4 million for fiscal 1976-77, the report said.

It also found that some leaders of overseas youth groups visiting Israel were unfit; several of them, in fact, were "yardim" -- Israelis who settled permanently abroad -- who could hardly set an example compatible with the department's aims. The report also cited discrepancies between an advertised summer youth project in Israel last year and what was actually offered to the disappointed youngsters when they arrived.

The Comptroller, Meir Ben Zion Meiry, called on the Department for Education and Culture in the Diaspora to make sure that overseas groups which invite Israeli educators bear the greater part of the

expenses involved. The report criticized the method of selecting teachers for overseas missions. It said that instead of implementing the 28th World Zionist Congress decision to increase the number of teachers sent abroad, the number has decreased and general emissaries were sent instead.

Returning emissaries were taken to task for not reporting on their experiences. Two important Jewish communities in Asian countries had no education emissary while the term of one emissary has extended from two to three years despite a negative rating of the quality of his work.

#### Other Shortcomings Cited

The report accused the Department on Jewish Schools Abroad of lax supervision. Only nine qualified teachers sent by the department now teach in the U.S. The rest are yordim, some of whom lack formal professional training.

The report said there was too little coordination between the WZO's Department for Overseas Relations and the Foreign Ministry and between that department and the WZO's Information and Organization Department. It cited lack of cooperation in some cases between WZO emissaries and Israeli diplomats abroad.

It charged that the director of a project undertaken by the Immigration and Absorption Department received a salary and expenses far above what he was entitled to. The same person traveled overseas more than 30 times without submitting a written justification for the trips or any report on their results.

One of the most serious findings was an apparent inflation of WZO membership rolls. The report said that of 1.2 million members counted in the WZO census, many were ineligible for membership and more than a few were deceased. The WZO Executive will review the report and its recommendations.

#### JACOBSON: SOVIET RED TAPE STEMS TIDE OF GROWING JEWISH EMIGRATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Widely publicized increases in Soviet Jewish emigration are diverting attention from a mushrooming backlog of exit applications and procedural abuses, says Charlotte Jacobson, chairwoman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry's Research Bureau. "The true measure of oppression in the Soviet Union is the number of Jews trying to get out, not the number who make it," she said. "To the best of our knowledge, there are now over 180,000 active letters of invitation sent to Soviet Jews and that number is growing every day. Viewed this way, we see that, if anything, the situation will be getting worse."

Mrs. Jacobson said she has just obtained information which indicates officials are altering the application procedure to both discourage applicants and to artificially reduce their number. "In Odessa, in a part of the city which is served by a local ovir (emigration) office, there is a backlog of 1000 applicants. But the office is open only three days a week and processes only 60 applications on each of its service days," she charged.

#### Glaring Examples Of Intransigence

The Research Bureau, she said, "has found a number of other glaring examples of Soviet intransigence. In Bendery (in the Moldavian Republic) the ovir accepts applications once a week and has a three-month processing backlog. The office in Mogilev-Podolsk (in the Ukraine) is so overloaded that it was closed for all of December."

In the Byelorussian city of Bobruisk, Mrs. Jacobson said, the ovir does not accept letters of invitation which do not specify the relationship between the Israeli and Soviet relatives. Even if they are correct, the invitations are accepted only once a week from people who possess the latest internal passport. Many Jews and non-Jews still have the older, outdated passports.

Applicants to the Bobruisk office have recently encountered an additional hurdle on their road to freedom -- those who are unemployed must produce a letter from a police officer attesting to their character. "Each additional contact with police in the application process exposes people to unnecessary problems and delays," she said. "Since a person is liable to be fired from a job after applying to leave, this requirement affects just about everyone."

The Research Bureau estimated that about 28,000 Jews left the Soviet Union by the end of 1978, the highest figure since 35,000 left in 1973.

#### NEW APPOINTMENTS AT WZO

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Organization Executive has appointed Bill Levine as director general of its Organization Department and Arye Wolf as director general of its Department for Development and Services.

Levine, 43, was born in the United States and immigrated to Israel in 1972. He began his Zionist career as the director of the Chicago-area Student Zionist Organization. Before making aliyah, he was the director of the American Zionist Youth Foundation. After arriving in Israel, he was head of the American Desk of the WZO's Organization and Information Department. During the last two years, Levine served as director general for overseas organization affairs in the department.

Wolf is the first director of the recently established Department for Development and Services, which is headed by Avraham Shenker. Born in Czechoslovakia, Wolf, 45, immigrated to Israel at the age of six. He began his public career 20 years ago as the parliamentary secretary of Achdut Ha'avoda faction in the Knesset and later worked in senior positions for the Jerusalem municipality, Labor Ministry and Health Ministry. He speaks Hebrew, English, German, Yiddish, French, Turkish and Arabic.

#### DULZIN: ACTING ON IRAN SITUATION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Jewish Agency chairman Leon Dulzin declared tonight that the Agency was taking energetic action regarding the aliyah of Jews from strife-torn Iran -- but he could not publicly elaborate on the details for obvious reasons. Dulzin responded in this way to charges of inefficiency levelled against the Agency by Knesseter Moshe Katzav who recently returned from a visit to Iran.

Katzav said today he "feared it is too late for the Jews of Iran to make aliyah." He returned from Iran 10 days ago and spoke of the widespread and growing anti-Semitism he had witnessed in many cities there.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Senior government officials are considering a request by Abie Nathan, the well-known "peace pilot" and champion of humanitarian causes, to allow 400 Vietnamese refugees into Israel, Yediot Achronot reported. Nathan appealed to Premier Menachem Begin to allow the refugees on board the "Hai Feng" ship to enter Israel. The ship is presently anchored opposite the shore of Hong Kong.

## YEAR IN REVIEW THE IRRELEVANCE OF THE UN ASSEMBLY

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- The 33rd session of the General Assembly recessed Dec. 21, the same way it opened three months ago: almost ignored and unnoticed. There was no better example to illustrate the growing irrelevance of the world organization than the issue of the Mideast.

The Assembly began Sept. 19, only two days after the historic Camp David agreements were signed between Israel and Egypt. The United Nations, which devotes so much time to acrimonious Mideast debates and attacks on Israel, was at once overshadowed by the historic achievements of Camp David. Although diplomats said that the General Assembly did not follow the "spirit" of Camp David, the unprecedented breakthrough between Egypt and Israel, the accords nevertheless had their impact, at least during the first few weeks of the Assembly.

Historically united in its hatred of Israel, the Arab camp found itself suddenly divided in the wake of Camp David. Determined to sabotage the Egyptian-Israeli impending peace treaty, the extremist Arab states -- Iraq, Syria, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen -- with their chief supporter, the Soviet Union, joined forces to have the General Assembly serve their aims. The United Nations, which was established to advance and promote peace between its members, was being used to delay and obstruct peace in the Mideast.

### Israel Under Fire

While the influence of Camp David was felt during the first half of the General Assembly, with Israel enjoying a relative period of quiet, the Jewish State came under fire during the last weeks of the Assembly.

Most notable of all the anti-Israel resolutions was an Iraqi-inspired resolution calling on the Security Council to impose an arms embargo on Israel. Although it was clear that the United States -- and other Western powers -- would block such a move by their veto power, observers here viewed the Iraqi-inspired resolution as bringing a new dimension in the struggle against Israel by alleging a nuclear collaboration between Israel and South Africa.

Israeli sources pointed out that Egypt, while conducting peace negotiations with Israel in Washington, gave its sponsorship to the arms embargo resolution against Israel, contrary to all expectations. In the opinion of diplomats, had Egypt dissociated itself from that resolution it would not have been adopted by a two-thirds majority.

As in previous Assemblies, there was no shortage of anti-Israel resolutions, ranging on issues from Israel's occupation of Arab land to its relations with South Africa. But the "novelty" of this year's Assembly was the celebration of "Palestine Day" on Nov. 29 -- the same date of the 1947 UN partition resolution which recommended the establishment of Israel as a Jewish State.

### PLO's Standing Strengthened

The celebration of "Palestine Day" was yet another UN peculiarity. The "Palestine Day" was sponsored by the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, an anti-Israeli body, comprised of 22 members of which 19 have no diplomatic relations with

Israel. The committee is devoted to promoting the political goals of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Ironically, while the standing of the PLO in the Arab world in general, in Lebanon in particular and in major Western capitals has been reduced to zero as a result of the civil war in Lebanon and the Camp David accords, its standing in the UN was strengthened during the 33rd Assembly session.

While each member state has to finance its own propaganda activities at the UN, the PLO, which has observer status, disseminates its anti-Israel propaganda through a "Special Unit for Palestinian Rights" within the UN Secretariat, which has a budget of \$500,000. In addition, the PLO managed -- with the massive Arab vote at the UN -- to pass a resolution requiring the United Nations Development Program "to consult and cooperate" with the PLO on practical projects to improve the social and economic conditions of the Palestinians. In the view of diplomats here, such resolutions enhance the political standing of the PLO at the world organization.

With the Camp David accords and the Blair House peace negotiations in the background of the 33rd session of the General Assembly, the irrelevance of the UN to peace in the Mideast was clearer than ever. Some even felt that the UN had turned into an obstacle to a peaceful Mideast solution.

### HAIM SHMULEWITZ DEAD AT 76

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Rabbi Haim Shmulewitz, dean of the Mir Yeshiva (in Yiddish: Mirer Yeshiva) died here late last night and was buried here today. He was 76 years old and had been hospitalized suffering from cancer for some months. His funeral was attended by rabbis and religious leaders and by thousands of yeshiva students from all over the country.

A product of the pre-war Lithuanian yeshiva world, Shmulewitz was considered a foremost Talmudist and leading exponent of the "Mussar" school -- the teachings of self-discipline and religious philosophy developed in the Lithuanian yeshivot during the last century. His "Mussar" talks in the Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem's Meah Shearim quarter used to attract hundreds of students each week.

Shmulewitz was born in Kovno and studied under the renowned Lithuanian sage, Rabbi Shimon Shkop. In 1925 he moved into the Mir Yeshiva, became one of its top student-teachers, and eventually married -- as was the custom in the yeshivot -- the daughter of the dean, Rabbi Eliezer Yehuda Finkel. From 1936 he served as head of the yeshiva.

### GUR CHARGES DISCRIMINATION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA) -- Gen. Mordechai Gur, the former Chief of Staff who officially ended his military service yesterday, charged that he was not named to a reserve post by the Ministry of Defense because of his criticism of the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations. When Israeli soldiers and officers end their military service, they are usually assigned to a reserve unit or post for call-up during an emergency.

But Defense Minister Ezer Weizman said that specific reserve assignments had not been given to other retiring Chiefs of Staff except for the late David Elazar. He said there was no need for such an appointment since the specific assignment could be made when an emergency occurs. Gur contended, however, that he was not given the assignment because of recent remarks critical of the way the negotiations were held and attacking some of the clauses in the proposed peace treaty.