

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN PLEDGES ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE FOR TREATY WITH EGYPT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin pledged last night that Israel will continue to negotiate for a peace treaty with Egypt but insisted that his country was not seeking a separate agreement and hoped to sign treaties with all of its Arab neighbors.

Addressing 350 leaders from American and Canadian Jewish communities at the farewell dinner of the 1979 Prime Minister's Israel Bond Conference at the Knesset, Begin said Israel never considered the idea of a separate agreement and always aspired to widen the circle of Arab countries with which it would sign treaties. But, he asked, "Can anyone force Syria to come to the table, can we or Egypt or even the U.S.? We must be sure that this peace treaty does not depend on the whim of hostile forces."

Begin rejected the argument that a peace treaty was only a scrap of paper. "The will behind the paper is what is important and that is why we must make sure that the agreement with Egypt should not be conditional. . . . We will not sign a non-peace agreement. We will only sign a genuine peace agreement," he said.

Begin repeatedly blamed Egypt for the failure to reach agreement so far. He claimed that "If it hadn't been for the new Egyptian proposals, we could have signed the peace treaty even before December 17," the deadline proposed of Camp David. However, he pledged, "there will be ups and downs but we will continue to negotiate. We are prepared to negotiate the outstanding issues."

Referring to events in Iran, Begin contended that the free world was in danger and described Israel as one of the few remaining democratic bastions that was prepared to fight for liberty.

## LORINCZ: ISRAEL HAS ENOUGH OIL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Israel is not threatened by a shortage of oil, Shlomo Lorincz, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee announced tonight. Israel had been wise enough to diversify its sources of oil well in advance of the current disturbances in Iran, he explained. "Baruch Hashem," there were firm grounds "for my hope that we will not suffer from any shortage." Lorincz, a member of Agudat Israel, spoke after a committee session devoted to the Iranian situation.

He took issue with Avraham Shavit, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, who had said that Israel had oil stocks available for "a few months." Lorincz countered this by stating, "Thank God the situation is not as Mr. Shavit depicts it." He could not be specific, he added, but the stocks were much larger than that.

At present, he said, there were no commercial contacts at all with Iran, in view of the situation there. Lorincz's remarks on Israel's oil policy in effect confirm similar assertions by the minister responsible, Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

## EXTRADITION OF EX-WAR CRIMINALS URGED

BUCHAREST, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Romanian

Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen called for the extradition to Rumania of the two men responsible for the January 1941 massacre of Bucharest's Jewish community. The two are Bishop Valerian Teflea who now lives in Grass Lake, Michigan, and Father Vasile Boldeanu who is in Paris.

The call was launched last week during a memorial service for the pogrom's victims, many of whom were burned alive when Iron Guard mobs stormed through the Jewish quarter and put fire to synagogues and various Jewish institutions. Teflea is charged with leading the crowds and Boldeanu served at the time as the Iron Guard's Secretary General, Rosen recalled.

## FAILURE OF A MISSION

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The United States acknowledged today that special Ambassador Alfred Atherton's 12-day effort to bridge the gaps between Israel and Egypt on the so-called minor issues in the American draft treaty text had failed. The State Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, indicated that the next move in the negotiations would be based on all of the controversial matters outstanding both within and outside of the treaty text itself.

In announcing that the U.S. will continue to communicate with both parties through diplomatic channels on the next steps, Carter ruled out speculation that because decisions on the treaty cannot be made at a lower level, another Camp David style summit meeting is the logical next step.

At the same time, he indicated that another summit was in the realm of possibility when he recalled President Carter's remarks at the Martin Luther King memorial ceremonies in Atlanta two weeks ago that a session on the foreign ministers level was likely to follow the Atherton mission and that he would not hesitate to call another summit conference if he felt it was necessary. Most observers here believe, however, that a second summit would not be considered unless detailed agreements were reached beforehand assuring its success.

Hodding Carter said that Atherton was able to confer only briefly with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on his return from the Middle East today because the Administration is pre-occupied with the visit of China's Vice Premier, Teng Hsiao-ping. Carter said that Atherton's mission was to see whether "limited issues" could be resolved prior to resuming higher level negotiations on the other outstanding issues. He emphasized that "it now appears, however, that all the remaining issues are of such deep concern to the parties that it may not be possible to deal with them separately. They may have to be discussed and resolved at the same time," the State Department spokesman said.

Atherton spent nine days in Israel and three in Egypt seeking a resolution of the Egyptian demands that the treaty be reviewed within five years after signing on the military arrangements in Sinai and Egypt's refusal to accept provisions in the treaty that the treaty with Israel would supercede treaties Egypt might have with other Arab countries. The linkage of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty with implementation of the autonomy plan for the

Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip was the major issue that the Ahterion mission did not attempt to resolve. Such linkage is not incorporated in the treaty itself but Egypt made an exchange of ambassadors with Israel -- which is incorporated in the treaty -- contingent on implementation of the autonomy plan.

#### Would Not Assess Responsibility

Carter would not "assess responsibility" for the failure of Ahterion's mission. But Israel's reported movement toward Egyptian demands while Egypt refused to move at all indicated to some observers that Premier Menachem Begin had grounds in saying that the failure to make progress during Ahterion's visit was due to the Egyptian government's rejection of the proposals submitted to it. Carter said, however, that "neither side has accepted the other's proposals."

Observers close to the negotiations indicated that a large part of the responsibility must be borne by President Carter for his having endorsed Egypt's demands in December when he praised President Anwar Sadat for being "generous" in making them. Thus, the observers said, Sadat was in a position of not having to demand less from Israel than what President Carter had found to his liking.

Later, Vance, shuttling between Cairo and Jerusalem, presented Egypt's demands to the Israelis and Israel rejected them. That U.S. action and Israel's reaction brought relations between Washington and Jerusalem to an all time low in the Carter Presidency.

However, statements by Carter to Israel's new Ambassador Ephraim Eitan and to NBC commentator John Chancellor and a passage in his State of the Union address last week referring to Israel as a great nation that the U.S. is committed to support, served to ease the strain.

#### EBAN WARNS OF BREAKDOWN IN TALKS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The Middle East peace talks could break down in the next few weeks if left in the hands of legal experts from Israel, Egypt and the United States, Abba Eban warned here.

Although the former Foreign Minister still believed peace would be achieved, he expressed anxiety at the inability to clear up the final differences, even though they were only minor compared with those already surmounted since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat went to Jerusalem. "This is not a question for jurists to decide," he told a Joint Israel Appeal dinner Saturday night.

Calling on all three countries to make a new effort, Eban said the United States should withdraw its memorandum creating an "inadmissible link" between an Egyptian-Israeli settlement and arrangements for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Egypt and the U.S. should show more understanding for Israel's "obsession" with security. Israel, he added, should appreciate Egypt's Arab responsibilities "since all men of Arab speech are a single community," and President Sadat could not "resign from the Arab and Moslem family."

Against the background of violence in Teheran, the leaders of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. resembled Daniel's three colleagues in the lion's den, Eban said. Instead of asking how they got into the mess, they should be asking how to get out of it.

If the talks failed, there would be a revival of "violent, rancorous Arab solidarity," and Israel

would also come under intense international criticism. Inside Israel the effects would be harder to analyze, he said. But even if a treaty was signed, a "great crisis" could not long be postponed over the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, on which Israel and Egypt had "a common signature but not a common policy," Eban said.

#### REPORT GROWING SENTIMENT IN BONN TO EXTEND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- West Germany's Acting Consul General in New York, Kurt-Arthur Schwartz, conferred with two American Jewish delegations on the issue of the statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, due to expire at the end of this year. The German official indicated that there is growing sentiment in Bonn for an extension of the statute and said the present consensus is that the West German parliament would not grant war criminals immunity from prosecution after the Dec. 31, 1979 deadline.

Schwartz met last Thursday with a delegation from the American Section of the World Jewish Congress, led by its chairman, Jacob Katzman, and on Friday with representatives of the 26 major organizations in the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

The latter group, headed by ICRC president Richard Ravitch and executive director Malcolm Hoentein, submitted a letter for transmission to the West German government which said that to allow any of those responsible for Nazi depredations to escape justice would be "an unforgivable affront to the memories of their 11 million victims, a betrayal of democratic principles espoused by the West German government and a crushing defeat for the conscience of mankind." Similar views were expressed by the WJC delegation.

Responding, Schwartz agreed that if the statute of limitations -- the period of time during which war criminals are subject to prosecution -- expired, it would mean closing the final chapter on the subject of Nazi murderers. He also observed that opposition to abolition of the statute was not confined to Jews but came from members of all faiths.

#### Sees Chance For Statute's Extension

According to Schwartz, party discipline will be waived and members of Parliament will be free to vote on the issue according to their conscience. He quoted the Vice President of the Bundestag (lower house) as saying the extension has "a good chance of coming through." Schwartz also observed that the recent screening of the "Holocaust" dramatization on West German television to record audiences was likely to have a positive impact on the vote.

(In Bonn, the International Auschwitz Committee, an organization of survivors of the notorious death camp, added its voice to the growing demands to reject any deadline for the prosecution of war criminals. The committee urged the government to sign a 1968 United Nations convention mandating that war crimes and "crimes against humanity" be excluded from the statute of limitations.)

Meanwhile, meetings and rallies are being planned for tomorrow in major cities across the United States, West Europe and Israel to demand that there be no time limit on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals in West Germany and to recall that exactly 46 years ago Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, a move that set the scene for the Holocaust.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA

PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS FOR CETA  
DROPPED AFTER WIDESPREAD PROTESTS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Proposed new regulations for Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) funds, which would have barred use of such funds for on-the-job training for persons in religious schools and houses of worship have been dropped after protests from a broad range of Jewish organizations, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed.

The ban, which would have included Christian-sponsored schools and churches and which also was protested by Christian groups, was included in proposed regulations scheduled for publication by the Department of Labor in the Federal Register on Jan. 19. Under the on-the-job training program, participants are employed for 20 weeks and their wages are paid half by the employer and half by CETA. While exact figures were not immediately available, CETA grants to Jewish organizations have totalled hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

The planned regulation specified that "participants shall not be employed in any capacity in religiously-affiliated elementary or secondary schools, theological seminaries or houses of worship. A school shall be deemed religiously affiliated if it is owned by or subject to on-going control by a religious organization or if religious instruction is mandatory for students at the school."

The JTA was told that the apparent rationale for the proposed changes was concern over the possibility of church-state separation breaches in the grants of CETA funds to religious groups.

What particularly angered the Jewish religious community, the JTA was told, was that the original regulations would have precluded the participation of religious institutions in such CETA-funded programs and set them apart as pariahs.

## Specific Assurance Included

Under procedures developed by the Labor Department, agencies concerned with the CETA program were asked to submit comments on the proposals in December. Four Jewish organizations, and Catholic groups, did submit critical comments, the JTA was told. The four Jewish agencies, all of which have had CETA funding for years, are Agudath Israel, Young Israel, Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, and the Satmar Hasidic movement.

In addition to the critical comments by the four Jewish organizations, a broader protest program was organized, in part involving contacts with Senators and Representatives. Strategy was coordinated at a meeting here on Dec. 27 at which representatives were present from the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, Rabbinical Council of America, National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, Agudath Israel, Young Israel, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York and the Synagogue Council of America.

When the proposed changes were published in the Federal Register on Jan. 19, the objectionable paragraph was omitted and a specific assurance was included that the proposed changes did not "preclude religious organizations from the administration or operation of CETA programs or the use of religious facilities in the operation of such programs."

## RABBIS URGED TO HEED THE YOUNG

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Rabbi

Soul Teplitz, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, told some 500 fellow rabbis at the first business session today of the Assembly's 79th four-day annual convention that they must understand what youth was searching for in turning to the cults and urged them to "descend from the mountaintop" and begin to cater to the needs of the young which he called "legitimate."

Teplitz declared that in the 30 years since the end of World War II, "rabbis have been so caught up in the enterprise of establishing congregations, building outward structures and creating infrastructures that we have overlooked the human being in the process." In the midst of a great deal of commotion, "we have lost the emotion," he declared. Prayerbooks, he said, cannot provide the spirit, nor sermons the soul, nor educational curricula the breath in the youthful quest for "intimate spirituality." He noted that "Our people, young and old, in this terrestrial world have to feel that there is someone who cares for them, not as members or as contributors, but as persons."

In speaking of the cults, and citing the Jonestown, Guyana tragedy as an example, Teplitz said that young people in the 1960s turned to drugs for escape, and "now this need to retreat from society's stresses finds its fulfillment through identification with a cult." The estimate is that there are about 1,500 major and minor religious cults in the U.S. with a total membership of about three million, he said.

## ASSISTANT TO CARTER TAKES NEW POST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Joyce Starr, associate special assistant to President Carter at the White House, has been appointed coordinator of the study mission to Israel and Egypt formed by Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Center announced. The appointment is effective April 1. Her White House successor has not been named.

Starr, who is Jewish, will establish "a full time working presence in Tel Aviv and Cairo" on the Georgetown Center's behalf, the announcement said. "Under Center auspices, she will compile and monitor an inventory of area experts and their ongoing research. She will advise the Center in Washington on how to better integrate its broader program into area developments triggered by the continuing movement of Egypt and Israel toward a settlement."

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed that Starr "probably" will be based in Tel Aviv and commute to Cairo. The base, JTA was told, will be in Tel Aviv rather than in Jerusalem because "it has a greater complex of activities and is the larger city. The fact the U.S. Embassy is in Tel Aviv and not in Jerusalem was not a factor," JTA was told.

In her new position, Starr, who is 33 years old, will be associated with the Center's International Research Council which includes 26 scholars under the chairmanship of Walter Laqueur, the historian. Two of the Council's members are Boutros Ghali, president of the Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Egypt, who also is Egypt's Foreign Minister and has a prominent role in the current Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations. Another scholar member is Dr. Aharon Yariy, director of the Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. Starr earned her doctorate in sociology at Northwestern University in 1973. She was active in the Carter-Mondale election campaign in 1976.

## SPECIAL INTERVIEW

## MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT PROJECT RENEWAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Irving Bernstein, executive vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, is leaving Israel today "much more confident than when I came" regarding the prospects of Project Renewal, the ambitious joint government-Jewish Agency-UJA program to rehabilitate some 160 slum areas around the country.

In an interview last night with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Bernstein said he felt that even Housing Minister David Levy, who had voiced harsh criticism of the project, was now "realizing the potential" of the project and understanding, too, the benefit that would accrue from the active participation of diaspora Jewry in its implementation.

Bernstein stressed that UJA and other diaspora leaders, who had undertaken to raise funds for Project Renewal, did not seek to foist their views or opinions upon Israeli officials. They only wanted to involve diaspora Jews "who are experts in the fields of housing, education, urban planning, slum renewal, child welfare, to meet with Israelis in the planning stages of the project, and give of themselves and of their expertise by way of advice and consultation."

## Misunderstanding Seems To Be Dissipating

Bernstein made this point in a frank conversation with Levy yesterday afternoon -- and came away feeling "that if the conversation had taken place before the morning's Cabinet meeting, Mr. Levy would not have voted the way he did." (Levy led the opposition in the Cabinet to the ratification of a policy document on Project Renewal drawn up by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and United Israel Appeal chairman Jerold Hoffberger.)

Bernstein also met yesterday with Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich and said he came away from both conversations feeling buoyed. The misunderstandings that had overshadowed Project Renewal before seemed to be dissipating, Bernstein felt. And now, he said, there was a good deal more unanimity regarding the modalities of making it a success.

Arguing the benefits of direct and close involvement by diaspora Jewish specialists, Bernstein said: no country, not even the U.S. itself, has a totality of expertise; often the objectivity and dispassionate approach of an outsider attains insights that escape local people.

Bernstein also stressed Project Renewal's potential as a means of "turning on" diaspora Jewry to a concrete and tangible Zionist challenge. He felt this consideration, too, had made itself more deeply felt among the Israeli Cabinet during this past weekend of serious deliberations.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA

## FISHER HAILS CABINET DECISION ON PROJECT RENEWAL AS 'HISTORIC STEP'

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Max Fisher, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, hailed the Cabinet decision yesterday approving an agreement to establish a joint government-Jewish Agency committee to work out means for implementing Project Renewal as "an important and historic step forward in our joint partnership." (See Jan. 29 Daily News Bulletin for full story.)

In a statement issued today, Fisher said: "The Jewish Agency Governing Board, including representatives of the United Jewish Appeal

and Keren Hayesod, has been working diligently with Israeli government leaders during the last several weeks to arrive at a partnership administration of Project Renewal. Both the Agency and the government believe that Project Renewal must be a joint operation requiring the input and work of both the Agency and the government.

"The Cabinet decision reached last weekend to ratify the agreement worked out by Jerold Hoffberger, chairman of the Jewish Agency's International Project Renewal Committee, and Yigael Yadin, Deputy Prime Minister, is the fitting culmination of these efforts. It is an important and historic step forward in our joint partnership.

## Planning Is Going On

"It is important to understand that the Jewish Agency, governed by representatives of contributors from the diaspora and the World Zionist Organization, is the sole agent responsible for expending the funds raised by world Jewry. In this capacity the Agency will work in close cooperation with the appropriate government ministers for joint implementation of Project Renewal.

"Meanwhile, planning is going on in many distressed neighborhoods and progress is being made. At this moment Eliezer Raphaeli, the Jewish Agency's Director-General of Project Renewal, is building his operating team. They are researching complete information on each distressed neighborhood. Robert Russell, Chairman of the UJA's Project Renewal Committee and Co-Chairman of the Jewish Agency Project Renewal Committee, is also working with the Jewish Agency staff in Israel.

"I will report more fully on these developments in the near future, but for now I wish to make it very clear that Project Renewal is a comprehensive, jointly-administered effort designed to bring 300,000 Israeli men, women and children into the mainstream of the nation's society."

## POPE SEEKS RELATION BETWEEN CATHOLICS, JEWS GROWING STRONGER IN THE FUTURE

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- A letter from the Vatican Secretariat of State to Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, expressed satisfaction about "the growing relation between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish religion, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council and its Declaration Nostra Aetate on the relation of the church with non-Christian religions."

The letter, dated Jan. 15 and signed by G. Caprio, the personal secretary to Pope John Paul II, was received by Tanenbaum last Thursday and released to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency over the weekend. According to the letter, written on behalf of the Pope, in response to a letter from Tanenbaum to the Pope on the occasion of his election, "the relation between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish people 'will certainly grow even more strongly and decisively in the future, with the good will of the parties concerned.'"

## ERNST LEHMANN, DEAD AT 77

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Ernst Lehmann, the prominent banker and economist, died here at the age of 77. Arriving in Palestine from Germany in 1935, he joined the Anglo-Palestine Bank management, rising to the top office of chairman of Board of Directors. He was also head of the State Loans Authority and issued the first paper money when the State of Israel was founded.