

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## KNESSET REJECTS TORTURE CHARGES

By David London

**JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) --** The Knesset today approved by massive majority a government statement repudiating charges of torture on the West Bank published last week in the Washington Post. Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir revealed that the State Attorney in person is required, under new regulations issued by Premier Menachem Begin, to investigate each and every case in which an allegation of torture has been made and is not immediately rejected by the International Red Cross (IRC).

Tamir said the IRC had visited in privacy with more than 1,000 prisoners who had alleged torture, but in 94 percent of the cases nothing was found to back up even the mere allegation. "There is no system of torture in Israel," Tamir declared. "We reject torture as criminal and loathsome, not because of the public relations consideration, but because of the adverse effect it would have on our interrogators and on our entire society of which they are part."

Tamir rejected calls from Shai, Democratic Movement and Sheli Knesseters for a commission of inquiry, under a Supreme Court Justice, to be set up to investigate the torture charges. Sheli's Uri Avneri said such a commission would clear the air and disprove the charges once and for all, but Tamir was not impressed by that argument.

Meanwhile, a number of West Bank leaders have sent protest cables to Israeli and world politicians protesting the action taken by the military government against Nablus Mayor Bassam Shakah last week. Shakah was barred from traveling abroad to raise funds for his municipality, and sternly warned not to engage in public political activity.

He had angered the authorities by trying to participate, a week earlier, in a protest press conference and prayer organized by Hebron Mayor Fahed Kawasseh, against new praying arrangements instituted at the tomb of Machpela in the town. Shakah, in his own protest cables, argued that the military government was in effect punishing the people of Nablus because of the Mayor's personal political activities (by forbidding him to go abroad and raise funds).

## TERRORIST OUTRAGE AVERTED

By Yitzhak Shargil

**TEL AVIV, Feb. 14 (JTA) --** A flat tire requiring an unscheduled stop saved 40 passengers from a time bomb carried aboard a Beersheba-to-Tel Aviv bus yesterday by an Israeli Arab. The culprit, a member of a Bedouin tribe in the Negev, was seized by his fellow passengers and turned over to police.

According to police accounts, the young Arab boarded the Egged bus at Beersheba carrying a parcel. Apparently he was unaware that it was a non-stop bus and after a time was nervously importuning the driver to let him off. The driver explained that regulations forbade him to make any intermediate stops. But a blow-out in a front tire forced the driver to pull off the road where all of the passengers alighted with their luggage to wait for another bus.

The Arab didn't wait, however, and as he

was leaving, a woman passenger reminded him that he had left his parcel behind. The Arab returned to the bus, took his parcel and hurled it into a ravine some distance from the road where it exploded. As he attempted to escape he was overpowered by the other passengers.

## HOLOCAUST COMMISSION AT WORK

By Joseph Polakoff

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (JTA) --** President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust, headed by author Elie Wiesel, has received a flood of suggestions ranging from sculptural proposals to educational curricula to meet the three-point program it is charged to complete by next July 15.

When Carter named the 24-member Commission last Nov. 1, he stipulated that it should complete its work six months after its first meeting. That session is scheduled for tomorrow. It will begin in the Roosevelt Room at the White House and continue in the library of the old Executive Office Building.

In addition to the Commission's membership named by the President, five U.S. Representatives and five Senators are to work with it. In addition, an advisory group of 27 members will assist in the project.

A spontaneous outpouring from individuals and institutions came to the Commission since Carter's announcement of its formation. In addition, the Commission and the advisory group members are soliciting opinions. Preliminary suggestions have varied from a museum and monument to a "living memorial" to the victims of the Holocaust and have touched on areas from research and teaching to curricula, the arts and the media. The Commission has emphasized that no decisions have been made. Neither the scope of the project nor its nature have been determined, it said.

In searching for advice, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, who heads the National Jewish Conference Center in New York and the Commission's small staff here, said he has expressed hope that the commemoration and memorialization of the Holocaust "will take a form that emphasizes not only the particular Jewish experience of genocide, persecution and human anguish, but the universal themes of which the Holocaust was an expression -- that is, systematic and bureaucratic extermination, radical evil and banal evil, indifference to evil and racism."

## A RECORD 72 PERCENT WATCH FIRST PART OF 'HOLOCAUST' ON FRENCH TV

By Edwin Eytan

**PARIS, Feb. 14 (JTA) --** A record 72 percent of the audience watched the first episode of the American NBC-TV series "Holocaust" on French television last night. According to the first available data, only 28 percent opted for the other two French channels. The general impression of the film was, however, "reserved" with viewers grading it 15 out of a maximum of 20 points.

The debate, which was due to follow the first episode had to be cancelled at the last moment because of a TV technicians' strike. But several privately owned radio stations and a number of newspapers organized debating panels of their own.

Rodfo Luxembourg, which organized the most important of these panels with the participation of Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld, reported an exceptionally large number of phone calls from listeners.

Many of the callers expressed shock and surprise, asking "Why didn't the Jews flee Germany while they still had a chance?" Others asked "Why was there no revolt?"

Many of the callers also wanted to know why the film dealt almost exclusively with the fate of the Jewish victims and failed to mention that of millions of other people. The French news agency Agence France Presse reported in its domestic service that a large number of people reacted antagonistically to the film, saying "It is the start of a political campaign against West European unification." France and West Germany are at the core of the European Economic Community which is holding elections this summer for the first European Parliament.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which conducted a mini-poll of its own, found that the majority of people who saw it, and mainly the non-Jews, were "deeply moved." One young non-Jewish woman said she had to stop watching the film at a certain point "because I am pregnant" and feared a possible miscarriage. A man, also a non-Jew, who had lived through the Nazi occupation of France, said: "At last we now know what really happened during those days."

Dozens of people telephoned French police, to denounce "former Nazis" reportedly in hiding and dozens more contacted the various newspapers and radio stations with similar reports. The overall impression was that in spite of its technical and historical imperfections, pointed out by many of the television viewers, "Holocaust" served its main purpose: to bring the past into the present and remind the nation of one of history's most tragic chapters.

#### CHINA AND ZIONISM ATTACKED

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Pravda, the official organ of the Soviet Communist Party, has launched a blistering attack against the People's Republic of China for "flirting with Zionism" and for "teaming up with Israel on anti-Sovietism." Vladimir Bolshakov, in a recent issue of Pravda, wrote that following the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States, China will take steps toward "normalization of relations with Israel."

The Pravda article, released internationally by the Soviet news agency, Tass, noted that commentaries on this issue were prompted by a meeting last November between China's Deputy Premier Keng Piao and Howard Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress, who was visiting Peking as part of an American delegation of civic affairs leaders.

Squadron, who was the only Jewish member of the delegation, first described his conversation with Keng in an interview with Victor Rietel on radio station WEVD on Jan. 5. Squadron said that Keng's comments to him indicated the possibility that China may be easing its stand of refusing to recognize Israel.

#### Outraged By Developments

Adding fuel to the diplomatic fire, Bolshakov was reported by Tass as saying that it was also discovered that China's Foreign Minister Huang Hua had a secret meeting earlier last year in Zurich with Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. In addition, the Pravda article claimed that some time last month Israel was visited by a high-ranking Chinese diplomat from China's Mission to the United Nations.

According to the Tass report of Bolshakov's article, the Chinese diplomat "reportedly told Israeli officials that the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China favorably treated possibilities of establishing Chinese-Israeli relations, specifically an exchange of consulates, or -- for the beginning -- trade representations."

Bolshakov, Tass noted, concluded that the desires of Zionists and Maoists have fully coincided in many spheres. "China backed Israeli-Egyptian separate negotiations," Bolshakov wrote. "It is not at all accidental that the Peking diplomacy, which established relations with Oman, is now actively coaxing other regimes in the area of the Middle East and Near East, known for their anti-Communism and anti-Sovietism."

Describing "international Zionism" as "one of the strike units of the U.S. imperialism in its struggle against 'real socialism,' the 'national liberation movement,' 'progressive Arab countries' and the 'Palestinians,'" Bolshakov stated: "Both Maoists and Zionists are thus teaming up on the grounds of anti-Sovietism, complicity with U.S. imperialism."

#### Significant New Departure:

#### PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING IN CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- In what a spokesman called "a significant new departure in our work," the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations held its first meeting in California here recently at the invitation of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation Council. Theodore Mann of Philadelphia, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, said the meeting was "a major step forward in our efforts to bring West Coast Jewish communities into our deliberations and our policy-making process."

The visit was undertaken, it was learned, in response to a "feeling of isolation" on the part of the Los Angeles Jewish leadership. An estimated 500,000 Jews live in the Greater Los Angeles area, making it the largest American Jewish community outside New York.

However, of the 32 constituent members of the Presidents Conference, only two are headed by Californians, contributing to the sense of distance from the policy-making center in New York. It is understood that the two Californians -- Maxwell E. Greenberg, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Lawrence Weinberg, chairman of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, both of Los Angeles -- joined in their community's call for greater input into the work of the Presidents Conference.

The meeting marked the first time local leaders of the 32 national Jewish secular and religious bodies that make up the Presidents Conference had taken part in its deliberations. More than 300 persons, representing a cross-section of Los Angeles branches of Presidents Conference member groups, attended the special session, which was chaired by Mann. The agenda included discussions of U.S.-Israel relations, relations with the media and with Congress, the United Nations scene and other current issues of Presidents Conference concern.

During talks with community leaders, plans were discussed for direct participation by the Los Angeles Jewish community in the work of the Presidents Conference. This will include regular and frequent contact between the Presidents Conference in New York and Jewish leaders in Los Angeles using the latest communications technology, according to Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Confer-

ence, who accompanied Mann to California. Murray Wood, executive director of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council, was in charge of arrangements for the two-day meeting.

# **U.S. JEWISH LEADERS ASSURED ABOUT RIGHTS OF JEWS UNDER KHOUMEINI**

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders were given assurances by representatives of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini here that Jews in Iran would be given full civil and religious rights. It was also learned that this assurance was also given personally by Khomeini to a large delegation of Iranian Jews who called on him in Teheran this week.

Questions on the status of Iranian Jews were raised by Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, and Daniel Mariaschian, director of the Middle Eastern Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at a private meeting last Saturday with two of the Ayatollah's representatives in the U.S., Shahrar Roudani and Reza Sadra. A larger meeting with about seven Jewish officials was tentatively scheduled for tomorrow.

Gold told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the two Iranians tried to reassure them about the future of Jews in Iran. Roudani, who is spokesman for Khomeini's Interim Committee to Oversee the Activities of the Iranian Diplomatic Corps in the U.S., said Jews, along with Christians and Zoroastrians would have "full civil rights -- both political and religious."

But Roudani told Gold and Mariaschian that these rights would not apply to the some 200,000 to 300,000 members of Baha'i, a religious sect whose world center is in Haifa. The Baha'i were given some prominent positions by the Shah and Khomeini considers them a political group not a religious minority.

## **Says Jews Would Be Free To Leave**

Gold reported that while Roudani expressed the wish that Iranian Jews would remain in that country, he said they would be free to leave and would be allowed to sell their property. Recently, the Iranian government had imposed a \$3000 limit on the amount of assets that could be taken out of the country.

Roudani said that Iran will not sell oil to Israel, South Africa or Rhodesia, Gold said. He noted that the Iranian spokesman indicated that Iran would not participate in any military efforts against Israel since it expects to be chiefly concerned with domestic problems for the next three to five years. Gold pointed out that Jews, however, would not be able to express support for Israel, according to Roudani.

## **Rabbis Welcome Khomeini's Return**

This is expressed in a report on the prospects for Iran by Dr. George E. Gruen, the AJC Committee's director of Middle East affairs, released today. The report said Iranian rabbis welcomed Khomeini when he returned from France and "were received cordially." After the government of Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiari collapsed Sunday, Khomeini "received a large delegation from the Iranian Jewish community and welcomed them warmly and again reassured them of full rights so long as they did not engage in treason." Gruen viewed treason as an apparent reference to support for Israel. He ex-

pressed concern that Khomeini's hostility to Israel "may spill over in the minds of the populace into animosity toward the local Jewish community as well."

Gruen said that what eventually happens will depend on how much influence will be wielded by Mehdi Bazargan, the 74-year-old leader chosen by Khomeini as Prime Minister. "As a founder of the Iranian Committee for Human Rights, he (Bazargan) is considered sensitive to the rights of minorities," Gruen noted.

## **JAMIESON: LET'S NOT LEAN ON ISRAEL**

By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Speaking "off the record and from the heart," Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, told the seventh annual conference of the Canada-Israel Committee here today that he has "a total acceptance of Israel's desire for peace and the Israeli people's total commitment to peace." Therefore, he declared, "It is unreasonable to lean on Israel to make concessions just because it takes a little longer to make peace."

"Who more than Israel has a vested interest in getting peace foster in the Middle East region?" Jamieson asked. "But we must recognize that Israel is not ready to grasp an illusion of peace without the accompanying security because doing otherwise it might be forced to fight for its own life," he said. He said he was "not pessimistic one moment because the Camp David negotiations lasted so long."

Jamieson spoke extemporaneously for the most part at what was a belated celebration of Israel's 30th anniversary. The only prepared portion of his remarks was an introductory paragraph in which he explained the policies of the government of Premier Pierre Elliott Trudeau toward the Arab boycott of Israel. He said that "the implementation of the government's anti-boycott principles and decisions had to proceed on the basis of a case-by-case examination."

Jamieson acknowledged that "there were weaknesses we discovered in the implementation of government policies which had to be amended." He cited as examples "negative certificates" which affirm "that the merchandise is not produced in Israel or statements of fact that the Canadian company does not trade with Israel." He said these "had to be eliminated as inconsistent with our principles. We don't like any kind of boycotts because as a nation we live on trade."

Jamieson reviewed the international situation and observed that "the end of the Middle East tension will not have a world-wide influence on other trouble spots on earth." He said it was too early to assess the effects of the revolution in Iran on Israel. He stated, however, "I am concerned with the role Israel is going to play in the world because Israel is an increasingly valuable ally of the West and Jews and non-Jews alike should see to it that Israel remains in the future a democratic society, an example for other nations and an ally of the Western world."

Jamieson declared: "We in Canada must see to it that when Israel is making such tremendous sacrifices we should stand ready to help Israel with oil and material assistance. Israel has a great will to survive and no one in this country will tolerate any attempt on its sovereignty and security."

Mordechai Shalev, Israel's Ambassador to Canada, said Canada has always supported Israel against vilification at the United Nations, UNESCO and other world forums and supports the current peace process in the Middle East.

**SIR ISRAEL BRODIE DEAD AT 83**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Sir Israel Brodie, former Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, was buried today at Willesden Jewish Cemetery here. He died yesterday at the age of 83. The present Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, interrupted a visit to the United States to deliver a eulogy at the graveside. The funeral was attended by a large gathering of Jewish clergy, Jewish lay leaders, Israel's Ambassador Avraham Kidron and Israel's Consul General Gideon Yarden.

Until he retired in 1965, Brodie was Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth. He was elected to the post in 1948, two years after the death of his predecessor, Rabbi Dr. J.H. Hertz. Brodie was the first Chief Rabbi who did not die in office. Following Brodie's retirement he was given the title of Chief Rabbi Emeritus. In 1969 he was made a Knight Bachelor of the British Empire. He also remained president of the European Conference of Orthodox Rabbis, which he founded in 1958.

Brodie was the sixth Chief Rabbi of Britain, a post recognized by act of Parliament as the figurehead of Anglo-Jewry, embracing all shades of Ashkenazim and the older established Sephardi communities. He was the second Chief Rabbi to be born in England and the first to be educated here as well.

He was born in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England's major northeast port, on May 10, 1895, the second of five children of Aaron and Sheina Brodie. His father came from Kovno, Lithuania, in about 1890, and was descended from Zvi Hirsch Braude, the saintly and learned Rabbi of Salant. His maternal grandfather, too, was from Kovno, where he was a preacher at a synagogue. Brodie's father was a humble peddler who joined in study of the Torah and imbued a love of learning into his children.

In addition to attending the local Talmud Torah, Brodie had Hebrew lessons from a local rabbi and later studied under Rabbi Y.M. Sandelson, the Rav of Newcastle. Although he did less well in his secular studies, the young Brodie for a time considered entering the Indian Civil Service, in which a number of other English Jews had achieved distinction.

**Chose Path Of Jewish Studies**

However, he chose the path of Jewish studies and, in 1912 at the age of 17, was enrolled at Jews College, London, founded in the previous century to train Anglo-Jewish ministers. He immediately excelled in Hebrew and Semitics both at Jews College and at University College, London, where, in 1915, he graduated as Bachelor of Arts in Hebrew, Syriac and Arabic.

The following year he won a scholarship to Balliol College, at Oxford University, to read for a higher degree. But with Britain at war he was impatient to join the forces. In 1917, he was commissioned as the youngest Chaplain in the British army and served on the Western front with distinction.

After demobilization in 1919, he returned to Oxford and became a Bachelor of Literature for his thesis entitled "An Inquiry into the Sources of the Book of Anan, the Founder of Karaism." On returning to London, he combined studies at Jews College with welfare work among the poor Jewish communities of the East End. There he met Fanny Levine who became his wife 23 years

later and who survives him.

In 1923, after receiving his Rabbinical diploma, Brodie accepted a call to the ministry of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, Australia, and became Rav Beth Din of the State of Victoria. He remained in Australia for more than 14 years during which he played an important part in the Jewish community's development throughout the country. He was especially active in youth work and encouraged the creation of the Jewish Welfare Society to assist the Jewish unemployed during the depression of the 1930s.

**Was A Dedicated Zionist**

As a dedicated Zionist, affiliated with no single party, he became the first president of the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand, with Gen. Sir John Monash as honorary president. He also helped form the Women's Zionist Organization in Australia.

But increasingly he was homesick for England and in 1937 he returned to Oxford intending to work for a doctorate in Talmudic studies. He also became visiting lecturer in homiletics and a tutor at Jews College and did anti-defamation work on behalf of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Once again war interrupted his academic studies. In 1939, he rejoined the Army Chaplaincy Corps and in 1940, he was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force and took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk. Later, he became senior Jewish Chaplain to the Royal Air Force in the Middle East with the rank of Squadron Leader. In Cairo he was in spiritual charge of more than 10,000 Jewish troops, mostly from Palestine. They included a number of young airmen banned from becoming pilots by the government in London. Brodie intervened and the ban was removed.

His last years as Chief Rabbi were overshadowed by what came to be known as the "Jacobs Affair." It centered on Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs, the gifted lecturer at Jews College, who had been expected to become the college principal after the retirement of Rabbi Dr. Isidore Epstein. But Brodie and the Beth Din prevented this following criticism of some of Jacobs' views on Jewish tradition.

Jacobs shocked the Orthodox United Synagogue, Britain's largest Jewish organization, by contending that the Torah contained human as well as divine elements. Subsequently, too, Brodie prevented Jacobs from reoccupying his post as Minister of London's New West End Synagogue.

**WEIZMANN INSTITUTE, HEBREW U. GET****\$1.5 MILLION FROM REVSON FOUNDATION**

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Two grants totaling \$1,500,000 to promote higher education and scientific research in Israel have been awarded to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Weizmann Institute of Science of Rehovot by the Charles H. Revson Foundation of New York. Announcement of the award, which will be shared equally by the Israeli institutions, was made in a joint statement by Avraham Harman, president of Hebrew University, and Prof. Michael Sela, president of the Weizmann Institute.

Under terms of the four-year grant, funds allocated to Hebrew University will be used to create 12 new Charles H. Revson Fellowships for postdoctoral lecturers and to provide tenured faculty appointments for a small number of outstanding academicians. Funds designated for Weizmann Institute will be used to establish seven new Career Development Chairs to provide follow-through support and research underwriting for select young scientists upon completion of their doctoral and postdoctoral studies.