

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND IRAN OFFICIALLY ENDED: LAST 33 ISRAELIS RETURN HOME FROM TEHRAN By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- The long close cooperation between Israel and Iran officially came to a sad end today with the return of the last 33 Israelis from Teheran. The large Iranian delegation here also announced it had been recalled home.

The end of what had mainly been economic relations, since Iran had never established official diplomatic relations with Israel, came amid reports from Teheran that the government controlled by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had turned over the Israeli trade mission building to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Iran announced last night it was expelling all Israelis.

PLO chief Yasir Arafat, who yesterday received a warm welcome in Iran, presided at the takeover today and was reported to have said: "We freed Iran today and we will do the same with Palestine tomorrow. Under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini and with the help of Iranian freedom fighters, we will free Palestine."

Arafat, who was the first foreign official visiting Iran since the revolution, was told by Khomeini that Iranians would "turn to the issue of victory over Israel" once the new Iranian government had consolidated its strength. Arafat reportedly declared that the Iranian revolution had "turned upside down" the balance of forces in the Middle East. He said "every Iranian freedom fighter is represented in the Palestinian revolution."

The returning Israelis, who arrived shortly after midnight today, were welcomed home almost as returning hostages, by a high-level delegation that included Yosef Ciechanover, director general of the Foreign Ministry; Mordechai Hod and Mordechai Ben Ari, the director general and board chairman, respectively, of El Al; and senior Jewish Agency officials.

### 'We Came Out Of Hell'

The returnees included El Al, Jewish Agency and economic mission personnel. Among them was Mordechai Ben Porat, a former MK who went to Iran on a special mission to help bring Iranian Jews to Israel. He said in the last few days there were a growing number of Jews who wanted to leave but the new Iranian government has banned all Iranians from emigration.

"We came out of hell," one of the returning Israelis said. "These were the most difficult days of our life." The Israelis had stayed in hiding during the last few days in a Teheran suburb and were evacuated along with close to 800 Americans last night to Frankfurt from where they were flown by El Al to Israel. They were apparently told when they arrived here not to talk to the press, but the agony they had gone through could be seen on their faces.

They said that the Iranian security people at the airport had been especially rough on them before they left, going through their luggage more than once. Some were afraid that they would not be allowed to leave, and they did not feel safe until the plane actually took off.

Meanwhile, as the Iranians here closed up their mission located in Ramat Gan, one Iranian told an Israeli reporter that "this is a very sad moment for all of us. We liked the work and the people here."

## WEST BANK PUBLIC FIGURES SEND CONGRATULATORY LETTERS TO KHOMEINI

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- A West Bank ledger has sent a letter of congratulations to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran declaring that the "victory of the Moslem revolution" in Iran laid an important basis for "the battle for the liberation of the occupied territory." The letter was sent over the weekend and made public by Sheikh Hilmi Al-Mohassib, chairman of the East Jerusalem Supreme Moslem Council, the highest Moslem authority under the Israeli administration.

At least two other public figures on the West Bank are known to have sent similar letters to Khomeini but did not disclose their contents. These and Mohassib's letter were the first public expression of support for the Iranian leader from Arabs under Israeli administration. They were sent amid reports from Teheran that the new regime in Iran backed the Palestinian cause and intended to help in the struggle against Israel. Mohassib noted that Khomeini's victory strengthened the status of Moslems throughout the world.

## DAYAN ON WAY TO CAMP DAVID: SAYS NEW TALKS ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE U.S.

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and his aides left for the U.S. today for a new round of talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance beginning Wednesday at Camp David. The objective is to remove the obstacles blocking the way to an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Dayan replied affirmatively when asked by reporters at Ben Gurion Airport if there was any point to the second Camp David meeting inasmuch as the Egyptians have announced they will not retreat from their previous positions.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry stated yesterday that Khalil will not bring any new concessions to his talks with Dayan and Vance. Dayan observed before his departure that the meeting was initiated by the U.S., "and apparently they have some proposals that may be acceptable to both sides. It is all in the hands of the Americans," Dayan said. He added, however, that the U.S. has not sent any fixed agenda for the talks, probably because Vance was accompanying President Carter on his visit to Mexico last week.

Dayan is expected back in Israel next Sunday to report to the Cabinet on the results of the first stage of the Camp David discussions. In a televised interview over the weekend, he stated that a summit conference would be necessary even if the ministerial level talks at Camp David are "a staggering success." He said he would regard them as "a great success" for Israel if they produced a situation in which all three parties -- Israel, Egypt and the U.S. -- "could assume that they would be able to clinch the treaty at a subsequent summit" conference.

Dayan also explained that his remarks last week about the Palestine Liberation Organization's importance in the peace-making process had no

"operative" meaning inasmuch as he was not proposing that Israel sit down and negotiate with the PLO. He said the intent of his statement was to influence Israelis to take cognizance of objective realities.

The Foreign Minister said he did not see his role in the new talks as that of a "mailman" merely to "read out Israel's position, listen to the Egyptian and American positions, note them down and go back to Jerusalem to report." He said his role, as he saw it, would be to "probe ... to put forward test ideas, test these, in order to determine where, in our estimation, understanding or agreement could be reached despite the differences of opinion."

He noted that after "a few days," the Israeli delegation would return to Jerusalem to report what transpired and to give its assessment of what might be the fall-back positions or flexibility of the Egyptians so that "we (in the Cabinet) can say to ourselves what are in effect the conditions upon which, in our assessment, it would be possible, through further, perhaps protracted, negotiations, to base an agreement."

#### Five Issues On The Agenda

He said he had no information whatsoever on what proposals the U.S. might offer at Camp David to bridge the gaps between Israel and Egypt. He disclosed that the issues on the agenda would include five unresolved treaty issues: the "review clause" (Article IV); the "priority of obligations clause" (Article VI, paragraph 5); the "linkage" clause (Article VI, paragraph 2) and the "target date" letter dealing with the establishment of autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt. The Egyptians have insisted that autonomy must be implemented, at least in Gaza, before envoys can be exchanged.

Regarding the event in Iran, Dayan said he thought the revolution there would make Saudi Arabia and Jordan even more reluctant to support Egypt in the peace process. He believed the effect on the U.S. has been to inject a sense of urgency into Washington's attitude toward the peace talks with Egypt and that the U.S. was anxious to conclude a treaty to stabilize its own position in the region. According to Dayan, the Americans felt that time was working against a treaty and this could mean new American pressure on Israel for concessions to speed the process.

#### COMPOSITION OF ISRAEL'S DELEGATION

Jerusalem, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- An eight-member team of senior officials and diplomats will accompany Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at his talks with Egyptian Premier Mustafa Khalil and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at Camp David this week. Premier Menachem Begin and Dayan discussed the composition of the Israeli delegation over the weekend and Dayan announced it to the Cabinet yesterday.

In addition to the Foreign Minister, it will include Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir; Meir Rosene, the Foreign Ministry's legal advisor; Eliahu Ben-Elissar, director general of the Prime Minister's Office; Brig. Gen. Ephraim Paron, Begin's military aide; Ephraim Evron, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.; Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; and Dayan's two political aides, Naftali Lavie and Elyahu Rubinstein. Lavie told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that kosher food will be provided for those members of the delegation who require it.

#### TREATY POSSIBLE IF U.S. DOES NOT ENCOURAGE EGYPT WITH EXPECTATIONS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Yigal Allon, former Deputy Premier of Israel, told the annual convention of the Labor Zionist Alliance here that the "temptation for Egypt to get back the Sinai is so great that if the United States government does not create unobtainable expectations in Cairo for greater concessions from Israel, a peace treaty may be signed."

The weekend convention ended today with the election of Prof. Allen Pollack, 40, a member of the World Zionist Organization Executive, as president, succeeding I.K. Goldstein of New York who was elected vice-president and chairman of the IZA administrative committee. Among his numerous activities, Pollack is also a member of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency and of the board of directors of the United Israel Appeal, and is a member of the American Zionist Federation executive committee. Under a Ford Foundation grant he was a Visiting Fellow at the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute of the University of Leningrad. He was instrumental in establishing the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East.

Allon, who is world chairman of the Labor Zionist Movement, spoke against the backdrop of the scheduled resumption of Israeli-Egyptian peace talks at Camp David on Wednesday, also declared that signing of a peace treaty depended on Egypt dropping "its strange demand to weaken its commitment to live up to the maintenance of peace, and agrees that the treaty is not conditional upon any act or developments between the other Arab states and Israel."

#### Israel Will Not Accept Pressure

Allon told the 500 delegates he hoped that no U.S. pressure "will be used against Israel to accept a treaty which is conditioned by the behavior of other factors or countries other than Egypt and Israel." He declared that Israel would not accept, "even under pressure," any compromise which would jeopardize Israel's capability "of defending herself by herself."

Allon said the Camp David frameworks, "in spite of deficiencies, are binding. They have been signed by legitimate governments and approved by the Knesset and they should be honored on a reciprocal basis by the Egyptians." He said a peace treaty would have been signed by Dec. 17, the target date set at Camp David, if the Egyptian government had been faithful to the Camp David agreements and approved the text for a peace treaty which was worked out at Blair House.

Allon called on the Egyptian government not to be deterred by the "rejectionist elements" in the Arab world and sign the peace treaty "in good faith for the benefit of both countries."

#### Doubts About Carter Administration

Prof. Shlomo Avineri, former director general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, said at the Saturday evening convention session that "there may be grave doubts" whether the Carter Administration "really grasps some of the movements which have now been unleashed in the Middle East," a reference to the upheaval in Iran.

He added that regardless of these considerations, "they should never be used as an alibi by Israel in the substantive negotiations that will be undertaken, especially those" of the resumption of talks at Camp David.

Avineri said that among the considerations the Israeli government will have to take into ac-

extent in its peace talks are not only problems of security and power balance, but also Israel's standing "in the Jewish community in the world" which "tends to be predominantly liberal and identified with the more open-minded and intellectual sectors of the population."

Avineri warned that if Jews throughout the world ever became convinced that "what is foremost in the Israeli government's mind is territorial aggrandizement and not security, a tragic cleavage between Israel and the diaspora might be opened." He said Israel must be a Jewish State "in the sense that it will reflect the pluralism and diversity of Jewish life in the diaspora."

#### U.S. DEFENDS ITS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT AGAINST PRESS ALLEGATIONS

GENEVA, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Edward Mezvinsky, the U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, cited the State Department's report on human rights, formally issued in Washington Feb. 10, as "a balanced and fair picture" of the human rights situation in the Arab territories occupied by Israel. His remarks were made during a debate over Israeli practices in the territories.

He said he wanted "to take this opportunity to make absolutely clear the distinction between some of the allegations carried in press reports and the findings in the State Department's Human Rights report." Mezvinsky was referring to the Washington Post story of Feb. 6 reporting allegations that Israel systematically tortured Palestinians arrested for security offenses.

The Post story was apparently the basis for the cable sent to the Israel government by the Human Rights Commission last Thursday expressing "deep concern about the systematic torture practiced by Israel against Palestinian detainees." The cable was approved last Wednesday night by a vote of 19-3 with eight abstentions.

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Joel Barromi, charged that the "text" was adopted without any shred of proof or evidence, on the basis of vague assertions and assumptions. The whole exercise was an unworthy charade.

Referring to the State Department report, Mezvinsky said: "There have been some credible reports that instances of ill treatment have occurred. But our report does not state that systematic torture is being practiced by the Israeli authorities. I should also note that in repeated discussions with Israeli authorities we have been assured that mistreatment of detainees is forbidden by Israeli law and that violators are punished."

Mezvinsky cited "another important paragraph that deserves emphasis" in the State Department's report which noted that since 1977, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) "have been given increased access to detainees... without witnesses during their period of interrogation not later than the 14th day after arrest; to determine identity, state of health and conditions of detention." In that connection, the U.S. delegate said, "I would note that Israel is one of the very few nations in the world that permits ICRC access as early as 14 days."

#### WOMEN RESERVE SOLDIERS STAGE PROTEST

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Several scores of women reserve soldiers and their supporters demonstrated outside the Defense Ministry last

Friday to protest the 24-hour imprisonment of Dina Gilad who had refused to report for military service, because of a new law that automatically exempts religious women from such duties. Ms. Gilad, who is not religious, was released Friday after she agreed to report for induction yesterday.

She said she had made her point which is that non-religious women are discriminated against by being required to serve while women claiming religious beliefs do not. The demonstrators took up the cry with signs reading "Dina is a Victim of the Coalition" and "Dina is in the Can While the Religious Ones are Free."

One of the reservists said she would follow Gilad's example and refuse to do service. "It is inconceivable that because some girls are exempted from service we have to carry the burden," she said. Another asked, "Why do these (religious) girls have the right to live in peace and security and let others make their security possible?"

The Defense Ministry appeared embarrassed by the episode and Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori met with a deputation of protesters. The Ministry issued a statement Saturday night saying that there has been no increase in the proportion of eligible women exempted from military service since the new law went into effect last year.

The law was passed with government backing at the demand of the religious parties in the coalition. It grants exemption to any woman on her own declaration that she is religious. Previously, women claiming exemption on religious grounds were carefully screened and questioned by a panel to make sure they were bona fide.

According to the Defense Ministry, an average of between 20-40 percent of draft-age women were exempted from service over the last 10 years. Since the law took effect, the average exemptions on religious or other grounds has been 27 percent, a Ministry spokesman said. He said that at least five women who were exempted after declaring they were religious were found to have made false statements and will be prosecuted.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Some 110 senior scientists from various countries will come to Israel by the end of this month to attend a scientific symposium commemorating Albert Einstein's 100th birthday. The symposium will take place in Jerusalem under the auspices of the Israel Science Academy, the Van Leer Institute, the Jerusalem Foundation and the International Aspen Foundation.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A new wave of labor unrest has begun, mainly among salaried professionals in government service and public institutions. It is taking the form of partial strikes, work slowdowns and various "sanctions," usually to support demands for higher wages.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Violence flared anew Saturday in the northern suburb of Ramat between secular residents and religious Jews who tried to prevent them from driving on the Sabbath. Some 200 residents charged into a stone-throwing crowd of religious zealots. Many of the latter, from the Mea Shearim quarter, fled as baton-wielding police intervened to break up the melee. The incident was the first involving a physical clash between the secular and religious Jews in the neighborhood.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- The Dutch national tourist office has started a campaign to promote Arab tourism to Holland. Arabs who until now used to spend their vacations in London seem to be tiring of that city.

# **HOLOCAUST COMMISSION EXTENDS 'DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE' TO FULL WEEK OF APRIL 22-29 TO INCLUDE YOM HASHOAH**

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust has extended the "Days of Remembrance" for victims of Nazism from two days this year in late April to the full week of April 22-29. The week's period includes Yom Hashoah, the internationally recognized Holocaust Memorial Day that is to be marked this year on April 24.

Congress and the President originally set the United States days of remembrance for April 28 and 29 and these will also be incorporated in the week's observance, the Commission decided last Thursday at its first meeting since it was named last November. It met in the old Executive Office Building after its members were sworn in at the White House by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-Mass.).

The 34-member Commission and its advisory group of 27 members will meet here again April 24 in a national ceremony of commemoration whose program will be planned by a Congressional group and the ceremony itself organized by the federal government, the Commission's office said. The co-chairmen of the Commission's subcommittee for the commemoration are Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.) and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of New York, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee.

## **Call To Commemorate Remembrance Days**

All churches and synagogues and "all Americans of good conscience" will be asked to commemorate the Remembrance Days in their services and prayers. The week's events will be marked at their opening April 22 with services at Temple Emanu-El in New York and in their closing April 29 in the National Cathedral of the Episcopal Church in Washington.

The Commission is to call on the nation's Governors and Mayors to issue proclamations in observance of the Remembrance Days. It will also co-sponsor regional commemorations with local communities. The media and schools will be urged to recognize the days and their implications for Americans, the Commission said.

The terms of a permanent American memorial for the Holocaust victims were not decided by the Commission as yet but, according to an official, the initial discussions seemed to be more in the direction of a museum with an educational program than a monument of bronze or stone.

At the swearing in ceremony, O'Neill pointed out that the Holocaust represented a fundamental assault on the rule of law and Congress is pledged to uphold that rule. Edward Sanders, representing the White House, told of President Carter's personal commitment to the Commission's work. Author Elie Wiesel, the Commission's chairman, pointed to the plight of the Vietnamese "boat people" in discussing the contemporary implications of the Holocaust.

## **CHURCH CALLS FOR NEW PEACE POLICY**

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) called last night for a peace policy in the Middle East based on a strategy that rewards those nations who work to construct complete and enlarge peace. Church, who is the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spoke at the 71st annual dinner of Bnei Zion, at which he received Bnei Zion's

American-Israel Friendship Medal from Paul Satro, Bnei Zion president. The dinner was attended by 2000 persons.

Church called on the United States and its allies to be "prepared to invest generously in the furtherance of peace." He said: "Let us begin our new partnership with the first two peace-makers, Israel and Egypt. We can help Egyptian President Anwar Sadat with his pressing economic problems. Take, for example, Egypt's dwindling harvest."

Church pointed out that "Israel's advanced irrigation techniques could be of great help to the Egyptians in making their deserts bloom as the spectacular success of the Negev proves. The opportunities are ample for the creation of joint projects for water desalination, reclamation, and solar energy."

He commended President Carter for taking a first step in this direction "by recommending special assistance to Israel for the re-location of the military airfields in the Sinai. We must also be aware that Israel, like Egypt, will require help in building up its civilian infrastructure in the Negev to accommodate the new lines of territorial withdrawal." Carter, Israel's Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan sent messages of praise to Bnei Zion for choosing Church for its award.

## **UNIFIL SOLDIER ARRESTED FOR DELIVERING EXPLOSIVES TO TERRORIST**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19 (JTA) -- Israeli forces yesterday arrested a Senegalese soldier of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) caught handing a quantity of explosives and detonators to an Arab terrorist from the West Bank. Both men were arrested in Acre and were promptly remanded to prison by a local magistrate. (At the United Nations in New York, Israel's Ambassador Yehuda Blum lodged a formal protest with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. Waldheim expressed regret over the incident and promised to investigate the matter.)

According to security sources, the soldier confessed under interrogation that he had delivered explosives and other material from Lebanon to terrorists in Israel and the West Bank on several previous occasions. It was learned that he had been recruited by El Fatah, the terrorist branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which offered him money for his services. It was not known if his superiors were aware of his activities.

The soldier had crossed the Ras Nikura checkpoint from Lebanon yesterday in a military jeep which carried a spare tire filled with explosives and 10 detonators.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Moscow activist Irina Gildengorn and her husband Bronislav Lajner, who have been refused exit visas since 1974, have now been promised visas to Israel and expect to leave within the next two months. It was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. Ms. Gildengorn is the leader of the women's group of Moscow refusniks who have staged numerous demonstrations and sit-ins at the Kremlin during the last 18 months.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The world assembly of Jewish war veterans called last Thursday an Arab war veterans to urge their governments to speed up the peace process. The resolution was made at the end of a five-day conference in Jerusalem. Some 1500 delegates, representing 500,000 Jewish war veterans from throughout the world, took part in the assembly. They represented France, Belgium, Great Britain, U.S., Canada, South Africa, Australia, Gibraltar and Israel.