

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

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

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Thursday, May 3, 1979

No. 85

## ISRAELIS MARK INDEPENDENCE DAY IN A RELAXED MOOD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) -- Israelis celebrated the 31st anniversary of independence in a relaxed mood today. Possibly reflecting the fact that their nation was finally at peace with at least one of its neighbors, the emphasis this Independence Day was on family and social gatherings rather than mass rallies and parades.

Youngsters took to the seashore last night to sing and dance around bon-fires. Their elders attended parties, mostly at the homes of family or friends. Some hotels offered Independence Day dinners with entertainment. Today saw a mass exodus of families from the cities with picnic baskets. The beaches, woodlands and parks were jammed. By 10 a.m. police announced that all parking spaces at recreation areas were filled.

Security measures were tightened, as is the case on every Independence Day. Only one security-related incident was reported. In Dimona an explosive device was found under the platform in the main square where the mayor and town councilmen were scheduled to speak. It was safely dismantled by police sappers. The only sour note of the day was the absence of life guards from the beaches. The lifeguards, currently engaged in a wage dispute, decided to take the day off like the rest of the citizens.

Premier Menachem Begin delivered his Independence Day address on radio and television last night. It was less a political speech than an appeal to Israelis to improve the quality of life in the country in order to attract more immigrants, especially from the West. "Why cannot we be as clean as the Swiss?" Begin asked. "In Switzerland no one drops even a cigarette butt on the street and if someone finds a butt he stoops to pick it up and put it in the bin." He also called on Israelis to improve their manners and mode of conduct toward one another.

The Premier announced a Cabinet decision to freeze all public building -- except in Jerusalem, for hospitals, and for Project Renewal -- in order to channel manpower and resources towards homes for young couples and for poorly housed families, as well as for immigrants. Housing would be "at the top of our list of priorities," Begin pledged. "I know the Minister of Housing (David Levy) will be doing his utmost to solve the problems," Begin foresaw "tens of thousands" of new homes being built in the coming 30 months.

### Jews In The USSR, Arab Lands

Discussing Soviet Jewry, Begin said some 50,000 Jews would be leaving the USSR this year. He stated that the situation of Soviet Jews who decide to go to countries other than Israel after applying for visas to Israel is "a serious and negative phenomenon, and we shall try to put an end to it" so that all or most of them would come to Israel. If a similar number came from the West, "we could reach 100,000 a year -- which should be the annual minimum," Begin said.

He promised to continue efforts to secure the release of prisoners of Zion still incarcerated

in Soviet jails and to achieve free exit rights for all Soviet Jews who sought them. Begin said that President Carter had pledged to continue his efforts, too, to achieve those goals.

"Nor have we forgotten our brothers in Syria," Begin declared. "We cannot understand the sadism that keeps them 'in a ghetto, living in fear.' It would need only a few plane flights to bring the 4000 remaining members of that ancient community to freedom," he stated.

Israel was giving its friends in the West "no rest" in its persistent efforts to achieve Syrian Jewry's release, and, Begin added, the government had tried and was trying to secure the aliya of the entire Falasha community of Ethiopia, although here, as in the case of Syria, he could not publicize the details of efforts that were being made.

Referring to the voyage of the Ashdod, the first Israeli-flag ship to be allowed through the Suez Canal, Begin said its enthusiastic welcome by ordinary Egyptians on the banks of the waterway proved that "the people of Egypt, not just their honored President or their government, truly want peace." (Other Independence Day events, P. 3)

### ISRAEL'S POPULATION IS 3,760,000

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) -- Israel's population at the beginning of its 31st anniversary was estimated as 3,760,000. It was announced today by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The total figure included approximately 3,158,000 Jews and about 600,000 non-Jews, including Moslems, Christians, Druze and others. A census after the Jewish State was established 31 years ago showed there were 716,700 Jews and 156,000 non-Jews. Since 1948 the Jewish population has increased by 490 percent, mainly due to immigration. The non-Jewish population increased by 384 percent, mostly by natural increase but also by immigration under a program of uniting split families.

### ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN FRANCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 2 (JTA) -- A self-proclaimed anti-Semitic organization has claimed responsibility for a bomb which caused slight damage to the offices of the French daily "Le Monde" early Sunday morning. The building was closed at the time. A few windows were broken. There were no injuries.

An organization calling itself The League of French Fighters Against the Jewish Domination of France later telephoned French news agencies to say the attack was carried out to protest "the role played by the French press in the Jewish tyranny over the country by releasing only partisan and lying information."

The explosion was the latest in a series of similar attacks carried out over the past few weeks against news media and various Jewish installations. None of the attacks, except the one on a Jewish student canteen in Paris, caused injury or serious damage, but their repetition is considered "grave" by the French police.

On April 28 two small incendiary bombs which failed to go off were found outside a Jewish home for refugees and elderly people. On April 27 a memorial in honor of Georges Mandel, a French-Jewish minister murdered by the Nazis, was dam-

aged by a time bomb; and on March 31 an incendiary device which failed to go off was found outside the morning paper "Le Matin."

Police sources say they have no clues to the mysterious organization which has claimed responsibility for all of these attacks. Police officials say the League of French Fighters might actually consist of 2-3 people on the fringes of the extreme right. Jewish organizations and Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan have called on the authorities to use all means at their disposal to apprehend and try the culprits.

#### UNPRECEDENTED: AMERICAN RED CROSS INVITES ISRAEL'S MAGEN DAVID ADOM TO ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- For the first time in its history, the American National Red Cross (ARC), issued an official invitation to Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's Red Cross, to send a delegation to the ARC national convention in Kansas City, Mo., May 13-16 which will be attended by more than 3800 delegates from ARC chapters all over the United States, it was announced here today by the American Red Magen David for Israel (ARMDI).

George M. Elsey, ARC president, in his letter of invitation, assured the MDA delegates of a warm welcome and invited them to a 10-day tour of ARC chapters throughout the country. The MDA delegation will be headed by Prof. Moshe Many, chairman of the international department.

Elsey also extended an invitation to ARMADI, MDA's sole support arm in the U.S., whose delegation will consist of Joseph Handelsman, national president; Benjamin Saxe, executive vice president; David Sidman and Pearl Stahl, national directors.

Despite the fact that MDA has been consistently denied membership in the International Red Cross (IRC), because the MDA red Star of David symbol has not been accepted, the ARC has always extended to MDA its full support and cooperation. As evidence of this support, ARC recently instructed its chapters to include the MDA red Star of David flag whenever they display the other three recognized Red Cross flags -- the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the Red Crescent and Lion, ARMADI reported.

#### IVORY COAST UN ENVOY HOPES ISRAELI-AFRICAN TIES WILL BE RESTORED

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- Addressing a World Jewish Congress group here, the Ivory Coast Ambassador to the United Nations, Amokan Edjanpan Thiemele, expressed the hope that the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and all subsequent decisions would be followed by the eventual restoration of diplomatic relations between African countries and Israel. "Israel has maintained good commercial relations with many African countries, including the Ivory Coast, even without diplomatic relations," he said.

Thiemele doubted that the radical Arab members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), notably Algeria and Libya, would succeed in carrying out the Baghdad resolution to expel Egypt from the OAU. "Egypt was above all an African country," he said, "and African countries were therefore likely to show solidarity with it in its peace efforts."

Libya's incursions into Uganda and Chad, which have violated the principle of territorial integrity, would probably affect the views of many African countries south of the Sahara in

relation to the Middle East conflict, he said.

The WJC said the Ambassador's views are significant because most of the African countries have not yet reacted officially to the peace treaty, although many of them praised the Camp David accord at the last session of the UN General Assembly. They are expected to discuss the situation in the Middle East at the upcoming summits of the OAU in Liberia and the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana in preparation for the UN Assembly debate this coming fall. The Ivory Coast was one of the last countries to break diplomatic relations with Israel and had also voted against the 1975 General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

#### AFRICAN CONTINGENTS IN HAPOEL GAMES

TÉL AVIV, May 2 (JTA) -- The 11th Hapoel Games opened here this afternoon with athletes from 25 countries taking part in a week of athletics, field events and other sports spread around the country. Among the contingents are two from Africa: one from the Ivory Coast and one from Kenya.

This is the first time since the Yom Kippur War that any African teams are taking part in sports events in Israel -- and the crowd gave the two-man teams a spirited reception when they marched in behind their flags during the colorful opening ceremony. President Yitzhak Navon helicoptered from Jerusalem to open the Games. He was joined on the rostrum by Histadrut Secretary General Yehoram Meshel. Hapoel is the Histadrut's sports organization.

#### BEGIN STRESSES THERE IS NO TARGET DATE FOR AUTONOMY By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said today that he does not plan to fix a target date for the autonomy program on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and he will not let the pressures of time dictate the mood of the forthcoming negotiations with Egypt. Begin made his remarks in an independence day address on Israel Radio.

"We know exactly what we are doing," he said. "We will convene the 11-man committee on autonomy and discuss autonomy itself as well as our rights on the West Bank and needed security arrangements. After we decide, we will not approve the plan in secret but we will publish it before we meet with the Egyptians on the matter. We will also present it to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee." The Premier added that difficulties in the approaching negotiations with Egypt are only "natural," but said he was confident that they could be overcome.

Begin noted that he plans to take Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and 42 Israeli war wounded with him to the forthcoming meeting with President Anwar Sadat at El Arish. The Israeli veterans would meet with Egyptian war wounded during the visit, he said.

He added that Israel has asked the U.S. to consult with it on the development of any U.S.-PLO relations. He observed that if diplomatic relations between the two were formed, it would be a "black day" for Israel.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Josef Mendelevich is reported to have subsisted throughout the Passover holiday on 300 grams of matzoh and water, according to information received by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. He is the only Jewish prisoner still in labor camps from the first and second Leningrad trials.

## WORLD BIBLE QUIZ FOR YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS ANNIVERSARY FETES

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) — Ronen Feldman, 46, of Petach Tikva, took first place in the World Jewish Bible Quiz for youth held today. Arye Greenstein, 16, of the Talpior School of Buenos Aires, tied with Israeli Elazar Tennenbaum for second place. The contest took place at the Jerusalem Theater in the presence of Premier Menachem Begin, who distributed the prizes to the finalists; other Cabinet members and hundreds of invited guests. Eliezer Avarshal, 16, of Strasbourg, France, placed fifth. The remaining finalists were Israelis.

As in previous years, the World Bible Quiz for youth comprised one of the central events marking Israel's 31st Independence Day. Twenty-five youngsters from 10 countries around the world were chosen to compete in this year's quiz following local contests conducted abroad. Constructed around the theme "The People of Israel and Its Land," the quiz organizers grilled the contestants with a series of questions dealing with Eretz Yisrael.

One of the better organized events of the day was an 11-kilometer march on the West Bank by Gush Emunim members and sympathizers. The group's leaders spent two days earlier this week paving a 1-kilometer stretch of road connecting the main highway with the settlement of Topiuch, the concluding point of the march. According to Gush leaders, some 60,000 persons participated.

"The objective of this march was to strengthen our ties with the region," the Gush's political secretary, Gershon Shafat, told reporters after the march. He added that he hoped the Premier and the government would honor their commitment to establish 10 additional Gush Emunim settlements in the near future.

Other parts of the West Bank, however, witnessed a more turbulent Independence Day. A curfew was imposed on Beit Zeit, near Ramallah, after hundreds of students from the local college displayed PLO flags and posters, stoned passing cars, and barricaded the entrance to the nearby Jewish settlement of Neve Tsuf. During the violence which ensued, one student was shot in the chest. Police say that the shots might have come from a car belonging to a settler from Neve Tsuf and they are attempting to locate the automobile.

## ISRAEL'S 31ST ANNIVERSARY MARKED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA) — Representatives of more than two dozen countries joined with White House and State Department officials today in toasting Israel's 31st anniversary as guests of Israeli Ambassador and Mrs. Ephraim Evron at the Israel Embassy. The guests included representatives of Swaziland, the Ivory Coast, most of the West European countries and several from Latin America, including Argentina.

Representing the White House were Presidential Counselor Robert Lipschitz, Special Ambassador to the Middle East Robert Strauss, and special Presidential assistants Edward Sanders and Gerald Rafshoon. From the State Department came Special Ambassador Alfred Atherton and Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders. Others among the 350 guests included Lane Kirkland, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, and Joseph

Sisco, president of the American University.

Earlier in the day, ground was broken for a new Israeli chancery, the first specifically designed to serve as the administrative offices of Israel's Ambassador and ministers and their staffs in Washington. The \$4.5 million building is expected to be completed within 15 months.

With the flags of Israel, the United States and the District of Columbia flying under sunny skies, the symbolic first shovels of dirt were lifted by Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron, Undersecretary of State David Newsom, Washington Mayor Marion Barry, and Saunders.

Newsom congratulated the government of Israel and its people on their 31st Independence Day. He called the new chancery an "architectural hallmark of the Israeli people." Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, of Adas Israel Congregation, in his invocation, recited the 126th Psalm, the same Psalm chosen by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin in his remarks during the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

The new structure, a three-story building with an auditorium as a feature, will be the first of 14 designated by the State Department to serve foreign governments on the 220 acres once used by the National Bureau of Standards, the nation's measurement laboratory now in Gaithersburg, Md. Israel's chancery will be adjacent to a building to be used by Ghana.

## 800 CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, May 2 (JTA) — More than 800 people participated in the celebration of Israel's 31st Independence Day at the Chevre Kadisha Congregation here last night. Rabbi Benjamin Hauer, speaking in Hebrew and English, described the sacrifices of those who died for the creation of the Jewish State. Cantor Joshua Rozenzweig recited the prayer El Mole Rachamim prayer for the deceased.

Zvi Caspi, Consul General of Israel, stressed in his speech "the great breakthrough which took place between us and Egypt, and the signing of a peace treaty with the solemn declaration of no more war." He said that "Israel hopes that there will be a cessation of acts of terror and wanton bloodshed so that we may devote our total efforts, energy and resources to constructive endeavors." He greeted the release of the seven Prisoners of Zion from the Soviet Union and pledged that "Jerusalem is the indivisible capital of Israel and will remain such for ever and ever."

The guest speaker, Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the World Union of General Zionists and a member of the World Zionist Organization Executive, denounced the United Nations "for maneuvering against the State of Israel" and said it "should move out of New York City and make room for a Jewish center in its place." He hailed Premier Menachem Begin of Israel as "the only man" who could bring peace to Israel.

Earlier yesterday, children from Montreal's Jewish schools attended memorial services for those who died fighting for Israel at the Consulate General of Israel. Six candles were lit in memory of the fallen soldiers. This afternoon, more than 2000 guests, including representatives of the diplomatic corps, visited the Consulate to congratulate Caspi on the 31st anniversary of Israel. (Michael Solomon)

NEW YORK (JTA) — The world premiere of Valery Panov's full-length ballet, "The Idiot," will be staged by the Berlin Opera Ballet in Berlin June 25-27.

**U.S. UNIT OF MERCAZ FORMED**

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- The first meeting of the board of Mercaz, the movement to reaffirm Conservative Judaism's participation in the Zionist movement, was held in Washington Monday, under the presidency of Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, and adopted a constitution and certified articles of incorporation under U.S. law. Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly, reported here today. The RA is the international association of Conservative rabbis.

Kelman said the American section of Mercaz, the group which met in Washington, has a membership application pending with the American Zionist Federation. He reported that the 40 American Mercaz board members also arranged for the first annual convention of the American Mercaz to be held here on Nov. 11 and laid plans for publication of a national newsletter, scheduled to be issued quarterly, starting in the fall.

Rabinowitz, rabbi of Adas Israel Synagogue in Washington, where the board meeting was held, told the board members that "now that peace is at hand, we join hands with all other Zionists to strengthen Israel and address ourselves to the quality of life of its society. We reaffirm our commitment and struggle to achieve full religious pluralism in Israel, a luxury we could ill afford when Israel was beleaguered on all sides." Rabinowitz is also chairman of the world-wide Mercaz now in formation, Kelman said.

Kelman said the board meeting also authorized establishment of a Mercaz chapter in Israel, with headquarters probably in Jerusalem. He reported that the Canadian branch of Mercaz, organized a year ago, has applied for membership in the Canadian Zionist Federation. He said a Latin American branch, under the leadership of Rabbi Marshall Meyer, director of the Rabbinical Seminary of Latin America in Buenos Aires, will be applying to the Latin American Zionist Federation for membership.

Kelman said that there was no European Mercaz branch but did report that a provisional group for Conservative Judaism had been set up in Stockholm as part of the European section of the World Council of Synagogues, the international organization of Conservative synagogues.

**Strive For Recognition Of Religious Pluralism**

A statement issued in Washington in advance of the board meeting said the Mercaz movement would "strive for recognition of religious pluralism in the World Zionist Organization and within itself," and would seek to enroll "the unaffiliated within the Zionist movement world-wide and to provide an alternative expression of Zionism for those who object to the Orthodox monopoly in the area of religion."

The statement quoted Rabbi Theodore Friedman, a former RA president, who settled in Israel and who is a founding member of Mercaz, as saying that "the secularists would base Israel on nothing more than people and land, the Orthodox would base Israel on Torah and yet refuse to accept the proposition that Torah must be interpreted in the idiom and frame of reference of a modern democratic state. They adamantly persist in thinking of Judaism reduced to Shabbat, Kashrut, marriage and divorce. On the broad moral and social issues that agitate Israel from time to time, they have nothing to say."

Friedman, who now lives in Jerusalem, is a voting member of the Jewish Agency Executive and the WZO as a representative of the World Council of Synagogues, Kelman said.

**JULIUS KRAVITZ, 68, DIES OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS INFLICTED BY HIS KIDNAPPERS**

CLEVELAND, May 2 (JTA) -- Julius Kravitz, a prominent business executive and local Jewish community leader, died here this morning of gunshot wounds inflicted by two men who kidnapped him and his wife, Georgina, from their Shaker Heights apartment yesterday. Kravitz was 68 years old. Mrs. Kravitz, 56, was reported in satisfactory condition today with bullet wounds in both arms. The kidnapers had demanded \$1.5 million in ransom for himself and his wife. According to reports, the kidnapers shot Kravitz and his wife after the business tycoon failed to raise the ransom money.

Kravitz, a lifelong resident of Cleveland, was board chairman of First National Supermarkets, Inc. which operates a chain of supermarkets in the north-east and mid-west. He was a senior executive of the Pick-n-Pay Supermarkets, owned by First National.

Active for many years in Jewish affairs, Kravitz was a past general co-chairman of the Jewish Welfare Fund, Appeal of Cleveland and past co-chairman of its Special Gifts Division. He was also a past general chairman of the Cleveland State of Israel Bonds campaign and a former president of the Jewish Community Council of Cleveland. Several years ago he was a recipient of the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award, the Herbert Lehman Award and the State of Israel Prime Minister's Medal. Active in the Jewish National Fund, Kravitz helped raise a record-breaking \$300,000 here which resulted in the planting in his name of a forest of 100,000 trees in Israel. He and Mrs. Kravitz were due to visit Israel this summer to dedicate the forest.

Cleveland police were reportedly on the trail of two suspects today. According to Shaker Heights police chief George Lombay, two men gained entry to the Kravitz's apartment in the wealthy Shaker Heights suburb early yesterday morning, one of them posing as a police officer. They held the couple at gunpoint and demanded the ransom. Later, they forced the couple into the Kravitz's car and after driving around for a time, shot them when the ransom money could not be raised. Mrs. Kravitz escaped. Her husband was found later in the afternoon with three bullet wounds in his chest in the car which was abandoned in a field. He was rushed to a Cleveland hospital where surgery was performed. He died at 8:15 this morning.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Chanting "Happy Birthday, Kremlin, let my people go," members of the Committee to Free Marina Tiemkin and Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry staged a "Mayday for Marina Tiemkin" demonstration Tuesday at the Soviet UN Mission. The day also marked Marina's 20th birthday, the sixth she has spent in forced separation from her father, from whom she was abducted by Moscow police agents in February 1973. The Committee to Free Marina Tiemkin was formed recently to concentrate attention and activity on her case. It was given added impetus by the news that Marina had, for the first time since her kidnapping, been able to get a message to her father reaffirming her desire to rejoin him in Israel.