

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI OFFICERS HOLD SECOND SESSION IN EL ARISH

By Gil Sedan

EL ARISH, May 6 (JTA) -- Hundreds of residents of this capital of the Sinai peninsula gave an enthusiastic welcome today to a bus load of Egyptian journalists who came to cover the second session of the Egyptian-Israeli joint military committee which is discussing the Israeli withdrawal from the city.

Although President Anwar Sadat will not arrive here until May 25 for the official formal return of the town to Egypt, the cheers were directed at him. The streets were decorated with Egyptian flags. The only Israeli flags were those flying from the military government's buildings.

The warm reception to the 50-odd correspondents of the Egyptian media overshadowed the actual proceedings between the Israeli and Egyptian negotiating teams. The talks were mainly technical -- getting down to the details of the agreed formulas, such as the demarcation of the new border line, the handing over of military installations and the preparation of the El Arish civil air field so that it can be used by the Egyptians beginning May 27.

The co-chairmen of the committee, Brig. Gen. Safih A-Din of Egypt, and Gen. Dov Sion of Israel, reached an unwritten understanding over the famous laundromat in the Israeli village of Neot Sinai. The laundromat, the main source of income for the Israeli settlement, will be outside the Egyptian lines after the town is handed over to the Egyptians.

The understanding was that for the next three years, until the Israelis withdraw from Neot Sinai, the laundromat workers will be permitted to cross the Egyptian lines to continue to work as usual. The officers also discussed the problem of securing water supply for the Israeli soldiers after Israel hands over water sources in the area.

### Amiable Talks Held

"Essentially the agreements were reached already as part of the peace agreement," Sion told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Therefore, there were no problems, and the talks took place amiably." His Egyptian colleague nodded in agreement, repeatedly quoting Sadat to stress the point of peace. Sadat was the hero of the day. Sion in his introductory presentation to the talks mentioned that Israel held the town for 12 years, "never with the intention of keeping it, until President Sadat came to us and gave us his hand."

After a short ceremonial, the two delegations divided into a number of working groups to discuss the various issues to be resolved. The Egyptian journalists boarded a bus for a tour of the town, but as soon as it was seen on the main street it was surrounded by hundreds of local residents waving Egyptian flags, singing the Egyptian anthem and chanting pro-Sadat slogans.

"There is no God but Allah, and Sadat is his beloved," they shouted. A young man with tears in his eyes, leaned into a bus window to hug and kiss Egyptian journalists.

Most of the residents of El Arish are of

Egyptian origin but the city has a 10 percent minority of Palestinian origin. To judge by the warm reception given to the Egyptian journalists, there is a consensus of approval for the renewed Egyptian rule.

## TERRORIST BASES ATTACKED

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Israeli Air Force planes today attacked terrorist concentrations at Naher el Bared near Tripoli in north Lebanon. All Israeli planes returned safely to their base, an army spokesman said. Naher el Bared is used as a training base and is the site from which terrorist gangs launch attacks against Israel. The Israeli action was in line with Israel's policy of hitting terrorist bases anywhere, any time and by any means.

Meanwhile, the discovery of an El Fatah cell in Israel and the arrest of eight Israeli Arabs suspected of membership in it, has caused concern in security circles and in the local Arab community. Several of the detainees have already confessed to a series of terrorist acts, all of which failed. But the authorities are worried more about the implications of a terrorist band within Israel's Arab population.

The ring leader was identified as Mounir Shehadeh, 25, a laborer from Nazareth who was reportedly trained in Iraq. Other members included two chemistry teachers who apparently prepared bombs and incendiary devices and a 22-year-old woman from Faradis village near Zichron Yaakov which has had good relations with its Jewish neighbors since the pre-Statehood era. Three of the suspects were arrested as they prepared to go abroad, allegedly to contact El Fatah agents.

Members of the gang confessed to planting a bomb near the main synagogue in Haifa last month. It was safely dismantled by police. They admitted throwing incendiary bombs at Egged buses but the bombs failed to detonate. They also failed in two planned ambushes when the vehicles they had targeted did not appear. An attempt to stab an Israeli Arab they thought to be a collaborator was foiled.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES TORIES FACE MIDDLE EAST DILEMMAS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 6 (JTA) -- The contradictions of Britain's Middle East policy are likely to be highlighted under the new Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher.

Unlike the Labor Party, the Conservatives have no deep sentimental attachment to Israel and will be more hard nosed in pursuing Britain's national interests and her traditional links with the Arab world. On the other hand, the Conservatives favor a tougher line against terrorism and may be prepared to bracket the Palestine Liberation Organization with the hated terrorists in Northern Ireland.

Lord Carrington, the new Foreign Secretary, shares a similar outlook to the last Conservative who held the post, Sir Alec Douglas Home (now Lord Home). In a famous speech in Harrogate in 1970, Home said Israel should hand back all of Sinai and almost all the West Bank in exchange for peace. He also said the Palestine Arabs should be enabled to express their political aspirations.

In the new House of Commons, foreign policy will be explained by Sir Ian Gilmour, a strong pro-Arab sympathizer, who has joined the Cabinet as Lord Privy Seal.

On the other hand, both Mrs. Thatcher and William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary and Deputy Premier, are well disposed to Israel. Mrs. Thatcher was for many years the head of an Anglo-Israel friendship group in her Finchley, London, constituency which has a sizeable Jewish population. Whitelaw visited Israel early this year and is on record as saying Israel should keep the Golan Heights.

Yet both of them were members of the last Conservative government, under Edward Heath, which at the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War blocked a shipment of ammunition bound for Israel. Since then, a large pro-Israeli lobby has sprung up in the Conservative Party which claims more Parliamentary members than its much older Labor Party counterpart.

Any changes in Middle East policy are likely to occur in the context of broader changes of foreign policy. The Conservatives are more deeply committed to membership of the European Economic Community than was Labor and will probably lay greater stress on an independent European foreign policy, while damping down their support of the United States in the Middle East and elsewhere.

On a personal level, though, Mrs. Thatcher may find she has more in common with Israel's first non-Socialist Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who, like her, ended a long entrenched Labor Party reign. Like Begin, Mrs. Thatcher personally favors the execution of terrorist murderers and preaches traditional family virtues.

Nearly all her Cabinet ministers are drawn from the English upper classes and only one, Sir Keith Joseph, is Jewish. Jewish ministers outside the Cabinet include Sally Oppenheim, while others tipped for junior posts include Leon Brittan and Nigel Lawson.

Among leading supporters of Israel who lost their seats in the election are John Pardoe and Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal's deputy leader and former leader, respectively, and Labor's Eric Moonman, chairman of the British Zionist Federation.

### NEO-NAZIS GROWING IN NUMBERS

BONN, May 6 (JTA) -- A high government official reported that membership in neo-Nazi groups has more than doubled over the past three years. Andreas von Schoeler, State Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior, said in a radio interview in Stuttgart that the fact that such a development was possible 35 years after the end of the Nazi regime showed that mistakes have been made in the way West Germany treated its past.

He stated that it was essential that the Nazi period should be discussed more thoroughly in the home and at school. Von Schoeler said that the membership in neo-Nazi organizations rose from 600 in 1976 to 1300 at the beginning of this year.

Meanwhile, it was announced by West Berlin's Technical University president Juergen Starnick that a center for research into anti-Semitism will open later this year at the university. The center, he said, will focus on German-Jewish history.

### THREE RUSSIAN OFFICERS VISIT ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL-AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Three Russian officers serving with the United Nations observ-

ers force in Syria were in Israel over the weekend, the first such visit by Soviet military personnel. They stayed at the UN observers headquarters in Tiberias to attend ceremonies at which a medal was awarded to another UN officer.

Meanwhile, two Canadian officers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were detained by Israeli authorities for taking photographs in a restricted area near Met-ullah. Their cameras and film were confiscated and the officers were released.

UNIFIL announced yesterday that it would pay compensation in an undisclosed amount to the family of a young Christian militiaman in south Lebanon who was fatally wounded by UNIFIL troops near Nakura on April 18. The youth was shot during an exchange of fire between UN forces and the Christian militia. He was laying telephone wires at the time but was mistakenly thought to be planting mines. UNIFIL termed the shooting an accident and said its payment to the family would be made "on purely humanitarian grounds and shall not be interpreted in any way as an admission of responsibility on the part of UNIFIL."

In a related development, the Christian militia released four Dutch UNIFIL officers whom they had taken prisoner after the shooting. The men were freed yesterday after negotiations between militia commander Maj. Saad Haddad and UNIFIL commander Gen. Emmanuel Erskine.

### CHARLES ANGOFF DEAD AT 77

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here Friday for Charles Angoff, a literary figure who achieved fame in both the general and Jewish fields, who died Thursday at New York Hospital at the age of 77. Beginning his career with H.L. Mencken, who had just launched the American Mercury, he joined Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, New Jersey in 1954 and became professor of English. After retirement in 1976, he taught summer sessions at Vermont University.

Angoff published during his lifetime 30 books of essays, fiction, poetry and plays. He became widely known for a series of novels of Jewish American life centered on a Polonsky family in Boston during World War I and the Great Depression. Critics agreed that the books made up one big novel about American Jewish life.

Among his Jewish activities, Angoff was advisory editor to the Jewish Book Guild, a faculty member of B'nai B'rith Institutes. In 1969, he received a special award for major contributions to Jewish literature from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

### 60,000 CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

#### BEGIN A THREE-DAY STRIKE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL-AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Numerous public services and facilities including rail and bus transportation were paralyzed today as some 60,000 civil service workers began a three-day strike in support of wage demands. This evening, employees of the Communications Ministry's engineering department walked out in sympathy, leaving Israelis without radio or television programs except for news bulletins, and no repairmen for faulty telephones.

The strikers are insisting that their wage scale be brought to the level of other groups which have recently received upward adjustments to compensate for soaring prices. Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich claimed there were political motives behind the strike, though he conceded that the civil servants supported it fully and were not prepared to negoti-

ate. Ehrlich urged Histadrut to sit down with employers at the negotiating table. But Histadrut Secretary General Yehoram Meshel declared to-night that he would not meet with Ehrlich unless the Finance Minister takes decisive action to fight inflation which is the basic cause of the walkout.

Meanwhile, all government offices were shut down except the Defense Ministry. No passports or permits were issued. Tax offices were closed, holding up the flow of revenue to the Treasury. There were no postal services or any communications except for international telephone and telegraph operators who were ordered back to work by a labor court. Government hospitals were manned by skeleton staffs that admitted only emergency cases.

At Ben Gurion Airport, customs inspectors maintained a "symbolic" presence, meaning that anything could be smuggled in or out of the country. No trains were running and public transportation was brought to a virtual standstill when Egged bus drivers went on a three-hour strike today for higher wages.

The drivers held their protest meetings after the morning rush hour. But thousands of riders were stranded for hours longer before normal service was resumed. Many settlements were cut off by the bus walkout. Tel Aviv, which is served by the Dan bus company, was spared the strike, but traffic was abnormally heavy and slow. The broadcast blackout was not complete. The Army Radio functioned as usual and Abie Nathan's peace ship anchored off-shore, transmitted Kol Israel news.

The strike coincided with another wave of price increases mandated by the government. The price of cigarettes went up by 22.7 percent today; there was a 30 percent hike in the price of tea; 20 percent for plywood and 12 percent for locally made flour products. Another major blow for the public will be the increase in bus fare due to take effect in about two weeks.

#### UGANDA'S PRESIDENT PLEDGES TO APPREHEND KILLERS OF MRS. BLOCH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- The new President of Uganda, Prof. Yusufu Lule, has assured Israeli journalist Danny Bloch, son of the late Dora Bloch, that everything will be done to bring his mother's killers to justice. Lule's private secretary responded by cable over the weekend to a cable sent by Bloch inquiring whether efforts would be made to bring the murderers to justice and pointing at deposed Uganda ruler Idi Amin's British aide, Bob Astles, as someone who possibly had a hand in killing Mrs. Bloch.

The elderly British-Israeli woman was killed in Kampala after an Israeli commando team freed more than 100 hostages July 3, 1976, including dozens of Israelis, who were being held by Palestinian terrorists at Entebbe Airport after they hijacked an Air France airliner. It is widely believed that Mrs. Bloch, who was one of the hostages, was taken from her hospital bed in Kampala where she was being treated for a throat ailment, and killed under instructions from Amin.

In the cable from Kampala, the aide wrote on behalf of the President: "His Excellency ... acknowledges your cable on behalf of the sons of the late Dora Bloch. The wanton murder of the late Dora Bloch and of thousands of other innocent victims by Amin and his terror gangs

has shocked all Ugandans and indeed the world community.

"The new government shall endeavor to trace all culprits with a view to bringing them face the law (sic). Your concern about Bob Astles has already been taken very seriously by the new government and when the details and truth are established the government shall certainly contact you. Regards and thanks for your well wishes to the people of Uganda...."

Bloch said today that a hospital doctor who had secretly hidden his late mother's personal effects after she was abducted from the hospital had now come forward and identified himself -- and the family hoped these effects would soon be restored to them.

Bloch, a Davar reporter, said the family was hoping Dora Bloch's burial place would be found "among those of thousands of other Amin victims" so that she could be reinterred in the burial plot she had purchased for herself during her lifetime in Jerusalem. Bloch said he or one of his two brothers was ready to go to Kampala immediately to help with the inquiries if required.

#### U.S. MAY OFFER IDEAS ON WEST BANK

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The United States has made it clear that it will offer its own "ideas" in the Egyptian-Israeli talks regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip should the governments of Israel and Egypt fail to progress towards an agreement themselves. This was the position taken by the U.S. in the negotiations that ultimately led to an American proposal that Israel accepted first, and afterwards was accepted by Egypt after Egypt brought in modifications before the peace treaty was signed.

After State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said last week that the U.S. has no plan now regarding the Egyptian-Israeli talks but "maybe later" it would, he was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to elaborate on his remarks. Carter replied that the U.S. "procedure is exactly the same" as in the Egyptian-Israeli discussions that led to their treaty. The U.S., Carter said, "is a full partner" in the negotiations but it is "leaving the process for the two parties to start." Then, "if it is useful," the U.S. would supply ideas, he added.

In related developments, Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal visited the State Department last Friday on "aspects of these talks," beginning May 26 in El Arish between Israel and Egypt. The Jordanian foreign policy advisor to King Hussein will be holding talks at the State Department this week.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will head the U.S. delegation to El Arish for the start of the talks, but after the first day he will leave for meetings in Europe and not return to the Middle East, at least not immediately. It is still undecided who will head the U.S. delegation after Vance leaves. Ambassador Robert Strauss, who is meeting with State Department officials on Middle East matters, has been appointed to handle the negotiations for the U.S., but he is not expected to go to the Mideast until September.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Natalia Braz, the 41-year-old Russian refusenik who was "adopted" by Emunah Women of America last year, has received permission to immigrate to Israel, Toby Willig, Emunah's president, has announced. An economist, Mrs. Braz had repeatedly been applying for a visa since 1971 so that she could join her husband, Raoul, who is already residing in Israel.

## JTS HEAD AGREES TO DEFER DECISION UNTIL NEXT YEAR ON ACCEPTING WOMEN FOR ORDINATION AS RABBIS

By Ben Gollub

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Requests by faculty members of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) to defer until early next year action on whether to accept women as candidates for the Conservative rabbinate have been acceded to by Chancellor Gerson Cohen. He said a vote scheduled for May 30 on the recommendation of a special commission that the JTS accept women as rabbinical candidates had been cancelled to permit time for more faculty debate.

Delegates to the 1977 convention of the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), the association of Conservative rabbis, approved a resolution to admit women to the JTS rabbinical school but withdrew it when Cohen promised to name a commission, comprised of 14 members representing the entire spectrum of Conservative opinion, with himself as chairman, to study the issue and make recommendations.

Cohen promised the 1977 convention that he would commit himself to bringing the findings of the commission to the JTS Senate, the academic policy-making body of the JTS, to act on the commission's finding. In announcing the postponement, in a letter dated April 27, Cohen declared he was "taking this opportunity to let you know that we expect to take a definite stand on the issue for the academic year 1980-81."

Last January, the commission, in its final report, submitted a recommendation to the 79th RA convention in Los Angeles, declaring it found no reason in Jewish religious law barring women from the rabbinate and recommending that "qualified women be ordained as rabbis" in the Conservative Movement. Three of the 14 commission members dissented, suggesting that appropriate roles short of ordination could be created for Jewish women.

### Will Conduct In-Depth Discussion

Cohen, in his April 27 letter, said he had decided to delay the decision to submit the recommendation to the JTS Senate "because of the seriousness of the issue and because of faculty sensitivity to the difficulty inherent in separating ordination from halachic considerations," which had led faculty members "on both sides" to ask time "to submit position papers for Senate consideration."

The majority report urged that the revision of the JTS rabbinical school policy barring women be accomplished promptly "to allow applications from women for the academic year beginning in September 1979."

Cohen said in his letter that next January the Senate would "devote several days to an in-depth discussion of the question and to a resolution of the faculty's posture." He said the new schedule calls for submission of written arguments by Dec. 1 and the special meetings of the Senate during late December and January. In his letter, Cohen issued an oblique warning that "public debate" on the differences of viewpoint on the issue "could only be divisive."

### ADL ASSAILS STUDENT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE MOCKING THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has lodged a complaint with Dr. Lloyd N. Peak, school superintendent in Watkins Glen, New York, object-

ing to a student newspaper article mocking the Holocaust. According to Beth D. Randall, ADL's New York State director, the reference about Jews in the April Fool's issue of "Echo," a student paper at Watkins Glen High School "surpass the realm of a joke in bad taste" and serve as "examples of raw anti-Semitism."

A news item in the school paper featured a new fast food menu consisting of "Bears Annie Frank," "Holocaust and Cheese," "Fruit Jews," and "Straight Jews." It also offered "a free swastika patch" and "a toy gas mask (while supplies last)."

Ms. Randall said that to poke fun at the Holocaust in the paper "seems to give blanket approval to anti-Semitism among the students. Anne Frank was only slightly younger than most of the students when she was marched off to the gas chamber of Auschwitz. It is difficult to understand the humor in that act."

Inquiring what action has been taken in response to the bigoted article, Ms. Randall suggested that Peak propose a course of study in the Watkins Glen district. "It is essential," she observed, "that the school system take a stand in order to set the tone of brotherhood rather than bigotry."

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DUE IN BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, May 6 (JTA) -- Construction is expected to begin this summer on this city's \$135,000 Holocaust memorial, due to be completed next fall. The structure will be located on a one-acre site in the downtown area. The memorial will consist of an open air sanctuary, protected by two long cantilevered blocks of concrete separated by a narrow opening. The graves on the sanctuary walls will be appropriately inscribed. Leading up to the memorial will be trees planted in six rows, one for each million Holocaust victims.

The Holocaust memorial, an idea sponsored and conceived of in 1976 by the Baltimore Jewish Community Relations Council, has generated great interest in Baltimore lately -- and not only among Jews. A fund-raising dinner for the memorial at a local church attracted 260 religious and business leaders of the city, including Mayor William Donald Schaefer, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan and Right Reverend David K. Leighton, Episcopal Bishop of Maryland.

### MOSHE TABENKIN DEAD AT 62

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Moshe Tabenkin, a poet and educator and a leader in the Greater Israel Movement, died last night at the age of 62. Funeral services were held today at Kibbutz Ein Harod of which he was a member. Tabenkin, an active kibbutz member and prominent in the kibbutz movement, was education officer of the northern front during the 1948 War of Independence. He was the eldest son of Yitzhak Tabenkin, one of the founders of Ein Harod as well as one of the first leaders of Achdut Haavoda.

### 15,000 AT 'MARCH FOR JERUSALEM'

MONTREAL, May 6 (JTA) -- Some 15,000 people from a 4-week-old infant in her mother's arms to 104-year-old Dr. B. Joffe, walked 15 miles across Montreal today for a "March for Jerusalem." This is the sixth year for the march held by the local Jewish community. Some \$250,000 was raised by sponsors of the participants which will be used for children in Israel.