

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI DELEGATIONS MEET IN EL ARISH ON TRANSFER OF THE TOWN

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA) -- High level Israeli and Egyptian delegations met at El Arish this afternoon to continue discussions on the transfer of that northern Sinai town to Egyptian sovereignty to take place later this month. The Egyptian delegation was headed by Dr. Hassan Kamal, chief of President Anwar Sadat's Office. He was received by Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Director General of Premier Menachem Begin's Office, who headed the Israeli delegation. After conferring briefly, the two men boarded an Israel Air Force helicopter for the short flight to Military Government headquarters.

The Israeli army will evacuate El Arish on May 25. Begin and Sadat will meet there on Sunday, May 27 to formally conclude the transfer. Today's talks concerned details of that summit meeting. Technical aspects of the transfer of authority were discussed at the same time by the joint Egyptian-Israeli military committee. The committee is engaged in plotting the transition border and is continuing the search for the remains of Yom Kippur War dead on both sides.

A civilian delegation from Egypt is due in El Arish tomorrow to discuss fishing rights in the off-shore waters after the town reverts to Egyptian administration. Fishing is the main source of income in El Arish which has a population of 45,000. Many of the fishermen have business ties with Israeli firms and the discussions are aimed at avoiding drastic changes that may result from the transfer of authority.

The El Arish fishermen want to continue to sell their catch in the Israeli market and the Israeli government concurs. But Cairo may insist that the fish go to the Egyptian market. An agreement has been reached to allow some 5000 El Arish workers to retain their jobs in Israel.

## Getting Ready For Historic Day

Meanwhile, El Arish is a beehive of activity. An Egyptian truck convoy arrived today carrying communications equipment and equipment for the transfer ceremonies. One of the first projects will be to lay direct telephone lines to Cairo. Residents are painting their houses for the ceremonies and building 10-foot high "Victory Gates" superimposed with photographs of Sadat, Egyptian flags are flying everywhere and decorate cars, trucks and even bicycles. Residents lined the streets today to cheer the arriving Egyptian delegates.

Begin and Sadat will fly from El Arish to Beersheba and thence to Ben Gurion Airport where they will board Sadat's plane for a flight to Cairo. From there they will fly back to El Arish. The flight will be symbolic of the inauguration of the first "air corridor" between Israel and Egypt. But Israeli authorities stressed today that the corridor would not be opened immediately to regular tourist traffic. It will be used only by official planes carrying government parties and invited special groups. Normal commercial flights are not expected until the beginning of next year.

## REPORT SYRIA MOVING SOVIET- MADE MISSILES INTO LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- Syria is moving Soviet-made surface-to-air (SAM) missiles into Lebanon and is reinforcing its anti-aircraft batteries there to deal with increasing Israeli air strikes against terrorist bases, according to a broadcast by the Christian Phalangist radio "Voice of Lebanon" in Beirut today. The broadcast said large Syrian convoys crossed the border overnight with the equipment to be deployed in the Bakaa Valley.

The report was not confirmed by either the Lebanese government or the commanders of the Syrian peacekeeping force in Lebanon. The Syrians have carried out a number of air patrol flights over Lebanon but these seem to be mainly of a demonstrative nature. The Syrian planes made no attempt to engage Israeli aircraft or to carry out raiding or buzzing missions.

Nevertheless, observers here recalled an article written several weeks ago by Gen. Chaim Herzog, Israel's former Ambassador to the United Nations and former chief of military intelligence, who advised against repeated Israeli air strikes in Lebanon. Herzog warned that the strikes could give the Syrians a pretext for sending anti-aircraft missiles into Lebanon which would limit the Israeli Air Force's freedom of activity.

## WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL DENOUNCES EXECUTION OF HABIB ELKANIAN

From JTA Combined Wire Services

May 13 (JTA) -- A White House official has denounced the executions in Iran, specifically that of Habib Elkanian, the former leader of the Iranian Jewish community, and said that the Carter Administration "is shocked and saddened by the executions" and that "on a number of occasions has made its strong views known to the Iran government."

Edward Sanders, President Carter's chief liaison with the American Jewish community, made this statement in an address to the American Jewish Committee's 73rd annual meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. He declared that the executions in Iran, which have claimed some 200 victims since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took power last February, "violate principles of due process and human rights to which we are absolutely dedicated."

There are, Sanders continued, "universal standards of humanity and decency from which no person -- no government -- is exempt. The new government of Iran has given the United States numerous assurances about protecting the rights of minorities and we look to them to stand by these assurances. The horror of the series of summary executions in Iran was underscored (last Wednesday) by the execution of Mr. Elkanian... Based on his support of Israel, the Administration will continue to take every appropriate step to explore every avenue to promote justice and human rights in Iran."

Sanders' statement followed one made by State Department spokesman Hoddging Carter that while "the implications" of Elkanian's execution "are disturbing, the press reports indicate that Elkanian was tried as an individual and not as a leader of the Jewish community." The State Department has con-

tinued to adhere to this view. However, when another Department spokesman, Tom Reston, was asked last Friday, a day after Sanders made his statement, which view represented the Carter Administration's position, Reston said, "Both."

#### Economic Sanctions Against Iran Urged

Meanwhile, reverberations from the execution of Elkanian continued over the weekend. In New York City, more than 1100 people attended a memorial service for the slain Jewish leader at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun which was convened last Friday by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Sen. Jacob Javits (R.N.Y.), one of the speakers at the memorial, called for economic sanctions against Iran in the face of these "wanton killings." He said that while the U.S. cannot send troops, it can put on pressure by reducing use of Iranian oil and boycotting Iranian products. Javits said that the ratification of the Genocide Treaty by the Senate would be a fitting memorial.

Elkanian, 61, who was a leading businessman, was executed along with six other Iranians a few hours after they were convicted by a so-called "revolutionary people's court." Elkanian, the first known Jew to be executed since Khomeini took power, was accused of "corruption, spreading vice on earth, treason through his connections with Israel and Zionism."

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, told the memorial meeting that Elkanian was a "wonderful Jew" who was "murdered for loving the Jewish people. If this is a crime, all Jews could be similarly charged. The recent actions in Iran should be a warning to every man of good faith."

Dulzin declared that unlike the Holocaust, Jews are not helpless any more. He warned "the murderers of Iran" that "we can reach them if they do not stop these actions." The Zionist leader referred to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's statement in the Knesset last Wednesday where he urged world public opinion not to be silent about the "murderous acts of the blood-thirsty regime of Khomeini." To the Jewish community in Iran, Dulzin said: "Be strong and know that we are with you. We won't let you down. From here in New York as well as Jews around the world the warning must go forward. We will not forget. We will act."

#### France Asked To Help

In other developments, Israel asked France last Thursday to intervene on behalf of Iran's threatened Jewish community. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, on his way home from the Far East, made this request during a brief stopover in Paris to meet with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet. France is the Western country with the best relations with the Iranian regime, having granted Khomeini asylum during his years in exile.

Dayan reportedly told Francois-Poncet that the Ayatollah's threats to the Jews are "real and highly dangerous." He said that when Khomeini threatens to cut off the hands of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, "this means little as Sadat is far away. But when he threatens the Jews, this threat is real since they are still in the country."

The Israeli Foreign Minister also stressed that the accusation against Elkanian "sets a dangerous precedent." He reportedly told

Francois-Poncet that there are thousands of Iranian Jews now living in Israel and "in this way, practically every Jew still living in Iran is somehow or another connected to Israel." Dayan drew the French Foreign Minister's attention to the fact that Iran's new rulers "could well use this same sort of accusation practically against all Iranian Jews still living in the country."

French officials refused to reveal Francois-Poncet's reply but reliable sources said France will draw the Iranian government's attention through diplomatic channels to the serious implications on the international level of any additional act which could be interpreted as organized persecutions of an ethnic minority and infringements of basic human rights.

#### Jewish Leaders Call For Action

Meanwhile, American Jewish leaders continued to denounce the murder of Elkanian. Among the Jewish leaders were Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president, American Zionist Federation; Raymond Epstein, chairman, Public Affairs Committee of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago; and David Smerling, president, JUF; Bernice Tannenbaum, president, Hodassah; Bernard Backer, president, The Workmen's Circle; and Toby Willig, president, Emunah Women of America.

Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (UOJCA), told some 1000 Jewish lay and rabbinic leaders at the UOJCA's 81st anniversary national dinner at the Sheraton Centre in New York City tonight that the American Jewish community would maintain a "crisis watch on the status of Jews living in Iran." Berman warned that "the Jews of America will not sit silently by as one of the world's oldest Jewish communities faces the unmistakable first signs of organized anti-Semitic persecutions."

#### RUSSIAN DELEGATION IN ISRAEL SAYS THERE ARE NO SIGNS FOR RESUMING RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND USSR By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- "There are no signs at this point for the resumption of Israeli-Russian relations. Even the release of Jews from Russian jails does not indicate an improvement of relations." So said Alexander Bobin, head of a four-man Soviet delegation invited to Israel by the Communist-sponsored Israel-Russian Friendship League, on their arrival here over the weekend.

He said that if relations are to be renewed there must first be a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East that guarantees Israel's right to exist but also satisfies the rights of the Palestinians. Asked if the Soviet authorities sent any message to the Israeli government through the delegation, Bobin replied, "Nyet."

The other members of the group are Leonid Bernstein, a former partisan fighter, and Yuri Gershonov, Dean of the foreign language faculty at Moscow University, both Jewish; and Genadi Abdayev, of the Soviet Institute for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Bobin said no change in the official attitude toward Soviet Jewry should be deduced "from the release of those you call 'Prisoners of Zion.'" Referring to seven of the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial defendants who arrived in Israel this month, Bobin said: "Those people are criminals. If people would have tried to hijack an airplane in Israel they would have been treated as criminals. But the Soviet government was humane and released them."

## HISTORIC SYNAGOGUE IN TUNISIA DAMAGED BY ACCIDENTAL FIRE

Tension Reported Among Tunisian Jews  
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 13. (JTA) -- The historic Bezalel Synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia, was damaged by a fire which broke out last week, it was reported here. Seven Torah scrolls, the Ark and prayer books were lost in the fire. The Bezalel Synagogue is an historic monument but still in current use.

Police in Djerba say the fire broke out last Tuesday night, when a burning candle fell on a pile of carpets. The fire, reportedly accidental, was extinguished by the local fire brigade. Local Jewish community leaders, including Tunisia's Chief Rabbi Fradji Uzzan, interviewed over French radio stations, confirmed the police version of an accidental fire.

Uzzan, speaking over Radio Luxembourg, invited Tunisian Jews living abroad or former Tunisian Jewish citizens not to cancel their pilgrimage plans but to come to Djerba on the scheduled Lag Baomer trip. The Chief Rabbi reportedly launched his appeal in an effort to dispel rumors of widespread troubles in Tunisia, including the criminal burning of several synagogues.

Travel agents in Paris, who had organized the Djerba annual pilgrimage, reported large-scale cancellations and finally cancelled the trip, saying the Tunisian authorities were proving themselves non-cooperative. A rumor said all visitors to Tunisia will have to show baptism certificates before being allowed to enter the country.

A Tunisian Embassy spokesman and the representative of the Tunisian tourist office adamantly denied this, saying, "Not only are all Jews welcome to Tunisia but we also hope the scheduled pilgrimage will take place."

### Basis For Anxiety And Tension

The tension and anxiety among Tunisia's 10,000 remaining Jews are real, however, and are further emphasized in the Tunisian community in France because of two main factors: one is President Habib Bourguiba's extended illness which keeps him out of Tunisia and prevents him from running the country as he has done since Tunisia's independence. Bourguiba, 76, is considered by the local Jews as their "special protector" and the man they trust. Bourguiba's chances of recovery, from what doctors describe as a very serious disease, look slim.

Jewish anxiety has been further increased by the plan to move the Arab League headquarters from Cairo to Tunis. Local Jews as well as Tunisian residents in France fear that such a move might give a strong anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish turn to Tunisia's political direction. Tunisia has in the past been described as "moderate" in its approach to Middle East affairs and friendly to Jews. Several anti-Semitic incidents did occur in Tunisia several years ago but never assumed major importance.

Western observers in Tunis report that no incidents of an anti-Semitic nature have been reported over the last two years. These observers say the situation could, however, dramatically change after Bourguiba's death and with the installation of the Arab League in Tunis.

### DULZIN: FUTURE OF ISRAEL WILL NOT BE DETERMINED BY BORDERS BUT BY QUALITY OF LIFE AND NUMBER OF JEWS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin,

chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, said today that the number of Jews living creative lives in Israel and the quality of life in the Jewish State will determine the future of Israel rather than where its frontiers are located. Addressing a luncheon and later a press conference prior to the 85th annual commencement exercises of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), Dulzin, who received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, also stressed his view that Jewish education is not adequate without strong Zionist content.

Dulzin, who shared the luncheon dais with Dr. Gershon D. Cohen, JTS Chancellor, spoke of peace prospects in the Middle East. "Our strongest neighbors, the Egyptians, have come to the conclusion that peace is as worthwhile and as important for them as it is for us," he said. The future of Israel will not be determined by frontiers, however secure, Dulzin said.

"Our tactical and strategic depth is a function of the number of Jews who will be in Israel and will live creative and productive lives," he said. "It is the quality of Jewish life in Israel which will decide how safe we are. That is one of the bonds with us that you must strengthen even more now. This is the great challenge that we have to face together so that peace can develop into tranquility."

Dulzin and Cohen referred to an essay by Solomon Schechter, one of the founders of Conservative Judaism in America, who wrote more than 70 years ago that "the rebirth of Israel's national consciousness and the revival of Israel's religion, or to use a shorter term, the revival of Judaism, are inseparable." Relating that theme to the present, Dulzin said, "Today, it is clear to everyone that there is no 'Klal Yisrael' (world Jewry) without Eretz Israel (the State of Israel). The centrality of Israel, the first point of the Jerusalem program of the World Zionist Organization, is today a fact of life of the Jewish people."

### Priority Of Jewish Education

Cohen agreed, asserting that the post-Holocaust generation must find creative ways to approach Jewish education. "In any system of education, the family becomes effective primarily as an agent of the community. Children, like adults, require peers who join them in the business of life... The Seminary is happy to be associated with the Jewish Agency because we see in the Agency a vehicle for revitalizing the sense of community among Jews wherever they may live. The Jewish community which we can build together will be based on shared values and a common vision."

Dulzin declared at the press conference that "Secular Jewish education is a failure" because "there is no Jewish education without Jewish values, love of Israel and understanding of Jewish tradition." He said that "for this reason, the Jewish Agency and the government of Israel have established this year a fund of \$10 million to intensify Jewish education in the diaspora."

According to Dulzin, in spite of enormous sums spent on Jewish education in the United States, "most Jewish children get little or no exposure to Jewish values." He said that "Even in countries like Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, where most of the children attend Jewish schools, the quality of education is shockingly poor." Dulzin said the Jewish Agency hoped "to make it possible for children to spend one or two years studying in Israel as part of their total educational experience."

## TEXTBOOKS IN WEST GERMAN SCHOOLS DEALING WITH HOLOCAUST ASSESSED

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- History textbooks now in use in West German secondary schools contain a substantially full account of the Nazi persecution of the Jews, but they fall short of providing an adequate historical background of the European anti-Semitism that led to the Nazis. These are among the conclusions reached in a study of leading standard texts just completed by a leading West German educator and commissioned by The American Jewish Committee. The study was made public at a session of the AJ Committee's 73rd annual meeting which ended today at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The study, entitled "Jews in West German History Textbooks," was prepared by Dr. Wolfgang Bobke. In it, he reported the results of his analysis of nine texts, embracing 34 volumes, which constitute a representative selection of textbooks used in history classes in West Germany.

Bobke concluded that the Nazi genocide of the Jews is presented impressively and in great detail in nearly all texts. These accounts give a forthright picture of the Nazi measures directed against the Jews from the time of Hitler's coming to power in Germany through the organized mass slaughters.

He pointed out that in nearly all the texts, the events of the "Crystal Night" of November 1938, a countrywide assault on individual Jews and synagogues, play a conspicuous role. The author believes that the texts pay particular attention to that series of incidents because "this was the first time the Nazi terror manifested itself for all to see without any trace of restraint." Another area in which the author commends the textbook writers for the adequacy of their treatment is their accounts of the birth and development of Israel.

### Serious Gaps In History

On the other hand, he pointed out, most of the texts are seriously lacking in presenting a continuous account of the history of anti-Semitism and of the status of Jews from the Middle Ages up to the present day.

Thus, he declared, only three of the nine texts offered adequate information on the persecution of Jews in the Middle Ages; the expulsion of Jews from Western European countries in the late Middle Ages and the settlement of large numbers of Jews in Poland are hardly treated at all; and important information on the social, economic, and intellectual circumstances connected with the development of 19th Century anti-Semitism is minimal or altogether omitted.

As a result, Bobke stated, "there is danger that Hitler will appear as a sort of demonic, inexplicable phenomenon; that the question of historical guilt cannot be meaningfully posed; and that the purpose of historical insight is not achieved."

Announcing the study's conclusions, Richard Maass, president of the AJ Committee, pointed out that "The study, done this past year, provides positive evidence that German textbook writers made a commendable start in carrying out the directives of the conference of the education ministers of the 11 states of West Germany, which has mandated a full treatment of the Nazi period in school texts. On the other hand, there is still much that should be done to achieve a picture of the Holocaust in its full historical

perspective."

A delegation of AJ Committee leaders, headed by Maass, met in Bonn last month with top German political leaders, including Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the German Federal Minister of Culture and Education, to discuss education about the Hitler period and for democracy. Results of the textbook study were conveyed to education ministers of a number of West German states by the delegation.

## MAN KILLED IN PLANT EXPLOSION

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held in Netanya today for Pinhas Papiashvili, 27, who was killed last Thursday in an explosion at a military industries plant near Ramot Hasharon. His body was found buried in the rubble. Papiashvili, a resident of Netanya, is believed to be the only fatality in the blast which injured nine workers and six children at a nearby school. The explosion, described officially as an accident, has aroused fear and anger among people living near the plant.

On Friday, residents of Ramot Hasharon blocked the entrance to the installation and last night they demonstrated outside the home of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, demanding that the plant be removed from the populated area. Weizman promised that it would be but explained that that could not be done overnight. Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry has ordered an investigation of the blast and has begun paying compensation to residents whose property was damaged. Nearly 1000 families have filed damage claims.

## ROSE ZIPRIN DEAD AT 80

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA) -- Rose Ziprin, wife of Nathan Ziprin, the former editor of Seven Arts Feature Syndicate, died here last night at the age of 80. Born in Lithuania, she came to the United States at an early age. Mrs. Ziprin was a descendant of famous rabbis and scholars.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Leonid Slepak, son of the leading Soviet Jewish activist Vladimir Slepak, arrived in Vienna last Friday and was due to leave for Israel Sunday with his wife Olga and their infant son, it was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- The Netherlands government has asked Spain to arrest and extradite Dutch war criminal Jan Pattist, who has been living for many years in Oviedo in northern Spain. Pattist, who had been detained as a war criminal immediately after the end of World War II, managed to escape from prison in 1946 and to flee abroad. In 1948, he was sentenced in absentia to life-long imprisonment by a Dutch special tribunal. His present whereabouts were discovered recently.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Gold Meir Child Development Fund is being established as a "living gift" to Israel by Pioneer Women, it was announced here by president Frieda Leeman. "It is particularly appropriate that this 'living gift' is made in the International Year of the Child, which coincides with our 26th biennial convention in Israel," she said. Named for Pioneer Women's first national secretary, this fund will be used to train professionals in pre-school education, and to upgrade the facilities and staff of child care centers in neighborhoods of distress.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The number of students learning Arabic will double by 1984, from 100,00 to 200,000, it was reported here.