

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Friday, May 18, 1979

No. 96

## PREPARING FOR THE MAY 27 SUMMIT

By Yitzhak Shargit

BEERSHEBA, May 17 (JTA) -- Beersheba, capital of the Negev, is in the midst of feverish preparations for the May 27th summit meeting between Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to mark the first phase of the implementation of the peace treaty they signed last March 26.

With the historic event little more than a week away, this city of 101,000 is busily sweeping streets, painting buildings, decorating the town hall, drilling its police, preparing a helicopter landing pad and erecting reviewing stands along an eight-kilometer route over which the two leaders will travel.

The project, under the supervision of Mayor Eliyahu Navi, has been given the code name Operation Sons of Abraham. It is an appropriate title, inasmuch as Beersheba, whose origins go back some 2000 years, was, according to the Bible, the place where Abraham sojourned on his way to the Promised Land; and it was from Abraham's sons, Isaac and Ishmael, that the Israelites and the Arab peoples are descended.

Beersheba is also a combination of the old and new that characterizes much of Israel. A dusty frontier town 30 years ago, its ancient core is now surrounded by a much larger modern city of wide streets and modern shops and homes. Its population is made up of veteran Israelis and new immigrants and it is the seat of Ben Gurion University, one of Israel's leading institutions of higher learning.

## Beersheba Will Be In The Limelight

On Sunday, May 27, it will be in the limelight of world media attention. According to the plan worked out by a joint Israeli-Egyptian committee, Begin and Sadat will fly from El Arish in Sinai to Beersheba in two helicopters while a third will bring President Yitzhak Navon from Jerusalem. Navon will head a military band and will officially welcome Sadat. He will be presented with the traditional bread and salt and with a key to the city.

The ceremonies will be much the same as those that greeted Sadat on his first visit to Israel in November, 1977. There will be a red carpet, a guard of honor, a military band and a 21-gun salute. After a brief stop for speeches in the town hall square, Navon will return to Jerusalem and Sadat and Begin will head a motorcade through the city to the Ben Gurion University campus on its outskirts. There the two leaders will address the 4000-member student body -- of which some 200 are Bedouins and Arabs -- and the faculty.

There are only 2000 seats and there has been a mad scramble for tickets during the past few weeks. The speeches will be carried by loudspeaker to thousands of others expected to mass in the university quadrangle.

The events at the university will be under the chairmanship of Nissim Gaon, head of the World Sephardi Federation. It was he who delivered a letter to the Egyptian government in which Ben Gurion University president Yosef Tekoah, Israel's former Ambassador to the United

Nations, proposed 10 fellowships for Egyptian students. Tekoah also proposed an honorary degree to be conferred on Sadat. But the Egyptian President declined, saying he preferred action to honors.

At least 500 journalists from all over the world are expected in Beersheba on May 27 to cover these events. For their benefit, dozens of additional telephone lines have been plugged into the Beersheba exchange, giving Israel's desert city, for a day at least, the stature of a world capital.

## HOUSE UNIT INVESTIGATING WHY RADIO FREE EUROPE GAVE TRIFA AIR TIME

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- The House Judiciary Subcommittee concerned with Nazi war criminals residing in the United States, is investigating why Radio Free Europe, which is supported by government funds, broadcast an interview on May 1 with Valerian Trifa, Archbishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in America who faces deportation hearings in July on charges of fraudulent entry into the U.S. Trifa, a leader of the Rumanian fascist Iron Guard during World War II, has been accused of atrocities including the mass murder of Jews in Bucharest in 1941.

Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D. N.Y.), Subcommittee chairman, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that it is "unconscionable and inexcusable to give a forum to somebody under proceedings by the U.S. government for fraud on entering the U.S. with relations to war crimes." Holtzman said she "first read about it" (the Trifa interview) in a JTA story "and we tried to verify it." The story appeared in the JTA Daily News Bulletin May 8.

"We're in the process of determining who is responsible for enabling Radio Free Europe to provide this forum for Trifa," Holtzman said. She said the 45-minute interview by the government-funded broadcast facility was "adverse propaganda for the U.S."

The broadcast was made in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in America which is headed by Trifa, 64, and represents about 80 percent of church-affiliated ethnic Rumanians in the U.S. The remainder are affiliated with the Rumanian Missionary Orthodox Episcopate, headed by Archbishop Victorin Ursache, which is also observing its 50th anniversary.

## A Very Uncomfortable Situation

William Buell, senior vice president of Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty operations in Washington, told the JTA today that "we can't deny that the whole thing is very uncomfortable." He said "We don't know exactly how the decision to air the interview was made despite the judicial procedure. It would not be correct to say we did not know who Trifa is."

However, Buell said the church anniversary could not be ignored considering its importance to Rumanian Americans and the Rumanian people to whom the interview was broadcast. He stressed that the interview dealt exclusively with the church and its history in the U.S. and not with "Trifa's problems with the U.S. government, which are considerable."

Buell said Radio Free Europe attempted to give balanced coverage by sending a reporter to interview Archbishop Ursache in Detroit. But Ursache refused the opportunity and "had unkind words to say in a

hedded way about Radio Free Europe." Buell said He said Urache was sent to the U.S. by the Romanian Orthodox Patriarch in Budapest, Justin Mojtescu who does not recognize Trifa.

### NEO-NAZIS IN WEST GERMANY

Full Pardon For Beate Klarsfeld

By Alfred Schroeder

BONN, May 17 (JTA) -- The Justice Ministry rejected charges today that it was too easy on neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists who glorify the Third Reich, spread anti-Jewish propaganda and claim the Holocaust never took place. The Ministry said that a study of 20 recent cases showed that there were more convictions than commonly assumed and that sentences ranged from a 300 Mark fine to two years in jail.

At the same time, the Justice Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia announced a full pardon for anti-Nazi fighter Beate Klarsfeld. She received a two-month jail sentence in Cologne in 1974 for inflicting bodily harm and duress on former SS security officer Kurt Lischka who was the Gestapo chief in Paris during World War II.

Lischka has been accused of responsibility for the murder of at least 22,000 French Jews. Mrs. Klarsfeld, 40, and several French friends, attempted to drag him into a car in 1971 to bring him to France for trial. The kidnapping failed and Mrs. Klarsfeld, who returned to France, was tried and sentenced by a Cologne court in absentia.

An arrest warrant against her was suspended after angry criticism of the sentence abroad. The procedure for a pardon was initiated by West German legal authorities on the basis of an appeal by prominent German and French citizens, among them President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France. Klarsfeld said at the time that the kidnapping was an attempt to focus world-wide attention on Lischka and the fact that many war criminals were still at large in West Germany. She said she had hoped it would prompt the West German authorities to bring the former Gestapo chief to trial.

### Thousands Of Nazi Pamphlets Distributed

While the Bundestag is debating the abolition or extension of the statute of limitations for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals yet to be apprehended, the extent of neo-Nazi activities was indicated in the Justice Ministry's list of recent indictments.

The offenses included distribution of propaganda material by illegal organizations; libeling the State and its institutions; glorifying violence or inciting racial hatred; wearing the swastika or other Nazi symbols which is illegal under the law; and glorifying Hitler and the Nazi regime. Sentences were meted out to persons arrested for distributing leaflets urging Germans not to buy from Jews and for publishing pro-Nazi pamphlets.

An excerpt from such a pamphlet cited by the Justice Ministry, said: "Lies, mostly written by Jews, have been poured all over the globe for the past 30 years. What did Adolf Hitler really want? He intended to lead the German people out of poverty and need, break the chains of the Versailles Treaty and give back to the Germans a human existence. The German people can now proudly confess their love for one of their greatest sons. The Germans killed six million Jews? Who believes such nonsense. West Germany is an American colony."

The Justice Ministry said such pamphlets have been distributed by the hundreds of thousands in the past few months. Only a few were confiscated.

### BEGIN DEFENDS EHRLICH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin came to the defense of his embattled Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich today. He told a Maariv reporter that he had full confidence in Ehrlich and saw no reason to dismiss him from his post. He also indicated that he would support Ehrlich's five-year economic program which has been criticized by other Cabinet members. It is expected to be debated at this Sunday's Cabinet session.

Denunciations of the government's economic policies and a rising chorus of demands for Ehrlich's resignation followed Tuesday's announcement that the cost of living index rose by 8.7 percent in April, the third largest monthly increase since April 1952. However, according to Begin, "Ehrlich is doing his utmost to curb inflation and there are no grounds for demands that he resign."

The Premier acknowledged, however, that the economic situation is "serious." But he said the inflationary tide could be stemmed by a joint effort of all ministers and the cooperation of Histadrut.

The government will face three motions of no-confidence in the Knesset next week over the deteriorating economy. Two have been submitted by the Labor Alignment and one by the Rakah (Communist) Party. Begin met with Ehrlich and Bank of Israel Governor Arnon Gafni yesterday to discuss economic problems. Sources close to Ehrlich said afterwards that the Premier had given his unqualified endorsement to the economic program and would use his influence to have it approved by the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, the Israel Pound was devalued again and now stands at almost IL 24-\$1. The rapid devaluation was expected to please export manufacturers who have an easier time competing on the world market. However, several senior industrialists complained today that the system of devaluation makes the import of raw materials more expensive which only adds to the inflation rate. In the past, exporters were given special incentives by the government but these were abolished after a major devaluation of the Pound in November, 1977.

### LANDAU NOMINATED FOR OPIC POST

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- William Landau, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, has been nominated by President Carter to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), an independent federal agency that takes its policy guidance from the State Department.

Landau will replace Donley Brody of Los Angeles whose term would have expired Dec. 17, 1980. The directors' terms are for three years. Landau's appointment is subject to full Senate approval. The purpose of OPIC is to mobilize and facilitate the participation of American private capital and skills in the economic and social development of less developed friendly countries and areas, thereby complementing the development assistance objectives of the U.S.

MONTREAL (JTA) -- About 300 Palestinians and their supporters paraded through Montreal last Saturday to protest the 31st anniversary of Israel's independence and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. The parade was sponsored by the Quebec Palestine Committee. Marchers shouted such slogans as "Yesterday the Shah, tomorrow Sadat."

## U.S. SEEN MOVING TOWARD GIVING THE SOVIET UNION TRADE BENEFITS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- The Carter Administration was seen here today as moving closer towards granting U.S. government trade benefits to the Soviet Union by seeking a waiver from Congress under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. But no official decision on the exact process is ready for public discussion.

At the State Department today, chief spokesman Hadding Carter said that President Carter "has noted we have been discussing possibilities in this area both with the Congress and with the Soviets. A decision on how we will proceed has not been finally taken."

The spokesman added, in response to a question whether the current emigration rate for Soviet Jews is sufficient for a waiver of the restrictions in the J-V Amendment, that he could not give a "yes or no" answer to that. He pointed out that Congress must make the decision.

The rate of Soviet Jewish emigration during the past four months would amount to about 50,000 a year. At the time the J-V Amendment was adopted, the minimum goal of emigration was set at about 60,000 annually. In the past few weeks, it is understood that a formula for working out a waiver has been discussed between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

Vance and Dobrynin have been discussing the agenda for the summit conference between Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and Carter, to be held in Vienna June 15-18 with the SALT II agreement as the prime topic, but with trade and the Middle East also slated for discussion.

The J-V Amendment calls for the President to certify assurances from the Soviet government on Soviet policy regarding emigration. Whether these assurances must be in writing is not specified. This establishes a point of debate as to whether Soviet oral assurances given informally would suffice but opponents of any change in the procedure say that in any case, President Carter would have to give the Congress satisfaction that the assurances he receives comply with the views of Congress.

There is little sentiment in the Congress for any repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment but a waiver would enable the Carter Administration to grant Most Favored Nation treatment, if Congress approves, for one year to the Soviets. This would enable the Soviet Union to receive the U.S. government's trade benefits that the U.S. provides under the tariff laws to nations with which it has the most friendly relations.

## GERMANY'S JUSTICE MINISTRY MUM ON REPORT THAT BONN POLICE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH PLO ON SWAP DEAL

By Alfred Schroeder

BONN, May 17 (JTA) -- The Justice Ministry has refused to confirm or deny a report that the Bonn police are negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization to exchange 11 Palestinian terrorists arrested in West Germany several weeks ago for four members of the German Red Army terrorist group said to be hiding out in a PLO camp in a Middle Eastern country.

According to the report, in the magazine "Quick," the PLO proposed the exchange and it is presently being negotiated between Guenter Emsich, vice president of the West German

Criminal Police and Abdallah Franghi, the PLO representative in Bonn.

The Palestinians, reportedly armed, were arrested when they attempted to enter West Germany from Austria and Holland. They are being held in jail pending investigation of charges of possessing explosives and plotting terrorist acts. The Red Army terrorists were arrested in Yugoslavia last year but released after negotiations for their extradition failed. They were flown out of Yugoslavia to an unknown destination.

The Belgrade authorities have refused to provide details but German intelligence sources believe they found shelter with the PLO. Proof exists that German terrorists have, in the past, received training in guerrilla warfare at PLO camps in Lebanon.

According to newspaper reports, a four-member delegation of the Federal Criminal Police met with PLO officials in Beirut recently to try to enlist their cooperation in the terrorist hunt. According to unconfirmed reports, the PLO promised such cooperation but denied that it was sheltering any Red Army terrorists.

Meanwhile, Franghi said in an interview published in the West Berlin Berliner Morgenpost, that he could not guarantee that Palestinians would not carry out terrorist attacks in West Germany. But he insisted that if they did, it would be without orders or approval by the PLO. He said his organization did everything possible "to keep these people under control." Franghi confirmed that he had been in contact with the Interior Minister to discuss questions of combatting terrorism. He said the discussions were initiated after PLO officials were killed by a bomb in Beirut.

## TO BE 'SICK' OR NOT TO BE 'SICK'

By David Markos

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 17 (JTA) -- "Let the Mayor be sick," was the suggestion of some Brazilian officials in discussing the problem of whether Iraqi Vice President Taha Marouf should come to Rio de Janeiro on his forthcoming visit to Brazil because this city now has a Jewish Mayor. There was concern that Dr. Israel Klaban, who is also president of Klaban Industries which is on the Arab boycott list, would refuse to receive Marouf or that Marouf would refuse to be received by the Jewish Mayor.

But Klaban said he would not be "sick." Observers noted that many Arab officials are coming to Brazil lately and Klaban would have to be constantly "sick" if he or the Arabs wanted to avoid each other officially. Finally, Foreign Office officials and members of the Iraqi Embassy agreed that Marouf would avoid Rio de Janeiro when he arrives in Brazil in early June to seek Brazilian participation in two projects costing \$24 billion, a harbor on the Yanbu River and a military base.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Dutch war criminal and former SS member Jan Pattist, 59, living in Oviedo, Spain, told a Madrid newspaper he "almost died with laughter" upon learning that Holland has asked Spain for his arrest and extradition. Pattist said he had become a naturalized Spanish citizen in 1967. In the interview, he conceded that he still always adheres to the views of Hitler and National Socialism. Pattist, who in 1946 escaped from prison in Holland to Spain, said he had gone to Spain because he felt attracted to the Franco regime and to the Spanish "Blue Division" which together with the Germans had fought against the Russians.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES ITALIANS PREPARE FOR 'HOLOCAUST'

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, May 17 (JTA) -- The American NBC-TV "Holocaust" series will be seen in Italy beginning May 20. The first part of the four-part series will be broadcast over Channel One (the priority channel) of national television. It had been scheduled for the end of the year and the decision to air it earlier came as a surprise.

The news media is "preparing" Italians for the event. Italy is probably among the West European nations most well-informed and most interested in its past. With a political alignment that is 25 percent Communist and 50-60 percent anti-Fascist Socialist, Social Democrat and Christian-Democrat, the crimes of Nazis and Fascists during the war have never had time to creep into the latent mass unconscious as they have in Germany.

Reports on public reaction to "Holocaust" in other countries where the TV series was seen are being published again as are reports of Italian behavior towards Jews during the war.

An article in "Il Giorno" described some of the many cases where Italians paid no attention to the racial laws issued by Mussolini in 1938. It cited various documents such as an angry report by an SS commander in France dated July 21, 1943 alleging that "the Italian military authorities and police protect the Jews with every means at their disposal," housing about 1000 Jewish refugees on the Ligurian coast "in the best hotels" and providing them with all necessities and no restrictions.

Another case cited was a telegram from the then young diplomat responsible for the Italian Croatian office, Roberto Ducci (now Italy's Ambassador to London). To save the Jews in Italian-occupied territory from deportation by Nazis, he ruled that Italian citizenship would be granted to Jews born in the occupation zone, those living there at the time and those not born nor living there but with close relatives or having property there.

### A Poignant Personal Memoir

A large spread in the Rome daily "La Repubblica" contained another poignant personal memoir, this one by the son of the Italian Consul in Stuttgart in 1934, Italo A. Chiusano. He recalled his father's attitude of disgust at German anti-Semitism, his refusal to eat in restaurants that had signs barring Jews, and his reply to an SS official who spoke to him of Jewish "lack of creativity."

"Four men founded the modern world," said Chiusano. "Four great Jews of German-speaking origin: Marx, who revolutionized economy and politics; Einstein, who revolutionized physics and cosmology; Freud, who revolutionized psychology; and Kafka who revolutionized literature."

With appropriate timing, Italian TV also aired an excellent documentary on the issue of the statute of limitations this week, containing films of concentration camp scenes, interviews with a few Italian survivors (such as the writer Primo Levi), with Gideon Hausner, Simon Wiesenthal and others.

The interviews described the situation in West Germany today regarding attitudes towards the statute of limitations and neo-Nazism. The case for "not permitting the world to forget, by allowing Nazi criminals to emerge from hiding" was strongly presented.

## ZIONISTS AT THE IRANIAN EMBASSY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- American Zionists were assured at the Iranian Embassy yesterday that Jews in Iran need have no concern of being considered disloyal to the government of Iran because they are Jewish or Zionist, Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, said.

Sternstein, Louis Bernstein, president of the Religious Zionists of America, and Ivan Navick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, visited the Embassy and conferred there for an hour with the Charge d'Affaires, Ali Agah, and his assistant, Abraham Sadjadi.

"They received us as Zionists," Sternstein said afterwards. He noted that in a telegram several days ago to the Embassy, he had said they would be representing all Zionists in the United States. The Embassy issued an invitation to them the next day to visit the Iranian diplomatic leaders.

The request for the interview followed the execution of Habib Elkanian, the former president of the Iranian Jewish community. However, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini told Iranian Jewish leaders Tuesday that Elkanian was executed as a spy for a foreign country, "not because he was a Zionist."

Agah reiterated this to the three Zionists yesterday. He spoke of Israel as "an oppressive state," but Sternstein said, Agah made it clear that "just by virtue of being Zionists does not make Iranian Jews disloyal to Iran." He said Zionists are not disloyal, the rabbi reported Agah as saying.

## JERUSALEM DAY CELEBRATIONS BEGINNING IN NYC NEXT WEEK

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- This year's celebration of Jerusalem Day, which commemorates the reunification of Israel's capital during the Six-Day War 12 years ago, will be coordinated by a special ad hoc Jerusalem Celebration Committee for the New York area. Highlighting the festivities will be the gala opening in the presence of dignitaries, political, religious and lay leaders on Thursday evening, May 24, of two key exhibits: a photographic display at the World Trade Center and a Sound and Light Show at the Goodman Auditorium.

This was announced by the chairman of the Jerusalem Celebration Committee, Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, and Richard Ravitch, chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. They also announced that Uzi Narkis, the commander of the Israeli forces which liberated the Old City of Jerusalem in June 1967 will be the featured speaker at the ceremonies marking the opening of Jerusalem Day celebrations.

The photographic display at the World Trade Center is a massive 3000-square foot pictorial extravaganza illustrating the reclamation of the ancient city of Jerusalem, the restoration of the Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter, and the important archaeological digs which have unearthed significant chapters in Jewish history. The exhibit will be in New York for eight days, May 22-29, at One World Trade Center, in the lobby, after which it will travel to major cities throughout the United States.

The Sound and Light Show is a permanent fixture of the ancient Citadel of David at the edge of Jerusalem's Old City. Since its introduction in 1967, it has been enjoyed by millions of awed tourists and pilgrims. The Sound and Light Show in New York will have continuous performances daily at Abraham Goodman House, 129 West 67 St., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.