

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN, SADAT STRESS THEY WILL CONTINUE TALKS TO ACHIEVE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT

### Sadat To Visit Israel In August

By Gil Sedan

ALEXANDRIA, July 11 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat stressed at a press conference here today that they will continue their talks aimed at a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and will not allow their unresolved differences on a variety of issues to affect progress toward that goal.

Although Sadat described their two days of meetings here as "the most important talks we have had so far," the only substantive news to emerge from the press conference was that Sadat will visit Israel at the end of August at Begin's invitation. Begin invited Sadat to visit him "in Haifa, to match the visit to the Egyptian harbor town of Alexandria."

There was apparently no breakthrough on any major issues. The two leaders acknowledged that they did not agree in the matter of Jewish settlements on the West Bank but did agree not to play up that rift or allow it to create a crisis in the ongoing negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

The negotiations over Palestinian autonomy, which had their fourth session here last week, were mentioned only in passing at the press conference and only in reply to questions. Begin and Sadat apparently are content to leave the negotiations to the lower echelons on both sides. It was agreed when the talks adjourned last Thursday to set up several "working committees" on an agenda and other issues.

Both Begin and Sadat said they agreed that the integrity of Lebanon should be preserved. Sadat appears to have brought up Israeli air raids against Palestinian terrorist strongholds in Lebanon during their conversations here. At the press conference, however, he made no comment when Begin said the raids were an act "of absolute, legitimate self-defense."

### Sadat Will Not Be Deterred

Sadat made it clear that he would not be deterred from his present course by opposition in most of the rest of the Arab world to the Egyptian-Israeli peace process. When he was asked about Egypt's position in the Third World at a time when many Arab countries are pressing for its ouster from various international forums, Sadat replied: "We are launched on a way from which we will never go back. . . . Let us see what Egypt can do without the Arab world and what the Arab world can do without Egypt."

The joint press conference at the Ras A-Tia Palace in effect ended the political talks. Begin was touring Alexandria this afternoon and will attend a dinner tonight hosted by Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil. He flies back to Israel tomorrow.

The Israelis and Egyptians cast a veil of secrecy over the talks held yesterday and today in the gardens of the Maamoura Palace in eastern Alexandria. Security was tight and aides would say only that Begin and Sadat conferred in a "relaxed atmosphere." Israeli sources said both leaders raised specific and current issues, but discussed general matters as well such as "a regional

assessment of the situation."

Observers here saw little prospect of any substantial developments emerging from this round of talks. It was understood that at this stage at least, the importance of the Begin-Sadat meeting was the fact that it was held here during the interim between the negotiating sessions on autonomy. An understanding apparently exists between the two leaders to keep the consultations between them parallel to the negotiations at a lower level. It appeared by last night that neither of them was aiming toward any specific end at this time.

Their conversations were interrupted only twice yesterday -- once when the President's wife, Mrs. Jihan Sadat, came to pay her respects to Begin and again when Sadat's two daughters, one with a newborn infant, did the same and posed for pictures with the two leaders. Last night Begin and Sadat attended a festive dinner in the gardens where they were joined by Khalil, Vice President Hosni Mubarak, Sadat's bureau chief Hassan Kamel, and the Governor of Alexandria, Dr. Fuad Hilmi. Exchanges of views continued at the dinner with current political matters interspersed with such topics as the historical background of Alexandria, its importance in Jewish history and in other cultures.

## STRAUSS SAYS SAUDI ARABIAN OIL HIKE NOT LINKED TO ONGOING AUTONOMY TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA)-- Robert Strauss, President Carter's special Middle East envoy, maintained last night that Saudi Arabia's promise to increase oil production was not linked in any way to the ongoing negotiations between Israel and Egypt for Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Saudis "asked for nothing," Strauss said when he was questioned on the subject in an interview on the Public Broadcasting Service's "MacNeil/Lehrer Report." He said that he and Saudi Crown Prince Fahd had discussed the differences between the United States and Saudi Arabia over the Palestinian issue but Fahd made it clear he was not linking oil production to the political issue.

Fahd said he wanted to demonstrate that the Saudis are a "responsible suppliers of oil to the world," Strauss explained. He said he believed that the Saudis had planned to increase production before he visited Riyadh last week but found it convenient to give him the message to take back to President Carter.

Strauss indicated that the increased production may not necessarily be the one million barrels a day reported in the press. He said he knew the correct figure but the U.S. wanted to let the Saudis make the announcement themselves. Strauss added that he believed that the increased production would be for more than the reported three months.

On the autonomy talks which he attended in Alexandria, Egypt, last week, Strauss said the agreement between Israel and Egypt to establish working parties for which he is credited, advanced the negotiations "one-half of one percent of the job." He said the negotiations will be "long, protracted, difficult, hard." Strauss reiterated the U.S. position on the talks by saying, "I hope the two parties will be able to make a good deal of

progress on their own." He said his "job" was to "step in" when progress slowed down.

Strauss said he did not meet with any Palestinians on his trip to the Middle East because "I didn't have the time." He said he has met with Palestinians in the past and wants to meet with others, adding "non-P.L.O." Strauss revealed his wife, Helen, did what no official visitor had done before and that was to visit a Palestinian refugee camp. He added that it was his hope that the Palestinians would join in the autonomy negotiations.

#### FIRM DENIES BOYCOTT INVOLVEMENT

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA) -- Charles J. Patterson, vice president for corporate relations of the Perini Corp., told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that his firm has "never violated" U.S. legislation against the Arab boycott of Israel. He was responding to reports published in Israel yesterday that the Framingham, Mass. company, a primary contractor for the construction of two U.S.-financed air bases in the Negev, was an active participant in the Arab boycott.

That allegation was contained in what was termed an internal memo of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which the Jerusalem Post published. The memo said the company was known to do business with Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and signed agreements with those countries that contained clauses enforcing the anti-Israel boycott.

Asked by the JTA for clarification, Patterson read the following statement: "The only project the Perini Corp. has ever had in the Arab world was the construction of a hospital in Kuwait. In connection with that project and in any other activities in which the corporation has been involved, we have never violated any U.S. anti-boycott laws or any regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Commerce in connection with such laws."

#### Earlier Report Recalled

A spokesman for the ADL in New York confirmed to the JTA yesterday that the internal memo, dated June 11, 1979, existed and that the Perini Corp. has been under "study" by the ADL. He explained, however, that the contents of the memo were based on news items and magazine articles published in the U.S. between 1976-1978, including a story in the June 22, 1976 JTA Daily News Bulletin.

That story, which originated in Boston, said that a bill to outlaw the Arab boycott in Massachusetts remained stalled in the State Senate because of the vigorous opposition of the Raytheon Corp. and the Perini Construction Co. According to the story, "their representatives said at a meeting last week at the office of Senate President Kevin Harrington that while the firms do not favor the Arab boycott, they felt the bill, as written, could be injurious to their business and was an unconstitutional state usurpation of federal power that could be harmful to U.S. trade abroad."

The Perini Corp. is the managing company of one of the two consortiums selected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last May 18 to build the Negev air bases that will replace those Israel gives up when it withdraws from Sinai. According to Patterson, the Corps of Engineers estimated the cost of the bases at \$400 million each. He said that with various managerial and other related contracts the total cost would be about \$1 billion.

#### DIFFERING VIEW OF JEWISH 'REFUGEES'

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA) -- A story in the July 11 issue of the Daily News Bulletin from Jerusalem dealing with Soviet Jewish dropouts (P.4) stated that Eli Eyal, a member of the World Zionist Organization Executive, quoted a 1973 opinion prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) contending that Soviet Jewish emigrants who reach Vienna do not have "refugee" status. The story also stated that this opinion is "presumably valid today."

An authoritative source who today provided the Jewish Telegraphic Agency with a document stressed that it does not bear out Eyal's statement or that it is "presumably valid today." The document is a lengthy legal opinion dated March 29, 1974 by Dr. Paul Weis, director of the Legal Division-Office of the UNHCR, which ends with the statement: "... I have come to the conclusion that Jews from Eastern Europe who are assisted by HIAS are not ordinary emigrants but are to be regarded as refugees." Furthermore, the JTA was told by the authoritative source that the 1973 opinion cited by Eyal was never officially adopted by the UNHCR.

#### PROTEST OVER REDUCED SENTENCE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- A group of about 150 reserve soldiers have protested to Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan over his reduction of the sentence imposed by a military court on an Israeli officer convicted of murdering four Arab prisoners during Israel's occupation of south Lebanon in the spring of 1978. The 12-year prison term originally imposed was reduced to eight years by an appeals court but later cut to two years by Eytan who is empowered to approve or reduce military sentences.

The soldiers expressed grave concern, in a letter to Eytan, about the morale and integrity of the armed forces in light of his action. The matter has also been taken up in the Knesset where a number of MKs have demanded that the Chief of Staff be "stripped of his power to reduce sentences determined by a court of appeals."

Eytan himself expressed some criticism of Israeli youth to members of the Knesset Education Committee who were visiting army educational facilities yesterday. He said there was a drug problem in the army and serious suspicion that outside sources were flooding the country and the armed forces with narcotics. He alleged the same was done with the U.S. army in Vietnam.

The MKs were also told by the Chief of Staff that Israeli youth today is not as good as the Zionist-inspired youth of past years. He claimed that Zionist motivation of youth is on the decline in their homes, schools and universities and that few Israeli youngsters today associate themselves with the Zionist youth movements. He proposed that the military's education branch set up classes in basic Zionism.

VIENNA (JTA) -- A 300-year-old synagogue in the former ghetto of Eisenstadt has been rededicated after completion of intensive restoration work financed by the federal and provincial governments. The synagogue in Eisenstadt, a town southeast of Vienna near the border with Hungary, will be part of a larger complex planned to include a Jewish museum and a Judaism research institute. The synagogue was closed in 1938 when Nazi troops invaded Austria. It was used as a dump for firewood during World War II. Only one worshipper, a Holocaust survivor, is presently left in the city to benefit from the restoration work.

## REJECTION BY SENATE OF PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE BLAMED ON BLACK, JEWISH PRESSURE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA) -- Sen. Birch Bayh (D. Ind.) said today that the Senate's rejection of his constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College and elect Presidents and Vice Presidents by popular vote means the issue will not be renewed at least in this session of Congress.

Commenting following yesterday's decisive defeat of his proposal which he first introduced in 1966, Bayh said the Senate vote was heavily influenced by pressure from the Urban League and the American Jewish Congress. He specifically mentioned Vernon Jordan, the League's executive director, and Howard Squadron, president of the A. J. Congress. They had testified against the measure in hearings a month ago held by Bayh's Senate subcommittee.

"I put a great deal of pressure on some Senators," a spokesman for Bayh reported the Senator as saying. Bayh, who has been fighting for the measure for 13 years, mustered 51 votes while 48 opposed it. A constitutional amendment requires approval by two-thirds of the Senate to be adopted. It thus lost by 16 votes. This was the first time the Senate had voted on the proposed amendment. It previously was blocked by filibusters.

Five of the Senate's Jewish members voted for the amendment and several spoke ardently in its favor. Approving it were Sens. Carl Levin (D. Mich.), Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio), Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.), Edward Zorinsky (D. Neb.) and Jacob K. Javits (R. N.Y.). Opposing were Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) and Richard Stone (D. Fla.). In the last hours of the debate preceding the vote that lasted two days, Levin declared "This country desperately needs a sense of unity." Metzenbaum and Javits previously spoke for it.

### Charges Mistaken Belief

In his post mortem discussion of the results, Bayh complimented Javits and Ribicoff for "hanging tough under a great deal of pressure" from groups which he said "mistakenly believe they have an advantage under the Electoral College."

The debate was marked by numerous quotations from Blacks and Jews on both sides of the issue, but particularly in opposition to the amendment. Among the presentations were those of the late Alexander M. Bickel of Yale Law School and the late Martin Diamond of Georgetown University. Diamond collapsed and died one minute after he had testified against the amendment July 22, 1977. An article by Will Maslow, the A. J. Congress counsel, in the monthly Jewish review, Mainstream, also was used by opponents of the amendment on the debate.

Statements from the NAACP, the Urban League, Jewish organizations and others stressed that minorities, including Blacks, Jews and farmers would suffer under the amendment because it would have the effect of reducing the significance of their political power. Arguments by Jewish scholars included the need for Presidential candidates to consult all elements of the public on national policies.

### SOVIET POC RELEASED AFTER 7 YEARS

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA) -- Isaac Shkolnik, a 43-year-old Prisoner of Conscience, has been released after serving a seven-year term on trumped up charges of espionage, it was learned

today by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. A semi-skilled laborer, Shkolnik was initially accused of industrial espionage on behalf of British firms that were building factories, under Soviet contract, in his native town of Vinitsa. After Western protests, the procurator changed the charges to spying for Israel.

The Conference noted that so little incriminating material was found that the procurator was forced to claim that Shkolnik had a photographic memory and memorized Soviet documents for transmission to Israel. Commenting on Shkolnik's release, Marge-Ruth Davis, executive director of the Conference, urged the Soviet Union "to allow Isaac to emigrate as quickly as possible so that he can be reunited with his family in Israel."

### CANADIAN B'NAI B'RITH TO ASSIST IN THE RESCUE OF BOAT PEOPLE

TORONTO, July 11 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith today announced that it will actively participate in the assistance of helping to resettle the Vietnamese boat people in Canada. Louis R. Ronson, president of the Canadian B'nai B'rith, advised that "all lodges and B'nai B'rith members are encouraged to send donations to the B'nai B'rith Foundation District 22 earmarking their contributions for 'Project Rescue Boat People.' All funds collected will be utilized in this major rescue operation to save families and individuals."

Frank Dimant, executive vice president, said that "B'nai B'rith members will also be encouraged to provide temporary housing, food and employment for the new immigrants. As an organization committed to the basic philosophy of people helping people, we are confident that B'nai B'rith members will rally to this most humanitarian cause and come forth with assistance."

### JDL FORMED IN HOLLAND

AMSTERDAM, July 11 (JTA) -- Hans Knoop, a Dutch Jewish journalist whose articles in 1976 led to the arrest of Nazi war criminal Pieter Menten, has revealed himself as organizer of a "Jewish Defense League" in Holland with the stated purpose of reacting physically to verbal manifestations of anti-Semitism. His group has claimed credit for stoning the editorial offices of the daily Haagse Post two weeks ago after the newspaper published interviews with several Dutch soldiers in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) who made anti-Semitic remarks.

Knoop, 35, who is active in the Dutch branch of Herut, first made his disclosure in an interview published last week in the weekly Elseviers. Several days ago a group of about 30 persons declared themselves members of the Dutch JDL, among them Knoop and Charlie Nenner, 28, who described himself as a medical student.

MONTREAL (JTA) -- The Canada-Israel Committee gave a dinner in honor of Canada's new Ambassador to Israel, Joseph S. Stanford Tuesday and held a farewell reception for Israel's outgoing Ambassador, Mordechai Shalev. Stanford, who will replace Ambassador Edward Lee, joined the Canadian foreign service in 1960 and has served in Paris, Bonn and Jamaica. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Shalev said he is leaving the Israeli foreign service because he has reached the retirement age but intends to give lectures and write articles on foreign affairs. He and his wife will live in Jerusalem.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA BEGIN AND THE JEWS OF ALEXANDRIA

By Gil Sedan

ALEXANDRIA, July 11 (JTA) -- "You will have to ask the permission of President Sadat to take this book with you," Clement R. Setton, president of the Jewish community of Alexandria, said to Premier Menachem Begin as he handed him an old Torah, property of the Elijah Hanavi Synagogue here.

Setton was serious. The Torah, which he gave as a gift of the community to the Premier of Israel, is one of some 20 still kept by the Jewish community here, the symbolic remains of a once great community of 100,000 Jews. Those books are considered antiquities, and by law they cannot be given away without the specific permission of the government.

Begin arrived at the synagogue, which is some 200 yards away from the picturesque Mediterranean coast, shortly before his first meeting with President Anwar Sadat last night. He looked relaxed after a lunch break and visibly pleased at yet another occasion to link the State of Israel with the tiny Jewish community of Egypt.

The small Begin entourage arrived at the synagogue, escorted by screaming sirens of the Alexandria police and cheered by the crowds that gathered along the entrance to the synagogue and crowded the balconies overlooking the building.

### The Largest Gathering

The hall of the beautiful 100-year-old synagogue was packed mainly with reporters, but also the majority of the estimated 250 members of the community. "This is the largest gathering we have ever had," said Ellie Daron, one of the community's veterans. "It is even larger than on Yom Kippur."

The Alexandria community was once one of the better-off and best organized communities in the Mideast, but after three wars between Israel and Egypt it gradually deteriorated to a small number of families, most of them aged. Thus it was not the 90-year-old rabbi who held the services but one of the community's dignitaries.

There were tears in the eyes of many of the women and the elderly who attended the ceremony. They held hands with Begin, and some of them kissed his hands thanking the Israeli Premier for the moment. Begin, too, was visibly moved when the person saying the mincha prayer reached "Shema Yisrael." He stood in the front row of the synagogue with Eliahu Ben-Elissar, director general of the Premier's Office, and Yehiel Kadishai, his bureau chief, standing besides him.

### The Message Of Peace

Begin thanked his hosts with a brief speech, beginning with "Shehecheyanu vekiymanu lazmanhazeh." He recalled the role the community had played in ancient times and mentioned the absorption of many of Alexandria's Jews in Israel. "Today I bring with me the most important of the messages -- the message of peace. Peace on Israel and peace on our holy country." He expressed the hope that Alexandria Jews could soon join their families in Israel.

Following his brief speech, Begin went to the platform, kissed the Torah scrolls and once again said "shehecheyanu." As he came out of the building a pleasant surprise waited for him. As his bodyguards gave the sign for the cars to proceed and the police sirens began to wail the crowd on the street greeted him with chants of approval

"Begin, Begin." Obviously pleased at this first warm welcome by the local people, Begin raised his arms and waved back. His security guards had to pull him back to the car.

### A Package For Begin

Another "security problem" occurred when Leah Mandelbaum, an elderly Jewish resident of Alexandria, made a point of handing Begin two packages, each containing a home-baked cake. Mandelbaum, who only recently returned from a brief visit to Israel, arranged with the personal intervention of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, insisted that she be allowed to hand the cakes to Begin personally -- without having her packages checked by the police.

Mandelbaum would not accept the explanation that no packages could be handed to the Premier without prior checking. "You know who is Mandelbaum?" she asked the security guards, recounting the history of the Mandelbaum family in Jerusalem in fluent Hebrew. When the guards refused to be convinced, Mandelbaum warned them she would complain to "Ezer Weizman and Arik Sharon who received my gifts without any suspicion."

The incident was resolved when one of the government Office of Information secretaries took the package and promised to hand it to Begin. Following the synagogue visit, Begin met Sadat at the Maamara Palace in eastern Alexandria.

### NEW TRIAL SET FOR WAR CRIMINAL

AMSTERDAM, July 11 (JTA) -- A new trial for Pieter Menten, the 80-year-old Dutch millinaire charged with war crimes committed in eastern Galicia in 1941, will start Sept. 25 in a Rotterdam District Court. Menten was originally sentenced to 15 years imprisonment on these charges by an Amsterdam District Court in December 1977. He appealed and the sentence was quashed by the Dutch Supreme Court on formal grounds in May 1978, and it ordered a new trial by The Hague District Court.

Last December, The Hague District Court ruled that The Hague Public Prosecutor was not authorized to prosecute Menten because of an alleged promise by the Minister of Justice in October 1952 that Menten could no longer be prosecuted. The Public Prosecutor appealed, and the Supreme Court ordered on May 22 a new trial by the Rotterdam District Court. Menten is under house arrest in Blaricum, east of Amsterdam.

### YESHIVA U. WELCOMES SOVIET STUDENTS

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA) -- Yeshiva University is set to welcome two Soviet students who will begin their rabbinical studies at the school in September, a university spokesman said. The students, sponsored by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, will undergo the strenuous three-year rabbinical program after they have gained proficiency in the university's preliminary English-language program. The students, Boris Gramm and Isaac Fuchs, are both university graduates. Although married, they will study in the United States without being accompanied by their wives.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Shmuel Katz, member of the First Knesset on the Herut ticket and an advisor to Premier Menachem Begin during the early stages of the Likud government, resigned Monday from Herut. About a year ago he resigned from his post as advisor to the Premier because he opposed Begin's peace policy and the Camp David agreements. Katz said at the time that he would remain in Herut to fight from within. Apparently, he became convinced that this cannot be done any more.