

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## CARTER WILLING TO TALK WITH THE PLO IF IT RECOGNIZES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that President Carter "has said he would be willing to talk with the PLO" if it recognized Israel's right to exist. The Department's chief spokesman, Hadding Carter, made that assertion in response to reporters' questions as to whether the U.S. would deal directly with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Reiterating that the U.S. stands firmly behind United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Carter stressed that the U.S. is trying to bring the Palestinians into the current peace negotiating process. He said all parties to this process can bring in their own participants but if one participant does not wish to deal directly with another, it would not have to.

"We continue to hope," the State Department spokesman said, "that the PLO will change its firmly held position and concede and grant Israel's right to exist -- in which case the President has said he would be willing to talk with the PLO. There is no assumption that anybody else will be willing." He added, "Our efforts are aimed specifically at the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to indicate we want them to be participants as called for in the peace treaty."

According to a report in The New York Times today, President Carter, in a wide-ranging interview, likened the Palestinian issue to the "civil rights movement here in the United States," depicting it as a highly emotional issue and a matter of rights. The State Department spokesman had no comment on The Times' story. (See separate story.)

## Postpone Sale Of Tanks To Jordan

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, Harold Saunders, appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee this morning to answer questions about the pending sale of 300 M-60 tanks to Jordan. The Administration has postponed the sale for six weeks to allow the Congress more time to examine the deal which has aroused criticism in Israel. By law, Congress must have 30 days to consider any major overseas weapons sale. If, after that period, the sale is not vetoed by either House, it goes through automatically.

## JEWISH LEADERS CRITICIZE CARTER

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders reacted sharply today to President Carter's statement likening the Palestinian issue to the civil rights movement in the United States. They pointed out that the civil rights movement never resorted to violence while the Palestinian movement is characterized by acts of terrorism.

The sharp and angry response by the American Jewish leadership followed a wide-

-ranging interview today in The New York Times, in which the President declared that he does not think that stable peace can come to the Mideast without a solution to the Palestinian problem and said that the Palestinian cause could be likened to the "civil rights movement here in the United States."

Carter was reported to say that if the Israelis permitted the Palestinians to come back to the West Bank, they (the Palestinians) would be satisfied with "just the right to do it." But, the President reportedly added, only a relatively small number of Palestinians, scattered throughout the Arab world, would want to return to the poverty of the area.

Carter expressed the hope that American Jewish leaders -- he named two, according to the interview: Sol Linowitz, a Washington lawyer who helped negotiate the Panama Canal treaties, and Robert Strauss, the President's special envoy to the Mideast -- will support his efforts that will give autonomy to the Palestinians on such issues as schools, police, housing and immigration on the West Bank.

The President also said, according to the interview, he believed that the Palestinian Arabs would be willing to accept the physical presence of Israeli units as a safeguard of their national security. Based on polls he has seen, Carter said he believed the majority of the Israeli people favor a settlement with the Palestinians based on Security Council Resolution 242.

## Rap Comparison With Civil Rights Movement

Responding to this report, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said in a statement: "We are dismayed and disappointed that the President should even think of the civil rights movement, characterized by non-violent means and seeking the liberties that our Constitution promises to all Americans, in the same breath as the obscene acts of a terrorist gang which seeks through violent means to eliminate the Jewish State."

"Moreover, in terms of the rights of the Palestinian Arabs there can be no doubt that they enjoy a higher standard of living, longer life expectancy, greater opportunity for education and employment and more benefits affecting their daily lives under Israeli administration than they ever knew when they were living under the rule of Jordan, the British and the Turks before that. The President's comparison is regrettable; we can only assume that it was a slip of the tongue and not a serious expression of this Administration's viewpoint on such a crucial issue."

Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, declared: "President Carter will lose the confidence of the American Jewish community if he tries to equate the Palestinian cause with the U.S. civil rights movement. It makes a mockery of the civil rights cause and distorts the opportunities for the Palestinian people to solve their problems by negotiating with Israel. The Palestinians stood in their own way -- not Israel."

Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, stated that "Carter does an injustice to the U.S. civil rights movement when he likens the Palestinian issue to it. The civil rights movement never resorted to the acts of terrorism against innocent people that so characterizes the activities of the PLO, which is the most visible part of the movement for Palestinian rights."

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency sought

clarification on Carter's statement from the White House, but by this afternoon there was still no response. (See late bulletin P. 3.)

#### **BILL TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO SEIZE BEDOUIN LANDS PASSES FIRST READING**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- A controversial bill that would allow the government to seize some 40,000 acres of Bedouin lands in the Negev without the right of appeal passed its first reading in the Knesset last night by a vote of 46-44. But the narrow margin was a disappointment to coalition leaders who had hoped for a broad consensus on the issue in view of the strong internal and international criticism of the measure.

The opposition was led by the Labor Alignment which had been importuned by Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich and Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir at meetings yesterday at least to abstain if it could not support the bill.

The lands in question are needed for the construction of one of three U.S.-financed air bases to replace those Israel will give up in Sinai. Under the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty the bases must be completed within three years. For that reason, the government-sponsored bill bans the right of the Bedouins to appeal the confiscation of their land to Israeli courts, a process that could seriously delay work on the airfields. The Bedouins would be offered compensation, however, and the right to appeal if they consider the offer to be insufficient.

Members of the Labor Alignment's Knesset faction met several times with Ehrlich and Tamir yesterday and last night and caucused among themselves. While the top party leaders -- Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin and Yigal Allon -- favored abstention, they were overruled by junior MKs. The Labor faction voted 19-7 against abstention and as a result the party opposed the bill en bloc.

#### **Fail To Agree On Compromise**

It came to a vote after the coalition and opposition factions failed to agree on a compromise which would have postponed Knesset action while a more moderate version of the bill was worked out with Bedouin participation. The Labor Alignment did not question the need for the lands but felt that the new measure was too arbitrary and that the issue could be resolved within existing legislation covering land expropriation.

Ehrlich argued that "supreme defense necessity" and a desire not to jeopardize the peace treaty were the only reasons the government presented the bill. He noted that uninhabited lands were selected for two of the projected air bases but the third, in the opinion of military experts, had to be located in the Tel Mahata area south of Beersheba, inhabited by about 6,000 Bedouins.

The bill provides that the State will acquire title to the lands specified on the date the law takes effect. The inhabitants would be given three months to evacuate and turn over the land to the State. The measure was sent to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee for further discussion. The Knesset, which adjourns for summer recess tonight, may be called back into special session for the required second and third readings of the bill.

#### **FIRST ROUND AUTONOMY TALKS END**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli and Egyptian working groups on autonomy ended

their first three-day session in Alexandria yesterday with no apparent agreement on the nature and scope of autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The delegations decided to submit working papers, containing their respective viewpoints, to the ministerial level autonomy committee scheduled to meet, for the fifth time, in Haifa Sunday.

The working groups were established last month by the ministerial teams to negotiate over details of the autonomy plan. At their four meetings since May 26, the ministerial teams, headed by Interior Minister Yosef Burg of Israel and Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil of Egypt, achieved no progress. Their next meeting in Haifa will be attended by Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East. Strauss also attended the last previous meeting in Alexandria.

#### **JULIUS AMBER DEAD AT 72**

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Julius B. Amber, noted Zionist, communal leader, and president of the Jewish National Fund of Cleveland for 25 years, died Sunday in Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Cleveland at the age of 72. It was announced here today by Dr. Samuel Cohen, executive vice president of the JNF. During his 38 years of service to the JNF in Cleveland, both as secretary and president, Amber was known throughout the Midwest as "Mr. JNF."

One of nine children, born in Sokoly, Poland, Amber emigrated to the United States in 1921. He received his A.B. degree from Western Reserve University in 1931; and his law degree from Western Reserve University Law School in Cleveland in 1934. After graduation, he was appointed secretary to Roy H. Williams, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio, where he served for eight years before joining the law firm of Horwitz, Kiefer and Hamel of Cleveland.

In 1942 he became secretary of the Zionist District, and at the same time undertook the position of secretary of the JNF in Cleveland, where he served for 14 years until his election to the office of president of the JNF of Cleveland in 1955. During his service to the Jewish community of Cleveland, he also held positions on the boards of various Jewish communal, educational, and social service organizations. He was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of Park Synagogue, and the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Listed in Who's Who in America and the Encyclopedia Judaica, Amber has been honored by the planting of the Julius B. and Alice N. Amber Forest in Israel; by the dedication in his name of the Ohio Pylon at the JFK Memorial in Israel; and by the JNF Distinguished Service Award. He was honored at a luncheon last March at the JNF National Assembly, where he was presented with a citation for his many years of devoted service and dedication to the continued development of the State of Israel.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The Fast of Tisha B'Av and a commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the "Night of the Murdered Poets" -- the "liquidation" of Soviet Jewish poets, writers and intellectuals at Stalin's orders in Moscow on Aug. 12, 1952 -- were marked at services outside the Soviet Embassy Wednesday. The services were sponsored by the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington and conducted by Cantor Larry Jaslovitz of the Ohr Kodosh Congregation. It included readings from the works of Yiddish poets killed in 1952 and of Jews imprisoned in the Soviet Union today. The traditional Jewish liturgy from the Book of Lamentations was chanted to mark Tisha B'Av.

**FLATTO-SHARON TO STAND TRIAL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted 61-30 by secret ballot today to waive the immunity of MK Samuel Flatto-Sharon so that he can stand trial on charges of buying votes that elected him to Parliament in May, 1977. The vote was one of the Knesset's last acts before it adjourned for summer recess. It followed a 15-4 vote by the Knesset's House Committee last night recommending that Flatto's immunity be rescinded.

In a last-minute appeal to the Knesset today, Flatto, who heads a one-man faction in the Knesset, claimed that the House Committee had failed to read through the material in his favor but listened only to the presentations by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir who believes he can prove the bribery charges in court. Flatto's lawyers also appeared before the committee. He is basing his defense on the contention that the methods he used to woo voters were employed by all Knesset candidates. He said if he stands trial, it will be a "test case" for all Israeli political parties.

Flatto did his cause no good today when he referred to three coalition MKs on the House Committee as "pigs" because they voted against him after allegedly promising to uphold his immunity. The three--Haim Kaufman, Yitzhak Yitahaki and Hillel Zeidel--issued separate statements denying any promise or implied promise of support.

In reporting to the Plenum, House Committee chairman Yitzhak Berman was careful to point out that the committee was not making a prima facie judgement of the evidence but was merely attesting that the Attorney General had no political motive in seeking a waiver of immunity. Two of Flatto's election aides, Jacques Bennaudice and Yaacov Halfon, have been charged with the same offense and may face trial.

Reports from Paris in the Israeli press today said that the French authorities would probably revive their request for Flatto's extradition if the Knesset lifted his immunity. Flatto is wanted in France on charges of fraud and tax evasion. The MK, described as a millionaire, was a prominent businessman and real estate dealer in France before he came to Israel, allegedly to avoid arrest.

**COPS FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- The chief command of the Israel police force intends to take severe disciplinary measures against hundreds of policemen who participated yesterday in an illegal demonstration which brought traffic in downtown Jerusalem to a complete standstill. The policemen demonstrated against a new bill adopted by the Knesset earlier this week which banned the organization of a police union.

The demonstration began with a legal protest on the Knesset lawn but soon developed into a spontaneous march from the government offices area through downtown Jerusalem to air their grievances before a wider public. On the way, the demonstrators staged a noisy sit-down meeting in front of the house of Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who they held responsible for the new law. Speaking through bullhorns to astonished citizens the police explained: "We are law abiding citizens, but since all our requests were turned down, we had no choice but to demonstrate."

**EX-NAZI DIES IN PRISON**

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Joseph Katoella, one of three Nazi war criminals still imprisoned in Holland, died at Breda prison today at the age of 71. A German by birth, he was, as deputy commandant of the Amersfoort concentration camp during World War II, responsible for mass murder and countless other atrocities.

Katoella was sentenced to death after the war for the murders of 77 camp inmates. In 1951 his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment on grounds that he was not fully competent mentally. In 1971, the Dutch government announced its intention to free him and three other war criminals for humanitarian reasons in consideration of their poor health. Only one, Willy Lages, was released and died soon afterwards. Nationwide protests forced the government to abandon its plan. Katoella had been partially paralyzed for several years.

The surviving war criminals still at Breda are Ferdinand aus der Euenten and Franz Fischer who were in charge of the deportation of Jews from Amsterdam and The Hague, respectively, during the war.

**SOLDIER'S KILLERS SURRENDER**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Two Arabs from Kalkilya on the West Bank surrendered to police today and confessed the axe murder of an Israeli reserves soldier whose mutilated body was found yesterday in a stolen bus at a road junction near Kalkilya. The victim, Joseph Trumpeldor Itzhak, 30, the father of two children, was buried today with full military honors. He and his family lived in Kadimah, a moshav near Netanya.

The killers surrendered as police closed in and handed over a revolver stolen from the victim. The murder was discovered when soldiers spotted a bus normally employed in Petach Tikva abandoned on the road near the West Bank and saw two youths running toward a dense orange grove. The bus had been stolen from a parking lot in Petach Tikva.

**LATE NEWS BULLETIN  
CARTER'S COMMENT CLARIFIED**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- In an effort to clarify President Carter's remarks in The New York Times today, Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell told reporters at the White House late this afternoon: "The President's comment with respect to the American civil rights movement and the Palestinian issue related to a specific point in the Camp David accords, namely Section A, West Bank and Gaza, Paragraphs 3 and 4. The President made the point that he felt the right of return was important to Palestinians as a matter of principle, even though many would not choose to exercise it, as certain rights are important to certain Black citizens as a matter of principle."

"References to the civil rights movement in the context of the Palestinian issue underscores the personal views of the President and the position of the American government. In total opposition to terrorism and violence. The American civil rights movement was and continues to be successful largely because it is and continues to be non-violent. The efforts of this and previous American Presidents have been directed toward the resolution of long-standing differences by peaceful means rather than through death and destruction."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The U.S. Sixth Fleet flag ship, the carrier Independence, arrived Wednesday in Haifa for a five-day visit.

## **TIMERMAN'S SON ASKS CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO AID HIS FATHER**

MONTREAL, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- The intercession of the Canadian government is being sought by Hector Timerman in behalf of his imprisoned father in Argentina. Timerman asked officials of the Canadian Department of External Affairs to appeal to Argentine authorities for the release of Jacobo Timerman, a journalist who has been held for more than two years without specific indictment.

The Canadian officials, Arthur E. Blanchette, Acting Director General of the Department of External Affairs, and Roger P. Gilbert, Director of the Department's Latin American Division, assured him that the case of Jacobo Timerman would be brought to the attention of Flora MacDonald, Minister for External Affairs.

In his quest, the younger Timerman received the backing of Marvin Meretsky, national chairman of the League for Human Rights of the Canadian B'nai B'rith, who accompanied him to the meetings with the government officials. Meretsky said his organization would press for the release of Jacobo Timerman, and "we will inform Canadian public opinion of the plight of the thousands of people, Christians as well as Jews, incarcerated in Argentine prisons, whose human rights are being violated." Hector Timerman was accompanied by Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal, director of Latin American affairs of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York City.

Timerman, who spoke with various government and organization officials in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, told them that his father was found innocent by a military tribunal of all charges against him. "Nevertheless," he declared, "he remains under house arrest even though he has assured Argentina's leaders that he will never write about the regime again if they permit him to leave for Israel as he has frequently requested."

## **SOLONS SEEK SHCHARANSKY RELEASE**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Senators John Heinz (R. Pa.) and Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they have sent a joint letter co-signed by 42 other Senators to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev asking that Anatoly Shecharansky be allowed to leave the Soviet Union and join his wife, Avital, in Israel. Heinz said "I am pleased that so many of our colleagues in the Senate share our concern over the health and the human rights of Mr. Shecharansky and have joined in sending a letter to Chairman Brezhnev."

The letter to Brezhnev appealed to him "in the name of humanity and good will between our two nations" to release Shecharansky and allow him to join his wife in Israel. The Senators noted that in a recent letter to his mother, Ida Milgrom, Shecharansky indicated that he is under severe physical and mental stress.

"His sight is failing reportedly and he suffers from severe headaches," the Senators wrote in their letter. "Mr. Shecharansky's mother hopes to visit her son on August 2, and we fervently urge that she be allowed to do so. Mr. Shecharansky's health has deteriorated and continued imprisonment could endanger his life. In the spirit of the Vienna summit which calls for broader cooperation between the U.S. and the

Soviet Union, we respectfully urge you to release Anatoly Shecharansky...."

## **REPORT USSR AUTHORITIES AGREE TO HELP SAFEGUARD THE SHRINE OF RABBI NACHMAN OF BRESLOV**

ELIZABETH, N. J., Aug. 1 (JTA) -- An American delegation of Hasidic Jews has just returned from the Soviet Union, having successfully completed discussions with Soviet authorities for the safeguarding of the shrine of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. It was reported by Rabbi Pinchas Teitz of the Jewish Educational Center here.

The shrine, located in the Ukrainian city of Uman, houses the grave of Rabbi Nachman, founder of the Breslover Hasidic movement, who selected the site as his burial grounds eight years prior to his death in 1811. It has served for over 150 years as the focal point of the world-wide Breslov movement, which -- alone among Hasidic groups -- has had no hereditary titular leader since Rabbi Nachman's passing.

Information reaching the United States in recent months had indicated that the burial site was slated by Soviet authorities for inclusion in a proposed housing complex. As a result, a delegation from the New York area went to the Soviet Union to discuss the situation with the appropriate authorities; Teitz said.

The attitude of Soviet officialdom was sympathetic and understanding, especially when it was pointed out by the delegation that the site had been chosen by Rabbi Nachman because it was the burial place for the remains of the 30,000 Jewish victims of a pogrom and massacre in the early 18th Century, Teitz reported.

The Soviet officials in Kiev, the regional capital, reassured the delegation that although major construction was being undertaken in Uman, it would be restricted to the city's center, and would in no way impinge upon the shrine, which is a mile and a half from the center.

## **RABBIS SPLIT OVER TISHA B'AV PRAYER**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA) -- Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef have come out with conflicting edicts regarding the "Nahem" prayer said in the afternoon service of the Fast of Tisha B'Av. The prayer contains references to the city of Jerusalem being "despoiled and empty," terms which do not accurately reflect the post-1967 reality.

Yosef, while admitting the factual discrepancy, nevertheless ordered in an edict that the prayer not be altered. He observed that the city was still desolate inasmuch as the Temple had not been rebuilt. Goren, on the other hand, has compiled an amended "Nahem" prayer which omits the word "desolate, despoiled" and refers to the recent years of rebuilding Jerusalem while praying for the rebuilding of the Temple.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin of Israel, famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal of Vienna and Sen. Birch Bayh (D. Ind.) are among the world's newsmakers who will address Hadassah's national convention in Chicago August 19-22. Bernice S. Tannenbaum, national president of Hadassah, announced Wednesday. Other noted statesmen, scholars and political leaders scheduled to participate in the four-day annual meeting at the Palmer House are: Gov. James Thompson of Illinois; Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne; Dr. David Hartman of The Hebrew University, Jerusalem; and Rabbi David Polish, Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, Evanston, Ill.