

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL CONCERNED WITH U.S. POLICY MOVES ON THE MIDEAST

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Recent developments in the United States policy thinking on the Middle East in general and the Palestinian issue in particular preoccupied the Cabinet meeting yesterday. The concerned Ministers, while unanimously passing a tough resolution rejecting reported U.S. efforts to woo the Palestine Liberation Organization into the peace negotiations, decided not to issue any public statement expressing the Cabinet's concern.

However, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan was instructed to transmit the resolution privately to the Carter Administration through its Ambassador in Washington, Ephraim Evron, who is due to meet with President Carter this week for lunch.

Officials said the resolution's wording was heavily influenced by Premier Menachem Begin who, though still convalescing at his residence, kept in close touch with weekend political developments. It was Begin, too, who urged his colleagues not to publish their resolution at this stage -- apparently in order to ward off an open confrontation with the U.S.

### Reaction To U.S. Indications

After the session, Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor referred only obliquely to the Cabinet resolution. He reiterated Israel's position that "the murderous organization called the PLO" would "never be a partner" in negotiations with Israel.

Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, who chaired the session, said the resolution echoed the government's known positions and was intended as "a reaction" to the indications "in certain circles in the U.S. Administration" that the U.S. would seek a change in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and/or other means to woo the PLO to the negotiating table.

Another part of the Cabinet's decision was a reiteration of Israel's rejection of the substitution of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) force for the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), an arrangement worked out by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The ministers confirmed earlier decisions that Israeli forces in Sinai would not cooperate with UNTSO officers.

(In practice, UNEF has already ceased functioning in Sinai and its units are beginning to be withdrawn. UNTSO officers are manning road checkpoints, but only the Egyptians are cooperating with them while Israeli units have orders to ignore them.)

In a related development, Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, appeared to the U.S. Congress to review recent moves by the Carter Administration which he said were harmful to Israel. In a cable to Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Rep. Clement Zab-

locki (D-Wisc.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Arens listed the harmful moves as the pending supply of U.S. tanks to Jordan, American contacts with the PLO and the U.S.-Soviet agreement on replacing UNEF with UNTSO.

### Dayan U.S. Visit Off Till September

Meanwhile, there were reports yesterday that Dayan would only be going to Washington in September to discuss the present nadir in relations between the two countries. Last Sunday, Dayan was reported going to Washington last week but on Monday it was announced that his trip had been postponed for one week. Dayan and his Egyptian counterpart, Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali have been invited by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to discuss the UNTSO issue, but Dayan and his American hosts are expected to take the opportunity to review the broad spectrum of relations between the two countries.

Dayan, meanwhile, is due to confer during the week with Ghali who arrived in Israel yesterday as a member of Egypt's delegation to the autonomy talks. The two officials will discuss the course of normalization between their two countries. Ghali and Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who is heading the Israeli delegation, met privately last night to work out a schedule for the two days of talks.

Despite the heavy atmosphere of dispute between Israel and the U.S. and Israel and Egypt hanging over the autonomy talks, observers here do not expect an open crisis in this round. Israel last week bitterly criticized James Leonard, the U.S. envoy to the talks, for suggesting, upon instructions from Washington, that the self-governing authority (administrative council) on the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the autonomy plan should have legislative, judicial and executive power and that the elections to set up the authority should be held under international supervision. (Related story P. 3.)

### Issue Of Normalizing Relations

Regarding the issue of normalizing relations between Egypt and Israel, there have been increasing expressions of uneasiness in political and commercial circles here in Israel at the slow pace of the normalization. Hundreds of applications by Israelis for visas to Egypt are still being held up in Cairo and to date only a couple of dozen non-official visas have been granted.

Chaim Herzog, Israel's former Ambassador to the UN, has written in the press recently warning the Israel government and U.S. Jewish leaders, too, not to "fall over themselves" in an undignified quest for normal relations -- if the Egyptians time and again demonstrate reluctance and coolness.

Herzog noted that, with the exception of Egypt's Ambassador to Washington, Ashraf Ghorbal, Egyptian diplomats abroad still treat their Israeli counterparts with coldness or even hostility.

### EVRON - SAUNDERS DISCUSS U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron had a luncheon meeting today with Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, apparently to discuss the Israeli Cabinet resolution yesterday rejecting reported U.S. efforts to include the

Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East negotiations. There was no immediate official word about the result of the meeting.

State Department spokesman Tom Reston said that Saunders received a letter from Evron yesterday. He said that Evron discussed the Israeli message with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance by telephone today but there were no plans for the Ambassador to see Vance today.

Reston would not say what the letter contained. "We will be studying it and we will reply in due course," he said. But in Israel, it was announced that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan was instructed to transmit the Cabinet resolution privately to the U.S. through Evron. The Ambassador is also scheduled to meet with President Carter for lunch this week.

Reston said that Vice President Walter Mondale's statement to Israel Television last Friday that the Administration policy toward the PLO "remains unchanged" defines the U.S. position.

Reston also confirmed that the meeting between Vance, Dayan and Egyptian Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali in Washington on the dispute over what type of international force should be placed in Sinai will not be held until early September. He said it had been hoped to hold the meeting in mid-August but the Egyptians have other commitments.

The Israeli Cabinet resolution reportedly also contains continued opposition to the use of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) in place of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF). Reston said that the U.S. is continuing contacts with Israel, Egypt and the UN of this issue.

#### **BEDOUINS END HUNGER STRIKE**

By Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, Aug. 6 (JTA)** -- A one-week hunger strike by a group of Bedouins and their Jewish supporters ended yesterday with a decision to end their campaign against a bill that would allow the government to seize some 40,000 acres of Bedouin land in the Negev without the right to appeal. The strikers decided to end their action in response to appeals from Bedouin sheikhs. The Bedouins apparently want to take advantage of a newly appointed public committee which would resolve the issue within a three-month time limit.

The first reading of the bill was passed in the Knesset last week by a narrow margin of 46-44, with the Labor Alignment leading the opposition to the measure. If the bill is passed on its second and final third reading, some 6000 Bedouins will have to evacuate the Tel Malhata area south of Beersheba in order to allow for the early construction of one of three U.S.-financed air bases to replace those Israel will give up in Sinai.

Under the terms of the Egyptian-Israeli 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, a process that could seriously delay work on the airfields. The Bedouins would be offered compensation, however, and the right to appeal this offer if they consider the offer to be insufficient.

At a press conference Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir held yesterday, he said that the public committee would include a representative

of the government, a retired judge and a representative of the Bedouins. He promised the Bedouins they could settle in agricultural settlements; as they have asked for.

Tamir said the requisitioning of land at Tel Malhata resulted from the peace treaty. Israel, he noted, had to find a replacement for the Eitam and Etzion airfields in Sinai "otherwise our planes would have to be stalled." He added that there is "therefore a supreme national need to take the area needed to build the base." Tamir argued that the compensation the government is offering the Bedouins was fair and liberal and double that offered by the previous government.

#### **SPECIAL TO THE JTA UN FILM ON PALESTINIANS REVISED AND READY FOR DISTRIBUTION**

By Yitzhak Rabi

**UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 6 (JTA)** -- "The Palestinians," the controversial UN-produced film about the Mideast conflict as seen by the Palestine Liberation Organization and its supporters, which was to have been shown last year and then withdrawn at the last moment because it was not considered "pro-Palestinian" enough by the PLO, is completely revised now and ready for distribution, it was learned here today.

The film was produced by the UN Palestinian Unit last year at the request of the Palestine Committee. It cost \$80,000 and depicted the Mideast conflict with Israel as the "heavy" and the Palestinians as the "innocent victims." The film was sharply denounced by Israel and Jewish groups as "biased" and "one-sided."

The premier was scheduled for Nov. 29 of last year, which also was marked by the UN as "Palestine Day." But at the last moment the PLO decided the film should be re-edited to include more scenes of Palestinian-related activities.

The new version of the half-hour-long film includes Palestinian youngsters in combat training, and the celebration of last year's Palestine Day at the UN. The new version was approved a few days ago by the Palestine Committee. Sources here said the film will be available for sale on the "free market" and attempts will be made to sell it to various TV stations around the world, including the United States.

#### **PLO TO OPEN ANKARA BRANCH**

**LONDON, Aug. 6 (JTA)** -- The Palestine Liberation Organization will open an office in Ankara, Turkey soon, according to reports reaching here today. Ankara's consent to open a PLO office is seen both as a shift in Turkey's Mideast policy and a diplomatic victory for the PLO.

According to the reports, the Turkish government made the pro-PLO move after talks between Turkish officials and a PLO delegation. The delegation arrived in Ankara for the talks following an agreement between PLO chief Yasir Arafat and Turkey's Premier Bulent Ecevit in the wake of the recent attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Ankara by four Palestinian terrorists. The PLO mediated to resolve the Embassy takeover, and, as a result, Turkey accepted the PLO request to open an office.

Observers see this development as part of Ecevit's new strategy of wooing its Arab and Moslem neighbors. Turkey, which has diplomatic ties with Israel, has been nonetheless keeping a low profile in dealing with the Jewish State.

#### **POLICE UNION DRIVE FIZZLES**

**TEL AVIV, Aug. 6 (JTA)** -- An attempt to

form a police union was abandoned yesterday when only some 20 policemen turned out for what was planned as a strike and mass demonstration at the Municipal Plaza here. Police headquarters earlier said the normal contingent of policemen had reported for work.

The organizers of the demonstration, Yoel Reshef and David Ofek, who had staged a hunger strike last week, told reporters that their fellow police officers had shown by not attending the demonstration they did not want a union. "But we are sure that sooner or later a police union will be established," they said.

The two had organized the first police demonstration last Wednesday after the Knesset had passed a bill forbidding policemen to have a union. After the demonstration which tied up Jerusalem, four police captains, who participated, were dismissed from the force.

Meanwhile, the government has approved the recommendation of Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who is in charge of the police, that an ombudsman be appointed to whom appeals against disciplinary action can be brought. A ministerial committee will study policemen's salaries. The Histadrut did not support the efforts to establish a police union but offered its help in settling the dispute between those seeking a union and the higher echelon of the police force. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

#### EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL AT AUTONOMY TALKS FOR 'BALANCED CHANGES' IN 242 CATCHES ISRAEL BY SURPRISE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- The fifth round of the Israeli-Egyptian autonomy talks were in danger of being bogged down today over an Egyptian proposal for "balanced changes" in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 to enable Palestinian participation in the peace negotiations. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian Minister of State, were scheduled to meet tonight in an attempt to iron out the dispute.

The call for "balanced changes" was made by Egyptian Premier Mustapha Khalil at the end of today's afternoon session of the autonomy talks and caught Israel by surprise.

Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir immediately said that any changes in the UN resolution could endanger the entire peace process. Interior Minister Yosef Burg, head of the Israeli delegation, said Resolution 242 was the basis of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement and any change could bring about a reconsideration of Israel's attitude toward autonomy for Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As soon as Khalil made his proposal, the Israeli delegation telephoned Premier Menachem Begin, who is recovering at his home, for consultations. The Israelis may now demand another meeting with the Egyptians tonight to discuss this development.

#### 'Balanced Change' Rejected

Khalil explained that by a "balanced change" he meant condemnation of Palestinian terrorism, along with the recognition of Palestinian rights. He also said that any party which would not recognize Israel's right to exist, would not be a party for the negotiations.

But Tamir, in a radio interview, rejected any changes, "whether or not they are called balanced. He said "We are resolved... that no independent Palestinian state will be formed in

Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip because this is a direct threat to Israel. I believe that our good friends in the U.S. and our new friends in Egypt will understand that any process in such a direction will endanger a process so highly important."

By this evening the tension had eased somewhat after Khalil told Burg that Egypt would not initiate any changes in Resolution 242, but would support it if a third party proposed changes.

Khalil also caused a stir in the afternoon session when he suggested writing into the text of election modalities that all political organizations had a right to function. He argued that this could weaken the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But the Israelis argued the opposite. They said this would only legitimize the establishment of a party calling for the destruction of Israel. Here Khalil agreed that no party with such a declared platform should be allowed. He further recommended that Israel, Egypt and the U.S. supervise the elections leading to autonomy. Although Israel did not immediately react to this proposal, the reply is likely to be negative, since it is Israel's policy that it has proven in the past it can maintain free elections in the territories, and no supervision is necessary.

Meanwhile, details were provided today on the forthcoming visit by President Anwar Sadat to Haifa. Sadat is due in Haifa at the end of this month. Hundreds of Egyptian navy personnel and sailors will visit Haifa during the trip. Two Egyptian destroyers will escort the Presidential yacht to the Haifa harbor. Sadat will meet for two working sessions with Begin, and will visit Kibbutz Ramat Yohanan and an electronics plant.

#### WOMAN RABBI READY FOR TASK

By Judith Rosen

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- Rabbi Linda Joy Holtzman of the Beth Israel Congregation in Coatesville, Pa., is the first woman to hold such a position in a Conservative synagogue. Holtzman, 27, a recent graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) in Philadelphia, spoke with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about her reasons for becoming a rabbi.

Holtzman said that Judaism is the source of the most "joy and pleasure" in her life. "In Judaism there is a richness and beauty that as a rabbi she is able to share with others," she said. Holtzman called this aspect of the rabbinate "exciting."

The rabbinate is also a "fine career" for men and women, alike, Holtzman noted. She said that she will be able to combine study with teaching, counseling and community leadership. A person who enjoys working with people of all ages, Holtzman said that a congregation offered her a chance to have a variety of constituents. Holtzman will also serve as the educational director for the 110-member family congregation.

When asked about the difficulties of pioneering womanhood in a field traditionally reserved for men, Holtzman conceded that the congregation "probably took longer" to decide to hire her, but that she anticipated no other problems associated with being a woman.

BUDAPEST (JTA) -- Hungarian Chief Rabbi Dr. Odon Singer returned here Monday from an official visit to the Leipzig Jewish community. The visit, during which he conducted religious services, lectured and met local officials, was described here as "strengthening relations between the Hungarian and the East German communities." Rabbi Singer also lectured at the Calvinist Cathedral where he was welcomed by the Leipzig University Choir.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES JEWS MAY BE LOSING CLOUT IN NY

By Judith Rosen

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- The Jewish population in New York may be losing its political clout. At least this is the opinion of Jack Diamond, a statistician specializing in Jewish demography. Diamond feels that a loss of political influence may accompany a declining number of Jewish households and Jewish voters.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Diamond disagreed with the findings of Dr. Donald Feldstein, executive director for Community Services of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, and Samuel Ehrenhalt, deputy regional commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, both of whom in an interview with JTA, said they believed the figure to be substantially higher than Diamond's.

Diamond is also highly critical of the methodology used for calculating the numbers of Jews in various communities reported in the American Jewish Year Book, published annually by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society of America. Diamond warns that misleading reportage on the Jewish community is actually at cross-purposes to the organizations that sponsor the Year Book, because losses to membership and in fundraising will not be anticipated.

The New York City area traditionally contains the largest Jewish population in the world. A center of Jewish cultural and religious life, Diamond believes that New York's Jewish population now hovers at only 750,000. Critics of Diamond say that he does not account for large numbers of Jews in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties, as well as those in northern New Jersey.

Ehrenhalt maintains that the New York metropolitan area is still "the heartland of American Jewry" and that we are "seeing a golden age in New York City" in terms of the degree of commitment and identification with Jewish life. Feldstein also notes that a great many Israeli immigrants in the New York area are afraid to become "visible" members of the Jewish community for fear of being considered pariahs by American Zionists. Diamond feels these Israelis are "not a major factor affecting the Jewish population."

### Composition Of The Jewish Community

Diamond dwells a great deal on the composition of the Jewish community. He finds that as of the National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS) of 1970-71, New York's Jews were disproportionately aged, and included far more elderly citizens in relation to other ethnic groups. Jewish youth has declined, too. For many years, Diamond notes, Jews have had a lower birth rate than other segments of the population.

One reason, he says, is that higher levels of education among Jews corresponds to a greater awareness of birth control methods and the Jewish population's responsiveness to the call for "zero population growth." Jews also tend to marry later than non-Jews and a great many households in New York City are "single" -- including widows and widowers.

Diamond counts the high rate of intermarriage and conversion out of Judaism as responsible for the rapid demographic changes visible throughout all American Jewry. Without adequate and up-to-date accounting of the pop-

ulation, the effectiveness of Jewish organizations' outcries against assimilation will be greatly diminished, Diamond warns. Feldstein, however, observes that Federation efforts are now being aimed at the intermarriage problem.

Diamond feels that his figures should have an effect on the way Jewish organizations plan their programs. A smaller and more dispersed community calls for new approaches by Jewish groups, he says. Diamond adds that for the Jews who remain in the New York metropolitan area, a new "theology or a philosophy to buoy their spirits" in light of dwindling numbers of synagogues and community institutions, is needed.

## JACOB POTOFSKY DEAD AT 84

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- A funeral service will be held Thursday for Jacob S. Potofsky, former president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and a top official in the AFL-CIO. He died yesterday at his Manhattan home at the age of 84.

Born in Radomisl in the Ukraine on Nov. 16, 1894, his family emigrated to Chicago when he was 11. He went to work at 14 as a \$3-a-week floor boy at Hart, Schaffner & Marx. As a teenage member of Pantsmaker Local 144, he joined a strike in 1910 led by Sidney Hillman. The strike eventually led to the founding of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the beginning of Potofsky's long association with Hillman.

In 1913, Potofsky became a fulltime union office manager and after several other positions he came to New York in 1916 to assist Hillman in opening the national headquarters for the union which covered workers in the men's clothing industry. Potofsky was assistant general secretary treasurer for 20 years until becoming assistant president, a post he held from 1934 to 1940. He was general secretary treasurer from 1940 to 1946, when Hillman died and he became president.

Potofsky, who was known as one of the diplomats of the labor union movement, was one of the last survivors of the group of Jews from East Europe who helped build the American labor movement in the first half of the 20th century.

## 1000 IN HEBREW U SUMMER COURSES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6 (JTA) -- A physician from England, a priest from New Jersey and a U.S. Navy chaplain returning home via Israel after three years of service in Japan are among the 1000 summer students at the Hebrew University.

Coming from 30 countries, ranging from Barbados to Ireland, the majority -- some 800 students -- are enrolled in the July and August courses conducted by the university's School for Overseas Students on the Mt. Scopus campus. Others are taking a law course under the joint sponsorship of Temple University Law School of Philadelphia and the Hebrew University. A third group is studying natural science.

Courses in the main program are taught in both English and French, especially prepared for those coming from abroad. A number of students are back at the Hebrew University for the second and third summer program. Some 65 percent of those enrolled are undergraduates, 20 percent are graduate students and the remainder have already completed their formal education.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Binyamin and Chaya Schapelski Chair in Holocaust Studies was dedicated at Tel Aviv University recently by their sons, David and Nathan Shapell of Los Angeles, Calif.