

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## **CABINET DECIDES AGAINST SEIZING PRIVATE LANDS ON THE WEST BANK**

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) --** The Cabinet today strongly reaffirmed its declared policy of not seizing or sequestering privately owned Arab lands on the West Bank for the purpose of Jewish settlement and agreed to utilize only State-owned lands or land privately owned by Jews for the expansion of seven existing or projected Gush Emunim settlements in the Judea and Samaria regions.

The Cabinet decision, announced as "unanimous," was seen here as a victory for Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and a setback for Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon and the Gush Emunim who have been urging the large-scale seizure of Arab lands to make room for massive Jewish settlement.

Dayan had warned last Thursday that he might resign from the government if the Cabinet acquiesced in the Gush demands. Weizman said on a television interview yesterday that the Cabinet should declare that it would not expropriate private Arab lands. Commenting on today's decision, Weizman said the Cabinet had adopted a "wise" course. Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement, also expressed satisfaction with the decision which evolved from a compromise proposed by Premier Menachem Begin.

Begin met privately before today's session with Sharon and the three National-Religious Party ministers to persuade them to go along with his proposal. Israel Radio reported that there were some "very tough exchanges indeed" between a number of ministers over the land expropriation issue. The lengthy debate -- some five hours -- left no time for discussion of another pressing matter, the controversial wage agreement with government lawyers. That will be taken up at a special session scheduled for Tuesday.

### **Individual Solutions For Each Settlement**

With respect to the seven settlements that the Gush Emunim insists must be enlarged if they are to exist, the Cabinet decided on individual solutions for each. The settlement of Givon will be extended partly on State-owned land and partly on land already owned by Jews; Beit Horon will be moved from its originally envisaged site to one on State-owned land; the planned urban settlement of Efrat will be built entirely on State lands; the existing settlements of Elkana and Kadumim will be expanded on State lands only.

The problems of Kadumim and another existing settlement, Ofra, will be considered by an interdepartmental committee "within the framework of the government's policy not to seize or sequester privately owned land," the Cabinet decided.

The immediate response of the Gush Emunim was that while the decision might alleviate the problems of particular settlements to some degree, it did not resolve what they called the "national problem." The Gush has demanded the seizure of hundreds of thousands of dunams of Arab land for the purpose of Jewish settlement as the only way to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The NRP backed the Gush because, according to some observers, it is worried about the challenge from the newly created right-wing Tehtiya (Renaissance) Party which has called for the annexation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights and a revision of the Camp David accords. The NRP has been divided on the issue of land seizures. Its senior leader, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, said last week that he opposed it in principle. But Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and party Whip Yehuda Ben-Meir have backed the Gush.

### **Sensitive To Israel's Image**

The Cabinet's decision seemed to reflect a heightened awareness among policy-makers of the damage done to Israel's image abroad by reports of the seizure of Arab-owned lands for Jewish settlements. Dayan, who attended a meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg last week, reported that Israel's settlement policies and land expropriations were factors in the significant erosion of support for Israel among the Western European powers and a concomitant increase of sympathy for the Arab cause.

The issue of a wage hike for State-employed attorneys also threatens a split in the government ranks. The wage agreement was reached, but Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, just returned from an extensive visit abroad, said he could not implement it because it would set off a new series of wage demands by government employees that the Treasury could not afford. Yadin indicated the Democratic Movement would not accept any decision which does not honor the wage agreement already signed.

### **BLACK-JEWISH RELATIONS:**

**U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS TO VISIT ISRAEL; 2 CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS RAP BLACKS WHO MET WITH PLO OFFICIALS**  
By Yitzhak Shargil (Tel Aviv)  
and William Saphire (New York)

**Oct. 14 (JTA) --** A group of seven Black American civil rights leaders and trade union officials was due to arrive in Israel tonight on a one-week visit as guests of Histadrut. The visit is widely viewed as part of a belated effort by major Black organizations in the United States to heal the rift that has developed between Blacks and Jews since the resignation of Andrew Young as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations last August and the subsequent campaign by certain Black Americans to induce the U.S. government to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to Avraham Allon, head of Histadrut's international department, the visit is intended to discuss and clarify issues of mutual concern to the American and Israeli labor movements in light of recent racial tensions. It seems clearly aimed at countering the negative impressions created in Israel by the recent visit of Rev. Jesse Jackson who expressed strong pro-Arab and pro-PLO sentiments and the visit to Lebanon last month of a delegation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which issued a report critical of Israel.

The Rev. Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), had been slated to lead the delegation to Israel at the invitation of Histadrut, but at the last minute designated Althea Simmons, head of the NAACP's Washington operations,

to replace him. There was no immediate explanation for this change. The most prominent member of the delegation is Bayard Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, who previously assailed Jackson and the SCLC for their anti-Israel positions.

#### Seek To Clarify Issues

Before leaving New York, Rustin was quoted as saying: "Speaking for myself, I want to make it clear to the Israelis that there are great numbers of Black people who want the United States to give Israel whatever support it needs."

Other members of the delegation are Ronald Brown, vice president of Washington operations of the National Urban League; William Pollard, director of the civil rights department of the AFL-CIO; Robert Powell, first vice president of the Laborers International Union; Frederick O'Neal, president of the Actors and Artists of America; and John T. Smith, executive assistant of the United Steel Workers of America.

They will have talks with Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel and will meet with President Yitzhak Navon of Israel and possibly with Premier Menachem Begin. They will visit Histadrut institutions and meet with Israeli workers, Jews and Arabs, Allan said.

He said that Histadrut maintains constant contact with American labor leaders, Black and white. Many in the group have been to Israel before but it was felt that at a time of disagreements between Blacks and Jews on the Palestinian issue, it was advisable to have open, heart-to-heart talks to clarify issues and problems, the Histadrut official said.

#### Hooks And Jordan Break Long Silence

Meanwhile, over the weekend, two of the most prominent Black American civil rights leaders -- Hooks and Vernon E. Jordan Jr., president of the National Urban League -- expressed sharp criticism of those Blacks who have jeopardized the amity between American Jews and Blacks by publicly embracing the PLO and urging the U.S. to reverse its policy of no contacts with the terrorist group without preconditions. Their remarks broke a prolonged silence on the issue by both organizations.

Hooks, in an interview with the New York Times, chided Blacks who indulged in personal diplomacy in the Middle East as headline grabbers and declared that "if Americans want to involve themselves in foreign policy they should do it through the State Department." Hooks observed that "It is certainly more headline-grabbing to make a trip to the Middle East but the way to accomplish results is to focus on where the power is, with President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance."

A stronger statement was contained in an address by Jordan prepared for delivery tomorrow at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities in Kansas City, Mo. The New York Times, which obtained an advance copy of the speech, quoted Jordan as saying that "Black-Jewish relations should not be endangered by ill-considered flirtations with terrorist groups devoted to the extermination of Israel."

#### Concerned With Preserving Coalition

Neither Hooks nor Jordan mentioned any Black leader or group by name. Hooks did not dissociate the NAACP from the call issued by its Board of Directors last month for the U.S. to negotiate with the PLO. But he disclosed that he has

sent directives to the organization's 1700 branches around the U.S. not to allow the dispute over Middle East policy to interfere with the relations between Blacks and Jews who have frequently acted in concert on civil rights and other domestic issues. Jordan, too, seemed to be concerned mainly with preserving the Black-Jewish coalition on civil rights. He was quoted by The Times as saying in his prepared speech:

"The confusion of the past several weeks must not be allowed to polarize the civil rights alliance nor must they be allowed to heighten or to release feelings of racism, anti-Semitism or religious bigotry. The only ones who benefit from Black-Jewish tensions are the enemies of both groups. It is time to strengthen the traditional, fruitful alliance between Blacks and Jews. That alliance must be based on mutual respect, concern for each group's vital interests, and a refusal to categorize all Blacks or Jews for the actions or statements of some."

#### Disappointed With PLO Response

In Washington, meanwhile, Walter Fauntroy, chairman of the Board of the SCLC and the District of Columbia's representative to Congress, defended his organization's recent mission to the Middle East but expressed disappointment with the PLO's response. In a speech to the House late Friday, Fauntroy said:

"While we are pleased with the PLO announced cease-fire in Lebanon, we are disappointed that they are not disposed at this time to declare a comprehensive moratorium on violence in Israel as well as the occupied territories, as a first step toward meaningful negotiations at the peace table." He reiterated his announcement earlier last week that the SCLC has rescinded its invitation to PLO chief Yasir Arafat to visit the U.S. and has cancelled, for the time being, a series of educational forums on the Middle East and the Palestinian question.

In a related development last Thursday, President Carter declined any role in mediating the Black-Jewish dispute. Asked by a group of editors and broadcasters at a White House briefing if he would be willing to sit down with both groups in an effort to ease tensions, Carter replied, "I would be willing to do that in the future if necessary. My advice so far from American Jewish leaders is not to inject the White House into the dialogue that ought to take place, or is sometimes taking place between the two minority groups."

#### LORD-FISHER OF CAMDEN DEAD AT 74

LONDON, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Lord Fisher of Camden, chairman of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress and immediate past president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, died here last night at the age of 74. He was admitted to a hospital here a month ago after suffering a stroke.

Born Samuel Fisher on Jan. 20, 1905, he was an official of the London Diamond Bourse and was Britain's representative at International Diamond Conferences. He entered the House of Lords in 1976 after a distinguished career in local government as a member of the Labor Party which included serving as Mayor of the London Borough of Camden.

Lord Fisher, who was president of the Board of Deputies for six years, was possibly the most popular leader British Jewry ever had. His presidency was characterized by his sparkling wit, good nature and shrewd manner of reconciliation.

He was unflinching in his support for Israel, and under his leadership the community's solidarity

with the Jewish State remained unquestioned. He made the Board an effective foe of the right-wing National Front without aligning itself with the ultra-left.

Lord Fisher was also a vice president of Poale Zion; and president of the Friends of Magen David Adom, United Jewish Friendly Society and the Jewish Association for the Physically Handicapped.

Labor MP Greville Janner, who is now president of the Board of Jewish Deputies, said tonight that Lord Fisher was "a beloved servant of Britain and of the Jewish community" who brought a "pleasurable unity" to the Board through his humor and good nature.

In New York City, WJC president Philip Klutznick said today that in the WJC and Board of Deputies of British Jews, Lord Fisher's "dedication, wisdom, generosity and graciousness of spirit earned him respect and affection of all who were privileged to work with him. Indefatigable in the service of his people, he was always available for special assignments."

#### SENATE DEFEATS MOVE TO PRUNE \$100 M IN MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- An amendment to the foreign aid bill introduced by Sen. Mark Hatfield (R. Ore.) that would have reduced the \$1 billion appropriation of military aid to Israel by \$100 million, or 10 percent of the total, was defeated last Thursday night in the Senate by a 78-7 vote.

Hatfield contended that the reduction of the aid to Israel would be "a signal to the Israeli government" to avoid striking at the Palestine Liberation Organization forces in south Lebanon and use American weapons in these "preemptive strikes." Resorting to press reports, Hatfield charged that the Israeli air attacks have caused more than 200 civilian deaths, 400 severely injured and created 300,000 refugees.

Led by Sen. Robert Packwood, the other Republican from Oregon, strong opposition developed against the Hatfield amendment. The opponents of the amendment defended Israel for protecting its people against PLO terrorism. Packwood said he marveled at the restraint of the Israelis and heaped scorn on Hatfield's assertion that he was sending a signal to Israel. "If we adopt this amendment," Packwood said, "we will send a signal all right. That signal will be that it will be perfectly all right for the PLO to build up their fortifications two, three, five and 15 miles north of Israel."

He said from those points they will be able to "launch" their "little life rafts full of terrorists." The amendment, he said, would mean "it is perfectly all right" for the PLO "to prepare, arm and wait and choose when and where they will surprise some innocent Israelis with a bomb, in a market place or a theater, or a half dozen terrorists will creep into a school and kill the children. That is the signal we will send."

Supporting Packwood's view that depriving Israel of weapons is not a policy "we will advocate," Sen. Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii) said the Hatfield amendment is "the wrong message." He said it will be a message that the U.S. has "changed its foreign policy and is no longer supportive of Israel and that Israel is now fair game."

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.), who was among the solons supporting Packwood, said "The Hatfield amendment not only would affect Israel but could be to the detriment of all parties en-

gaged in the peace process." He added: "I want to emphasize my condemnation of the terrorist violence of the PLO against Israel, which is at the root of the question we are discussing tonight."

#### INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE

NEW YORK, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Concerned Jewish leaders from more than 30 countries will conduct an in-depth examination of the most critical issues affecting Israel and world Jewry in response to recent developments in the United States, the Middle East and the Soviet Union at an International Leadership Conference in Miami Beach Oct. 24-28.

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, which is jointly sponsoring the conference at the Doral Hotel with the Latin American Confederation of General Zionists and the Zionist Organization of Canada, said the meeting was called "because of the realization that the Jewish position in the world, including that of Israel, is under attack and we must face the implications and prepare for the challenges of the '80s."

The ZOA leader said there are "parallels between today's situation and the one Jews faced in the 1930s, when public opinion and allied governments were blind and deaf to the dangers threatening European Jewry and world peace. Public opinion blithely accepted the betrayal of Czechoslovakia on the pretext that it would secure the peace."

"Today we see a repetition of this in the rise of Yasser Arafat's popularity in the world, the pressure on Israel to recognize and placate the PLO terrorists by retreating to a weak strategic position endangering Israel's very existence."

#### Issues And Speakers

Issues to be discussed at the conference will include the nature of the Islamic movement; the world-wide energy crisis; the challenge of terrorism, the Palestinians and the PLO, the problems of Soviet Jewish emigration, the impact of petrodollars on the American political process and Israel's peace-time economic prospects.

Among the speakers scheduled to address the conference will be Israel Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich; Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives; Gen. Alexander Haig, former White House Chief of Staff and former Supreme Commander of NATO; Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron; Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Yehuda Blum; Senators Daniel Moynihan (D. N.Y.) and Joseph Biden (D. Del.).

Other speakers scheduled will include Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation; Jacques Torczyner, president of the World Union of General Zionists; Novick; and representatives from Canada, Uruguay, Peru, Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. Gordon Zacks of Columbus, Ohio, national vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, will chair the conference.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, will join Albert Vorse, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in a meeting on "A Social Justice Agenda for the 1980s" at the Washington Hebrew Congregation Oct. 21. The meeting is believed to be the first public dialogue by national Black and Jewish leaders since the resignation of Andrew Young in August. They will present the Black and Jewish perspective on the subject.

## CONNALLY UNDER FIRE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- John Connally's nine-point Middle East plan, which calls for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders except for "minor" changes, a permanent U.S. military presence in the Mideast, and which would discard the Camp David accords, has come under fire from a number of Congressmen and American Jewish leaders. Senators Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) and Robert Dole (R. Kan.) charged that Connally, a fellow Republican Presidential hopeful, who unveiled his plan last Thursday in an address at the Washington Press Club, is seeking to trade Israel's security for oil.

Baker, in a speech in the Senate, said Friday: "I am not prepared to accept the sacrifice of Israel as the price of peace in the Mideast or as the hope of moderation in the price of oil." This was a reference to Connally's statement that the U.S. "must secure a clear understanding" from Saudi Arabia and other oil producers of a return to "stable" oil prices. "The Arabs must, in short, forego the oil weapon in return for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories," Connally said.

Baker, the Senate minority leader, said that Connally's Mideast plan "represents a fundamental shift from a political and moral base to an economic base." He added that America's oil supply "is not a bargaining chip for Mideast peace negotiations."

Dole said that Connally's speech "looks more like an energy program than a peace plan. The speech smacks of trading Israeli security for our oil savings." Dole also said that Connally's plan ignores Israel's need for defensible borders and underrated the achievements of the Camp David accords.

## Termed Candidate Of The Oil Interests

Jewish leaders who attacked Connally charged that he was emerging as the candidate of the oil interests, that he was rehashing the stale arguments of the Arab potentates and dictators, and that he was fostering the notion that the U.S. should submit to Saudi Arabian oil blackmail.

Maxwell Greenberg, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, termed Connally's plea that the Arabs forego the oil weapon in return for Israel's withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines "weak-kneed." The ADL leader asked: "Is Mr. Connally assuring the American people that our energy problem and Arab gouging would go away if Israel would go away?" Greenberg said the Republican hopeful "ignores the fact that a strong Israel is a major asset to America's strategic position."

Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said, "Any attempt to bypass and disregard the Camp David accords agreed upon by Egypt, Israel and the U.S. must be regarded as a disservice to the cause of peace in the Mideast."

Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, charged that to accept Connally's view on Arab oil prices "is to agree that Saudi Arabia and OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) can decide any aspect of American foreign policy by threatening the U.S. with their oil weapon. We don't think Americans will, or should, agree to this."

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, said that Connally's view of the Camp David accords "has struck hard

at what has been a highly productive step toward peace and the only fruitful attempt in that direction in the 31 years since Israel's establishment."

Jacob Katzman, chairman of the Labor Zionist Alliance Commission on Israel, Zionism and Jewish Affairs, said "To destroy the results of Camp David, as Mr. Connally would do, is to invite not greater reasonableness in the rest of the Arab camp, but the prospect of unspeakable disaster."

## CASTRO TERMED ENEMY OF ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, denounced the attack on Israel by President Fidel Castro of Cuba in his speech to the General Assembly last Friday. Blum said that Castro "joined the shrill hue and cry already raised in the (Assembly's) general debate by the enemies of peace in the Middle East." The Israel envoy added that Castro is in no position to criticize Israel on the issue of human rights in view of the dictatorial nature of his regime. He termed Cuba "a tropical Gulag archipelago."

In his Assembly speech, the Cuban leader, who spoke on behalf of the non-aligned nations which elected him its leader at their conference in Havana last month, accused Israel of committing "the most terrible crime of our era" in its treatment of the Palestinians, who, he said, were "pushed off their land, persecuted and murdered." He mentioned the "merciless persecution and genocide that the Nazis once visited on the Hebrew people," but he compared the Nazi terror to the plight of the Palestinians.

His attack on the Jewish State and his quoting from the declaration of the non-aligned summit conference denouncing Israel, the Camp David accords and the Egypt-Israel peace treaty, was followed by prolonged applause from the majority of Third World delegates and other diplomats at the Assembly.

Castro also denounced the United States for its support of Israel, charging that America supports "Zionism aims" and "Israeli aggression at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people."

## SUIT ON SABBATH VOTING DENIED

ORLANDO, Fla., Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Orlando Federal District Court Chief Judge George Young last Thursday denied an American Jewish Congress-supported petition by a Hebrew teacher to postpone the vote yesterday in the state-wide Florida Democratic caucuses because it was being held on a Saturday, which was also the last day of Succoth. The judge said he denied the request because the caucuses were non-binding and were not financed by state, local or federal governments.

The suit was filed last Wednesday by David Kaufman, a registered Democrat who is a Hebrew teacher at Temple Israel here. He was seeking a court ruling to permit Sabbath observers to vote in the caucuses by absentee ballot or on another date that would not require them to violate their religious beliefs.

PARIS (JTA) -- France is prepared to welcome Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat but believes that such a visit would have meaning only if it helps the peace process, Foreign Minister Jean Francois Poncelet said at a meeting Saturday with the foreign press. He added that the possibility of an official visit to France by Arafat is not being considered at this time. He said, however, that no just and lasting solution can be found without the PLO presence at the peace negotiating table. The Minister's statement merely postponed the French government's decision on an official visit by Arafat without ruling out the eventuality.