

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## MAJOR RESHUFFLING OF CABINET SEEN

By Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- A major reshuffling of Premier Menachem Begin's Cabinet appeared imminent today in the wake of Moshe Dayan's resignation as Foreign Minister. Although no official announcements have been made, the probable composition of the reorganized Cabinet emerged following a series of meetings between Begin and a number of key ministers this morning.

Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement, is expected to replace Dayan as Foreign Minister. The Deputy Premiership may be assigned to Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich who will, in turn, be replaced as Finance Minister by Yigal Hurwitz, the former Minister of Commerce who quit the Cabinet last year in protest against the Camp David accords, which he opposed. Ehrlich, who has been under fire because of Israel's deteriorating economy and galloping inflation, is a member of Likud's Liberal Party wing. Hurwitz belongs to the small, militantly nationalist Laam faction of Likud.

In addition, Begin is expected to name Yehuda Ben-Meir, chairman of the National Religious Party's Knesset faction, as Deputy Foreign Minister and Yigal Cohen-Ordog of Herut, as Deputy Finance Minister. The elevation of Ben-Meir to sub-Cabinet rank is believed intended to mollify the NRP which is angered because the Democratic Movement, the smallest coalition partner, would control three key portfolios -- the Foreign Ministry, Justice Ministry and Ministry of Labor and Welfare.

The NRP has demanded the Foreign Ministry for Yosef Burg, the Minister of Interior who heads the Israeli negotiating team in the autonomy talks with Egypt. Herut has also demanded the Foreign Ministry on grounds that it is the largest coalition faction.

There was no indication today as to when an official announcement may be forthcoming. Yadin is still confined to Hadassah Hospital, where he is recovering from a mild heart attack. He said this morning that no one has approached him as yet but he is under doctor's orders to rest and is not permitted to engage in political discussions or read the newspapers. The probable reshuffle has not been discussed by the official bodies of the various parties concerned.

## WEIZMAN TO MEET SADAT IN EFFORT TO BREAK IMPASSE ON OIL PRICE

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ezer Weizman is expected to meet Egyptian President Anwar Sadat tomorrow in an effort to break the impasse over the price Egypt will charge Israel for Sinai oil. The Egyptians are asking \$32 a barrel for the two million barrels they have promised to supply Israel annually but the Israelis are demanding \$22-\$24.

Weizman, who was in Egypt all week for talks with Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan-Ati, was flown back to Israel yesterday in a special Egyptian plane to take part in the Knesset votes on opposition motions of no-confidence. With the government of Premier Menachem Begin defeating the Knesset challenge, he returned to Cairo today on the same plane.

There are reports that Weizman has been authorized to suggest some means of arbitrating the oil dispute now that the U.S. has rejected Israel's request that it act as arbitrator. He reportedly may also offer technical aid in developing the Sinai oil fields in return for lower prices. Weizman, however, does not believe the dispute over oil prices will undermine the relations between the two countries.

Weizman is also scheduled to discuss with Sadat and Hassan Ati the question of allowing Israeli tourists to visit the Mount Sinai area after it is returned to Egypt Nov. 15 and whether Israel will be allowed to continue operating a field school there.

Meanwhile, Weizman brought back to Israel an invitation to Begin to attend the ceremony Sadat has planned at Mount Sinai on Nov. 19 to mark the second anniversary of his trip to Jerusalem. An Egyptian team, headed by Hassan Kamal, chief of Sadat's office, arrived at an airfield near the mountain today to discuss plans for the ceremony. They were met by Dr. Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, head of the Prime Minister's Office; Begin's press chief, Dan Pattir; and Gen. Ephraim Poran, Begin's military advisor.

## TOON WARNS AGAINST PALESTINIAN STATE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Malcolm Toon, the former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and, until his retirement this month, the U.S. Ambassador to Moscow, warned here that it would be a "terrible mistake" to establish a Palestinian state adjoining Israel.

Speaking and replying to questions at the Tel Aviv University's Center for Strategic Studies, the American career diplomat warned that a Palestinian state on the West Bank would pose a serious threat to Israel's security because the Soviets could easily turn it into a Russian base and "run the whole show."

Toon said that in his opinion, the U.S. and Israel would be unwise to maneuver themselves into a position in which there would be no alternative but to set up a state for the Palestinians. He acknowledged, however, that the Soviet Union will have to be involved as an active party at some point in the negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East. The Soviets are a political, military and economic force in the Mideast that won't go away, he said. "The Soviets are here to stay and we must take account of them when negotiating a peace agreement."

Toon noted that they also have legal status as a party to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and as co-chairmen of the Geneva conference. According to Toon, Russian policy in the immediate future will be to continue what he termed an obstructionist role, to continue to isolate Egypt from the rest of the Arab world and try to draw closer to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. At the same time, however, Russia will not attempt a major effort to disrupt peace because their allies "would be clobbered by Israel," he said.

Toon said he did not believe Soviet policy would change until Moscow is convinced that the autonomy talks will succeed. At that point, they might consider reopening their channels of communications with Israel, he said. He described Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev as a sick man who functions with great difficulty and sometimes does not reply to the point.

# CARTER RECEIVES CITATION, SHOFAR FROM SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- President Carter today received a Yemenite shofar from the Synagogue Council of America (SCA) as "a symbol of his pursuit of freedom for all people" and was also presented with a citation in the form of an acrostic that spelled out the name Jimmy Carter and also spelled out tributes to his devotion to worldwide human rights. It was the SCA's first International Human Rights Award. Some 50 rabbis and lay leaders from the SCA made the presentation to Carter in the Rose Garden of the White House.

Accepting the two presentations, Carter said that "the shofar is symbolically very important to me" and added that "there is no question the whole world needs to be awakened from its slumber on human rights." He noted that human rights "transcends differences among our people" and that "we have espoused the cause of human rights for persons to leave the Soviet Union to escape persecution, to reunite families, to be able to speak without fear or punishment."

Saying he was "encouraged by your recognition that I stand for what our nation represents," the President concluded by saying: "I accept this with gratitude because you have recognized that the President of the United States ought always to withstand any pressure that contravenes the furtherance of our basic commitments, our basic beliefs, our basic principles, our basic obligation to our fellow human beings and our obligation to the God we worship."

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, president of the SCA, which is the coordinating organization of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Jews, said the SCA was "one in admiration of the fact that you have made the pursuit of freedom for all people of a primary concern. We of the Jewish community are particularly grateful for the direct efforts you have made in behalf of the 'Prisoners of Conscience' in the Soviet Union, and we pray that, with your support, all of those still unjustly held will ultimately find release."

Pointing out that the shofar has become a symbol of the High Holy Days to arouse people to fulfill their responsibility, Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, executive vice president of the SCA, who presented Carter with the shofar which came from Israel, declared: "On this day, the sound of the shofar symbolizes the clarion call from President Jimmy Carter to the nations of the world and to individual men and women within these nations, all created in God's image, to make real our most sacred possession -- human rights for all, in the uplifting creative climate of freedom and liberty."

## McHENRY: PEACE PROSPECT IS BRIGHT

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- "We have reason to rejoice because the prospect for peace in the Middle East is better in 1979 than at any time in the century of modern Jewish-Arab relations," said Donald McHenry, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, who was guest speaker last night at the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's Award Dinner at the Pierre Hotel honoring Harry Helmsley, a prominent realtor, and Axel Springer, a noted German publisher. Members of the audience included Ambassadors from 25 countries.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interreligious organization headed by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, spiritual leader of the Park East Syna-

gogue in New York, promotes religious freedoms throughout the world.

McHenry declared that "None of us can be insensitive to the courage of President (Anwar) Sadat and Prime Minister (Menachem) Begin, or to the risks which each has taken. The treaty between Israel and Egypt is a major step forward towards peace, but it is not an end in itself. The principal unfinished item on the Middle East agenda today is the relationship between Israel and her other neighbors, particularly between Israel and the Palestinian Arab people. Our goal now must be to assure on a permanent basis the full security of Israel and at the same time to respect and fulfill the legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

Schneier, in presenting the award to Springer, said he "has made reconciliation his life's mission. He has made an historic contribution to bring about a better understanding between the German and the Jewish people."

Springer, in reply, stated: "Israel is threatened now because her friends in the world make recommendations and suggestions which, if carried out, will imperil the safety of the young Jewish State. Israel is threatened because so many among us follow the dictate of oil, instead of the dictate of conscience."

## ALLON BRANDS AS TOTALLY FALSE ACCOUNT OF EXPULSION OF ARABS IN 1948 WAR

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Yigal Allon, Israel's former Foreign Minister who was the commander of Palmach on the central front during Israel's War for Independence in 1948, today branded as a total fabrication an alleged "first person account" of the forced expulsion of 50,000 Arab civilians from the towns of Lod and Ramle by Israeli forces at the direct orders of then Premier David Ben Gurion.

The account, the subject of a story published in The New York Times yesterday by its correspondent David K. Shipler in Jerusalem, was purportedly contained in the original manuscript of the memoirs of former Premier Yitzhak Rabin but deleted from the published Hebrew edition and the English translation by Israeli censors.

Rabin was commander of the Harel Brigade which was assigned to eliminate the Jordanian Arab Legion from the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Road. According to Shipler, "A copy of his manuscript was provided to The New York Times by Peretz Kidron, who translated the book from Hebrew to English."

## Offers Version Of Events

Allon, who was at the time Rabin's superior officer, held a broadcast press conference here to refute The Times story. He gave a detailed version of the events discussed. "As the supreme commander of the 'Danny Operation' in July (1948) during which the towns of Lod and Ramle were captured by the Israelis, I did not request permission to evacuate or drive out the Arabs of these towns. Ben Gurion gave no such order. I gave no such order and there was no such order," he said.

"The evacuation of Lod and Ramle by its population was a result of a coincidence of two factors. One was an order from the Arab Legion to clear the town so its unit could embark on a counter-attack and recapture the towns and the panic that engulfed the population. There was no problem of driving (people) out. Any allegation that Ben Gurion or anybody else gave such an order is totally without foundation," Allon said.

According to The Times story, Rabin wrote that he, Allon and Ben Gurion were discussing the battle then in progress for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Road and

the problem of the 50,000 inhabitants of Ramle and Lod (then known as Lydda) arose.

"Not even Ben Gurion could offer any solution and during the discussions at operational headquarters he remained silent .... Clearly we could not leave Lod's hostile and armed populace in our rear .... We walked outside, Ben Gurion accompanying us. Allon repeated his question: 'What is to be done with the population?' B. G. waved his hand in a gesture which said, 'Drive them out.' Allon and I held a consultation. I agreed that it was essential to drive the inhabitants out ....", Rabin allegedly wrote.

The Times story quoted Rabin as saying the inhabitants of Lod did not leave willingly and were forced to march 10-15 miles to a point where they were met by the Arab Legion. "The inhabitants of Ramle watched and learned the lesson," Rabin allegedly wrote, and they agreed to be evacuated on condition that buses were provided for them which was done.

The Times reported that the deleted portion of the Rabin memoirs also described how some Israeli soldiers who participated in the expulsion were sickened by it and propaganda sessions were required afterwards to soothe their troubled consciences.

The Times said that all references to these events were ordered expunged by a censorship board composed of five Cabinet members, headed by Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir. It noted that Israeli law also forbids Rabin to discuss the matter publicly. Shipler quoted Rabin as saying "I was puzzled (by the deletion) but they decided I had to obey because I can't violate the law of the country." He did not say when Rabin made that remark.

#### Full Account Offered

Allon recalled at his press conference today that the Arab Legion did counter-attack at Lod and Ramle and used soldiers disguised as civilians in addition to infantry supported by armor. But the attacks were repulsed. According to Allon, the events were as follows:

"An Israeli mechanized column (commanded by Moshe Dayan) entered the town of Lod on the 12th day of July but had to withdraw under heavy fire and suffered significant losses after some 4 minutes. But this raid helped soften the resistance of the defenders and by evening units of the 15th Brigade of the Palmach approached Lod and took over positions on the outskirts of the town. It was a disturbing situation. We did not know whether we were occupied by the population or whether we had occupied the town.

"Next morning, the units started combing the town and it was then that the Jordanian Arab Legion started its counter-attack while the soldiers in mufti who penetrated during the night fired at the Israeli soldiers. The fire was returned and the attack was repulsed and the Israelis completed the occupation of the town.

"At that time, the flight of the population started. The Israeli command helped the population by giving them both transportation and water. The reason was simple: the battle went on and fearing the civilians may come between the lines, enter mine fields and interfere with operations, the decision was to help an orderly escape.

"Ramle was taken over without a single shot. At that time, Ramle notables asked the Israelis to enable the population to leave for the Ramallah area (near Jerusalem) via Latrun. I agreed with one provision -- that the Arab Legion agrees to accept them. When the Legion's agreement was

given, I decided to provide them with vehicles and water so that they would not interfere with the battle that was going on in the fields and the orchards. These are the facts," Allon said.

#### RABIN WON'T COMMENT By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin refused today to discuss a report in The New York Times yesterday alleging that Israeli censorship prohibited him from including in his memoirs an eye-witness account of the expulsion of 50,000 Arab civilians from Ramle and Lydda (now Lod) in 1948. The former Premier's book was published in the United States this month by Little, Brown & Company under the title, "The Rabin Memoirs."

"I do not wish to comment on the issue in any way," Rabin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview from his suite in the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

Rabin, who is in this country on a speaking tour for Jewish organizations and to publicize his book, also refused to comment on charges by Yigal Allon, the former Foreign Minister in Rabin's government, that the reported allegation about the expulsion is "totally without foundation." Rabin explained to the JTA that he cannot discuss the issue because doing so would be a violation of Israeli law.

#### PROTEST SPAIN'S STAND ON ISRAEL, PLO

CHICAGO, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The Consulate General of Spain to the Midwest told leaders of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Jewish United Front (JUF) that Spain would recognize Israel "once a comprehensive peace was established in the Middle East." That statement by Consul Luis Martinez-Aguilo was challenged by PAC leaders, who had come to register their protest of Spain's non-recognition of Israel while last month giving an "official reception" to visiting Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat.

The PAC group, led by Robert Schrayner, JUF president, and Neil Greenbaum, vice president, told Aguilo that a true interest in Middle East peace cannot be reconciled with de facto recognition of the PLO, which is pledged to destroy Israel. "Arafat's welcome by a NATO member was an unconscionable act, contradictory to the goals of peace," the PAC leaders said.

Similar concerns were also voiced by leaders of the Midwest Chapter of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, who further advised Aguilo of letters and wires sent to the Spanish Ambassador to the U.S., Jose Llado, by officers of major area firms. Most of these letters made the point that grass roots reaction to Spain's reception for Arafat would reduce trade and tourism.

#### NEW JEWISH GROUP FORMED

PARIS, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The creation of a new organization, "Jewish Renewal," has been announced by a small group of young French professionals. The new group, which seeks to become a mass grassroots organization, is aimed at those Jews who support Israel and Jewish causes generally without, however, planning their own aliya to Israel in the immediate future.

The president of the new movement, Henri Hadjenberg, said Jewish Renewal will be affiliated to the World Zionist Organization and will work in close cooperation with the Jewish Agency. Hadjenberg said his organization plans to stage a "Salute to Israel Day" next spring and organize a Paris-Jerusalem exhibition within the next 18 months.

## CALL FOR BLACKS AND JEWS TO RENEW THEIR PARTNERSHIP ON SOCIAL ISSUES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) joined this week in pledging to create a stronger and more "mature" relationship through which Blacks and Jews could renew their partnership on social issues.

Benjamin Hooks, the Black civil rights leader and Albert Vorspan, director of the Commission on Social Action of the UAHC, spoke at a forum titled "A Social Justice Agenda for the 1980s" sponsored by the UAHC here last Sunday night. It marked the first public exchange on Black-Jewish relations since the controversy that grew out of the resignation of Andrew Young as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations following his unauthorized meeting with Zehdi Labib Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization observer at the United Nations.

"Blacks and Jews, working together, are indispensable to progress in social justice in America," Vorspan told some 300 Reform Jewish leaders from across the country at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. "We are linked by a common heritage, a common destiny, a shared vision of America," he declared.

Hooks told the meeting: "The Black people and the Jewish people are on the threshold of a great regeneration of cooperation. There is every reason to be hopeful about the future and to be optimistic about improving Black-Jewish relations. Black people are not going to abandon their allies or shirk their moral principles over a barrel of oil. It is up to the leaders of the two communities to devise the mature strategies that will reckon with the new emerging world economic order and reduce intergroup tensions."

Hooks continued: "It is important that calm, reasonableness prevail, that the difficulties of adjustment be realized and that without any sacrifice of basic principles, the spirit of sharing and cooperation characterize our future civil and human rights campaigns."

### Need For Candid Discussion

Both speakers emphasized the need for candid discussion of the issues that divide Blacks from Jews as well as those that unite them.

Vorspan said American Jews had "felt betrayed" when Black leaders gave "respectability to a terrorist group whose sole platform is the extinction of Israel. They have also done infinite mischief by suggesting that Israel and its Jewish supporters are somehow subversive of American interests," he said. "Irresponsible Black leaders have let loose the most inflammatory and poisonous bigotry at the very moment when the national mood is angry and looking for a scapegoat."

Hooks spoke of "two separate and unequal societies in America -- one primarily white and privileged; the other primarily non-white and underprivileged." The answer to underrepresentation is greater numbers of Blacks in the universities and in the professions, he said.

"We do not ask for double standards of performance in any school. We simply ask that an applicant's color be considered as a way of integrating the class, of increasing the numbers of Blacks and brown people in the colleges, in professional schools, in skilled jobs. Setting goals, timetables, numerical remedies, the courts have agreed, are appropriate means for achieving the

elimination of manifest racial imbalances," Hooks said.

### The Key Question

The key question, Hooks continued, was "whether Blacks and Jews can be effective allies in the civil rights movement without candidly facing up to and addressing this pivotal dispute -- the position of many Jewish groups in defending 'merit' and opposing 'reverse discrimination'." Noting that there is a "wide spectrum of views of Black people and Jews," Hooks said that "Should we disagree, nothing is solved by threats of an across-the-board withdrawal of support for one another's mutual objectives. Responsible Black leadership will have no truck with ugly anti-Semitism. And we will expect our Jewish allies never to abandon us on a crest of anti-Black sentiment."

Hooks reiterated the NAACP's position that the U.S. policy of not talking directly with the PLO was "shortsighted." But, he added, "recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians cannot, must not, will not mean the destruction of the Israeli State."

Vorspan observed that "both Blacks and Jews see themselves as beleaguered, threatened, vulnerable. Each sees the other as powerful. Truth is each of us has some limited influence, but both are nothing when compared to the massive power of the political and economic forces that delight in having us at each other's throats."

Jewish anger and fear are "understandable," Vorspan said. "But we must also maintain some balance. Not all Black leaders have joined the demagogic pack. Even more important, there is evidence that ordinary Blacks couldn't care less about the politics of the Middle East." Noting that Blacks and Jews are already resuming dialogue in local communities throughout the country, Vorspan said:

"This is not a time for heating up a war between Jews and Blacks which can only benefit our common enemies and destroy our continuing common interests in a compassionate and open society. It is a time for cool reassessment. The old relationship, like Humpty Dumpty, cannot be put together again. The injury to Black-Jewish relations is deep and long-lasting."

Anti-Semitism among Blacks is serious and growing, especially among young people and leaders. Racism among some Jews is also real and growing. Either the rupture will become a permanent alienation or a new and more mature relationship will be forged. "No two groups in American society have been tied more closely -- and it would be tragic if we allowed this, to become the end of the line."

### MORE BOAT PEOPLE ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Israel's small population of Vietnamese refugees, boat people was doubled yesterday with the arrival of 197 more refugees approved by the government for settlement here. The newcomers landed at Ben Gurion Airport in a flight from Athens. Most had been confined to refugee camps in Singapore and Hong Kong. A number were picked up at sea by the Israeli container ship Zim Sydney.

A leader of the new group thanked the Israeli people, the government and Premier Menachem Begin in particular for admitting them. The group was taken to the absorption center at Shderoth where they will rest and receive instruction in basic Hebrew. Later they will be directed to various parts of the country where housing and jobs are available. Israel's policy of helping the Vietnamese refugees has been beneficial to the country. They have earned a good reputation as workers and have many job offers. The refugees include many highly qualified doctors, engineers, technicians and pilots.