

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVII - 62nd Year

Thursday, December 6, 1979

No. 231

## SHAKA FREED, RETURNS AS NABLUS MAYOR By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The deportation order against Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus was revoked today on the recommendation of a military tribunal hearing his case. The Mayor was promptly released from Ramle jail where he had been confined for the past month and allowed to return to his office in Nablus with a request that he "stick to municipal affairs" in the future.

The mayors of 23 other towns on the West Bank and Gaza Strip who resigned last month in protest against Shaka's arrest, were expected to return to work today. Their collective resignations were never officially accepted by the Military Government.

Shaka's release was announced this morning by Brig. Gen. Arye Ben-Eliezer, the commander of the West Bank, who had originally signed the deportation order and would have been responsible for carrying it out. He said the special military appeals committee hearing Shaka's case concluded that the evidence on which the deportation order was based, was, indeed, valid.

But "in light of the overall circumstances," the committee recommended reconsideration, Ben-Eliezer said. He said that after consultations with his "superiors" he decided to revoke the deportation order and reinstate Shaka as Mayor.

### Decision Is Expected To Ease Tensions

The decision is expected to ease tensions on the West Bank and in Israel as well where public opinion was sharply divided over the wisdom of deporting the pro-Palestine Liberation Organization mayor. Shaka was removed from office by the Military Government for remarks he made in a private conversation with Maj. Gen. Danny Matt, then coordinator of the administered territories, in which he allegedly justified the March 1978 terrorist raid on Israel's coastal-highway in which 34 civilians were killed. Shaka insisted that his remarks -- leaked to the press -- were deliberately distorted.

He said that he had never justified the killing of innocent people but had merely warned the Israeli official that terrorism would continue as long as the Palestinian problem remained unresolved. A transcript of his conversation tended to confirm Shaka's version of it. But military officials said that Shaka's long record of anti-Israel incitement warranted his expulsion.

The case was brought to the Supreme Court last month but the justices declined to hear it until all other legal channels were exhausted. At that point it was referred to the special military committee with the proviso that Shaka could be reinstated his appeal to the high court if the decision went against him.

### Hopes Peace Process Will Be Aided

Ben-Eliezer told reporters today that he hoped the decision would "contribute to mutual understanding in this peace process in which we are engaged." He was referring to the autonomy negotiations between Israel, Egypt and the United States. Fears had been expressed in Israel and abroad that the deportation of Shaka would have

an adverse effect on the autonomy talks. The Shaka case in fact became an international matter when the United Nations Security Council, in a unanimous statement of consensus, urged Israel to release the Nablus mayor.

Shaka's release was welcomed by the West Bank mayors today and by former Premier Yitzhak Rabin. Rabin told reporters he was sorry it had not come sooner. The left-wing Sheli faction and other opposition parties also hailed the military committee's decision. But Gush Emunim sources were bitter. They said that they now might reconsider their agreement to evacuate Elon Moreh.

### REPORT THAT BEN-ELISSAR MAY BE ISRAEL'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Israel Radio reported today that Eliahu Ben-Elissar, the Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, is slated to be Israel's first Ambassador to Egypt. There was no official confirmation. The radio report attributed its information to sources close to Premier Menachem Begin but said that Ben-Elissar has not yet accepted the post. He has been mentioned frequently by the media as a likely candidate because of his closeness to Begin and his successful contacts with the Egyptians during the early stages of the peace process.

Ben-Elissar headed the first Israeli delegation to Cairo at the Mena House conference after the Camp David accords were signed in September 1978. Last April he represented Israel at the ceremonies in Cairo where the instruments of ratification of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty were exchanged. Ben-Elissar is a member of Begin's Herut Party. Before joining Herut he was a high-ranking officer in the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service.

### LINOWITZ: ISRAEL'S CLAIM THAT SOME WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS ARE NECESSARY FOR SECURITY IS 'DEMONSTRABLE'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Sol Linowitz, President Carter's new Special Ambassador to the Middle East, said today that Israel's claim that some settlements on the West Bank "are necessary for its security" was "demonstrable," and that the Israeli Military Government's decision today to revoke the deportation order against Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus was a "positive development." He also said that he thought Israel was not receiving sufficient credit for giving up the Sinai oilfields, a "great contribution to the peace process."

Linowitz made these comments in the course of a wide-ranging press conference with Israeli and American Jewish reporters on the eve of his departure for the Middle East. He leaves tomorrow night on his first official trip to that region in his new capacity.

Linowitz offered his views with respect to the settlements issue when he was asked if there has been a "slight change" in U.S. policy inasmuch as President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the State Department have repeatedly said that Israeli civilian settlements in the occupied Arab territories are "illegal." Linowitz said, "My approach, my understanding is that Israel maintains some settlements are necessary for its security" and "that is demonstrable."

But, he added, he also "understands" that "Israel was going beyond that" and "Israel has to

recognize its policy is not demonstrable to its security" and has an effect "on the ongoing negotiations between Egypt and Israel." He said his "understanding" is that the Administration opposes the "unlimited proliferation" of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza. Asked if the 32 new settlements proposed by the government of Premier Menachem Begin were regarded as "proliferation," Linowitz replied, "I don't know."

#### Great Contribution To Peace Process

Replying to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the new envoy said "The world is not giving attention" to the "great contribution to the peace process" that Israel is making by returning the Sinai oilfields to Egypt. He characterized that as a "tremendous undertaking," noting that Israel was "giving up energy at this particular time" and "Israel did not get the credit Israel was entitled to get." World attention was focussed on the settlements and the Shaka case, he observed while "giving up the oilfields was a dramatic action by Israel" in keeping with its commitments.

Asked if he thought dropping the expulsion order against Shaka was a "positive development," Linowitz replied, "It is indeed." He said that Vance was in touch with Begin about the effects the expulsion of Shaka would have on the autonomy talks and on other factors and events in the region. The restoration of Shaka to office "removes this disruptive element from the negotiations and therefore characterizes it as a positive development," he said.

Linowitz emphasized that in his new assignment "my role is to deal with the autonomy issue." He said he would leave for the Middle East tomorrow, stopping over at a U.S. air base in Spain and would arrive in Cairo Saturday for a meeting with President Anwar Sadat. Later, he will go to Jerusalem to meet with Begin. He said he would attend the next plenary session of the autonomy talks in Herzliya, Israel Dec. 12-13 and would return to Washington on the night of Dec. 13.

He said he hoped to meet with King Hussein of Jordan when "convenient" to Hussein but "not specifically on this trip." He said he has not met with any Palestinian Arabs in Washington in connection with his new duties and he does not expect to meet with any on his forthcoming trip.

#### Had Earlier Turned Down Post

Linowitz disclosed that he was first offered the post of Special Ambassador to the Middle East by Vance before the Camp David conference in September 1978. He said he turned it down at the time because he felt a summit conference was essential before he could be effective. Now that the way has been cleared for a solution of the Palestinian problem on the West Bank, he feels that there is "a chance" for a settlement.

Linowitz also disclosed that Carter had declined to discuss the new political assignment for his predecessor, Robert Strauss, until he, Linowitz, accepted the job of Special Ambassador. Strauss has since been appointed manager of the President's re-election campaign. Linowitz said that in discussing his assignment with the President, he had noted that both he and Strauss are Jewish. He reported that the President told him that he had "thought it over carefully and that he did not think it would be a problem."

#### U.S. WELCOMES DECISION ON SHAKA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that it "welcomed" Israel's decision to revoke the deportation order against Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nabulus and reinstate him as mayor. In a brief prepared statement, the Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said the U.S. "Welcomes the outcome of the Shaka case. It will contribute to tranquility" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and "we believe it will have a positive effect on the autonomy talks." Asked if U.S. pressure on Israel was a factor in the decision, Carter declined to go beyond his statement.

#### ELON MOREH SETTLERS TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY FOR ALTERNATIVE SITE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- A spokesman for Premier Menachem Begin announced today that the settlers of Elon Moreh have agreed to leave voluntarily and accept an alternative site offered by the government at Djebel Kebir, about six miles away. The announcement, by Begin's press aide, Shlomo Naktidman, indicated that a government crisis over the forcible evacuation of Elon Moreh has been averted.

Naktidman spoke to reporters following a meeting between Begin and Elon Moreh settlers and their Gush Emunim backers. There was no announcement by the Gush Emunim who were reported to be conferring among themselves. Yesterday, the Elon Moreh settlers voted never to leave the settlement of their own accord.

Naktidman also announced that no new road would be built to Djebel Kebir as the existing access road is considered sufficient. A new road would have required the seizure of Arab-owned lands, a move that would have precipitated another appeal to the Supreme Court by the Arab owners.

The high court ruled in favor of an appeal by Arab villagers on Oct. 22 when it ordered Elon Moreh removed on grounds that it was established illegally on Arab land. The government's policy, angrily opposed by the Gush Emunim, is to utilize only State-owned land on the West Bank for settlement purposes. The existing road to Djebel Kebir is on State-owned land.

#### JDC ADOPTS \$64.5 MILLION 1980 BUDGET

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The American Joint Distribution Committee adopted a \$64.5 million budget for 1980 at its 65th annual meeting here today.

Donald Robinson, who was re-elected for a third year term as president, told the more than 100 Board of Directors members who came from all over the United States and Canada that the largest single item in the budget is the expenditure for care and maintenance of Soviet emigrants which has increased from \$3.7 million in 1975 to \$23.8 million in 1979. "Fortunately we receive about 93 percent reimbursement of these expenditures from the U.S. Refugee Program," Robinson said.

Pointing to problems of inflation, Robinson noted that the 100 percent inflation rate in Israel could rise to 150 percent next year and this could do serious damage to the effectiveness of more than 100 programs in Israel supported by JDC. "If the JDC is to work out a balanced budget for 1980," he said, "it must operate within its income from the United Jewish Appeal and other sources."

The meeting, which was opened by Jack Weiler, past president of JDC who was re-elected

chairman of the Board of Directors, featured an address by Isaac Bshpevis Singer, 1978 Laureate in Literature. Singer, who immigrated from the Soviet Union to the United States in the 1930s, described the rescue efforts of the JDC as "the miracle of the 20th Century." He credited "The Joint" with rescuing millions including thousands of talented Jewish-Yiddish artists active in the theater, music, literature and the arts -- some of whom achieved international acclaim.

He told the story of JDC bringing aid to his town after World War I. "We were hungry and cold," he said. "I remember getting a blanket from 'The Joint' and it kept me warm a long long time."

#### Augmented Commitment To Jewish Education

In a report on the world operations of JDC, Ralph Goldman, who was re-elected executive vice president, called attention to the JDC commitment to education. "The year 1979 marked the beginning of our study of the JDC role in Jewish education, as well as an increase in our Yiddishkeit program for Soviet emigrants," he said. "It is clear that it is not enough for us to save bodies, though that in itself is a serious task. We must be certain that the fires of Jewish pride and commitment to Jewish values are kept burning. That is the reason," he added, "JDC plans augmented commitment to Jewish education in the 1980s."

Goldman called on world Jewry to share with the JDC the responsibility towards needy communities, "including Israel where educational and welfare programs are demanding increased funds in view of the country's critical social and economic problems."

#### Aiding People Of Cambodia

Robinson complimented the American Jewish community for its generous response to the appeal to aid the people of Cambodia. "Funds are coming in daily," he said. "It is a demonstration of the generosity of the Jewish community and of the responsiveness of its institutions. This is the historic JDC role," he added, "helping people to help people." The JDC is cooperating with the Catholic Relief Services and the Church World Service in the Interfaith Hunger Appeal.

A highlight of the meeting was presentation of the "Ma'asim Tovim" (Good Deeds) Award to Herbert Katzki, associate executive vice president of JDC. Katzki is retiring after 43 years as an executive officer in the agency's overseas rescue, relief and rehabilitation programs.

#### JNF ENTERS NEW CHAPTER IN ITS HISTORY Undertakes Most Important Land Development Program Since The Establishment Of Israel By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund has entered a new chapter in its history, undertaking "the most important land development" program since the establishment of the State of Israel and operating with a budget of about \$100 million for 1979, an increase of almost 150 percent compared to the previous year, it was reported here today.

"The JNF of today is no longer the JNF of the Blue Box," Sam Cohen, executive vice president of the JNF, told a press conference at the organization's headquarters, underscoring the new challenges of the JNF which was connected throughout the years with the Blue Box, to which

people were asked to insert coins for the purpose of planting trees in Israel.

According to Cohen and Jacob Bamore, JNF's director of information in Jerusalem, who arrived here on a speaking tour concerning the "new JNF," the JNF is presently engaged in "enormous development" projects in the north of Galilee and the Negev. JNF's activities, Bamore reported, involve currently no less than 500 locations throughout Israel. He said these development projects have "a sense of urgency" in view of the peace agreement with Egypt and the importance of inhabiting the Galilee with Jews.

The JNF, therefore, is presently engaged in the task of setting up 28 lookouts (outposts) with the intention of turning them eventually into civilian settlements. All in all, Bamore said, the JNF will be operating in 79 localities in the Galilee, working in close cooperation with the Jewish Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Housing.

As for the Negev, which is 63 percent of the total land of Israel, Bamore predicted it will eventually become "the most fertile area in Israel." He said the challenges of the JNF there are even more urgent than those of Galilee since the development programs in the next two years involve the relocations of settlements that were removed from the Sinai as part of the peace with Egypt.

The JNF Negev undertaking calls for preparing the ground for 20 new settlements in the northern Negev in the next three years, Bamore said. "JNF is no longer limited to tree planting," he stressed, noting that the JNF work load in the Negev will include site development, access road construction, the planting of wind-breakers and shelterbelts, and landscaping and gardening.

#### WEIZMAN DELIGHTED OVER SHAKA DECISION

LONDON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Israel's Defense Minister Ezer Weizman today expressed his "delight" at the revocation of the deportation order against Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus, and stressed that the decision was taken by the Israeli military authorities and not at the behest of the government. Weizman gave the news at a luncheon with British newspaper editors, during which he received a telephone call from Israel and was told that Shaka had conveyed his regards to him.

It was Weizman's only encounter with the press during a 24-hour visit here as a guest of the Joint Israel Appeal. In his address, Weizman complained about the lack of support which Europe has been giving to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He said Europe had completely underrated the sincerity and growing momentum of the Egyptian-Israeli relationship, as well as its importance as a stabilizing factor in the Middle East. This momentum would grow even more following the establishment of diplomatic relations, he said.

In Egypt it was dependent not only on President Anwar Sadat but had deep popular support. It was also having a beneficial effect on Jordan and other countries on Israel's eastern flank, despite their outward opposition to Camp David, Weizman said. In this context, he deplored Britain's decisions to sell Jordan 275 Chieftain tanks, saying the sale would complicate matters for Jordan as well as Israel.

Answering questions about Jewish settlements on the West Bank, he said he would not support any legislation which deprived Arabs of their land, nor would he support steps to prevent Jews from purchasing land legally. There was no parallel between the West Bank and northern Sinai where Israel had given up settlements in exchange for peace with Egypt, he said.

**HOMAGE TO WALLENBERG**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- In a simple ceremony on a Jerusalem hillside next week, the Jewish people will pay homage to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who helped save 100,000 Budapest Jews from the Nazis.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial Foundation, will on Dec. 11 plant a tree bearing his name in the "Avenue of Righteous Gentiles," commemorating those who stretched out a helping hand in the Jewish people's blackest hour. Unlike previous recipients of this honor, Wallenberg will not be present. A victim of Stalin's all-embracing paranoia, he was seized as a spy by the Russians at the time of Budapest's liberation.

The Soviet Union says he died in Moscow's Lubyanka prison in 1947. Sweden is not convinced and his family hopes that Wallenberg, who would now be 67, may have survived, as a number of former prisoners have testified.

**Reawakening Public Concern**

The Jerusalem ceremony follows a tireless campaign by the family to reawaken public concern about the case. They want it to be treated like those of Anatoly Shcharansky and other Soviet prisoners, whose relatives at least have the assurance of knowing they are alive.

In less than a year, the campaign has achieved startling success. For the first time, the United States, which prompted Wallenberg's wartime mission to rescue Budapest Jews, has publicly joined efforts to get at the truth.

President Carter recently confirmed that the U.S. raised the Wallenberg case with the Russians at the summit meeting with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna last summer. The Russians adamantly maintained that Wallenberg is dead. Carter and leading U.S. Senators have since lodged fresh inquiries with Brezhnev.

The first shot in the campaign was fired in May when Mrs. Nina Lagergren, Wallenberg's half-sister, gave a press conference in London hosted at the House of Commons by MP Greville Janner. She and her other brother, nuclear physicist Guy von Dardel, then flew to Israel where Premier Menachem Begin appealed to Carter to raise the issue with Brezhnev at the Vienna summit. Subsequently, Mrs. Lagergren visited Washington and this week Prof. von Dardel is on a private visit to Moscow.

**Basis For Continuing Inquiries**

The inquiries are prompted not only by the alleged sightings of Wallenberg, of which the latest was in 1975, but by the sketchiness of the Russian account of his death and by the fact that it took the Russians over 12 years to admit that he had been in their hands in the first place.

Among those engaged in the campaign is Por Anger, who has just retired as Sweden's Ambassador to Canada. A colleague of Wallenberg in Budapest during the war, Anger recently published his memoirs. He criticizes previous Swedish governments for not securing Wallenberg's release in the early 1950s and accuses them of sacrificing him on the "altar of neutrality." As long as there is no proof to the contrary, Anger maintains that Wallenberg is still alive.

A sensational reminder of Wallenberg's war work emerged only a few weeks ago when a Canadian woman, reading a report about it in the Toronto Star, identified herself as a baby who had

been born secretly in Wallenberg's flat at the end of 1944. Until reading the article, Mrs. Yvonne Singer, now a mother of two, had never been told of the circumstances of her birth or about Wallenberg, who was her godfather and had suggested one of her names.

**HOLTZMAN: SITUATION IN IRAN AND ISRAEL'S PROBLEMS ARE SIMILAR**

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D. N.Y.) stated that the four-week-old Iranian hostage situation should provide a vivid illustration to Americans of the kind of crisis the State of Israel has repeatedly faced from neighboring Arab states since its inception.

Speaking at the Royal Orleans Hotel, Holtzman said, "The Iranian crisis shows us Israel's plight. Americans have been faced with the hostage situation only a few weeks," she said, "while Israel has lived for years with enemies on her borders who daily vow to destroy the Jewish homeland."

Holtzman and Coretta King, widow of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., received Israel's Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award at the fourth annual All-Israel Fashion Show Luncheon, sponsored by the New Orleans State of Israel Bond Committee.

Holtzman went on to speak of the Palestinian refugees who, she said, live in camps surrounding Israel, unable to become citizens and unwanted by their host nations. "The Congresswoman cited as a stark example the lack of financial assistance provided by the 'oil-rich Arab nations,' saying:

"The U.S. has contributed far more towards helping these refugees than the Arab countries who call them brother. The U.S. has contributed \$700 million, Saudi Arabia has contributed \$33 million, Kuwait \$6 million and Yemen \$350. What does this tell you about the willingness to use human beings as political pawns?"

Mrs. King said that, while there are people who speak about a polarization between the Black and Jewish communities, "the bond of solidarity between us is far stronger than the media suggest." She cited the words of Martin Luther King that "we are wrapped in the single garment of destiny -- not just through history, but an ongoing common struggle for social justice."

The All-Israel Fashion Show Luncheon was chaired by Helen Kohlman and Susan Hess under the auspices of the Women's Division, New Orleans State of Israel Bonds, of which June Cahn is chairman.

**DULZIN SLAMS UN RESOLUTION**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, condemned the United Nations General Assembly resolution that declared the Camp David agreements invalid. "It is ironic," he said, "that the UN resolution declaring as void those agreements that now pave the way to peace between Israel and Egypt was passed on the very day (Nov. 29) when 32 years ago, the UN recognized the right of the Jewish people to its own state."

Dulzin charged that the resolution was "motivated by cynicism and belligerence, the same atmosphere that led to the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism." He said that "at a time when the Mideast is confronted by the dangers of extremism and belligerence, the path taken by Israel, Egypt and the United States is the only basis for peace and stability in the region."