

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## CABINET DECIDES TO EXTEND LIFE OF ELON MOREH BY ANOTHER FIVE WEEKS

By David London

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) — The Cabinet decided by majority vote today to extend the life of Elon Moreh for at least another five weeks, the estimated time required to complete construction of a new settlement at Djebil Kebir six miles away. It was the second extension granted by the Cabinet since the Supreme Court ruled last October 22 that Elon Moreh was built illegally on seized Arab lands and must be removed in 30 days.

The first extension expires January 3. Cabinet Secretary Arye Nuri read a Cabinet statement that blamed "regrettably" the difficult topographical conditions at the new site and recent heavy rains that slowed down work. It was clear when the Cabinet met that even with helicopters lifting tractors and other heavy equipment to Djebil Kebir, the deadline this Thursday could not be met.

Nevertheless, the three Democratic Movement ministers voted against the second extension. Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir told reporters that he hoped to avoid a clash between the militant Gush Emunim settlers and the army and for that reason he had voted for the original six-week extension last month. "In my opinion, that was time enough," Tamir said.

Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, leader of the Liberal Party, supported the extension but said his approval was conditional on formal assurances from the settlers that they will leave Elon Moreh peacefully. Amnon Rubinstein, leader of the opposition Shai faction, denounced the Cabinet's decision. "There is apparently no limit to the government's readiness to demean itself and kowtow to the Gush Emunim," he said. Similar comments were made by Labor Alignment spokesmen.

## Rejects Attorney General's Advice

The Cabinet acted on its own initiative, in effect rejecting the advice of Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir who stated, in a written opinion submitted to Premier Menachem Begin, that it was not reasonable to extend the deadline. He said the extension would be impossible to defend in court should the owners of the affected land decide to bring new legal action. Therefore, Zamir questioned the wisdom and propriety of applying to the Supreme Court for an extension of the long-passed time limit.

Technically, that limit was complied with when several parcels of land were returned last month to Arab villagers who had filed the original complaint. The government has acknowledged that the entire settlement must be removed since it had been established for "security" reasons that the high court found not to exist.

Work at Djebil Kebir, which is located on State-owned land, began only three weeks ago after the Elon Moreh settlers indicated that they would leave peacefully. Subsequently they made their compliance contingent on the adoption of new legislation to change the legal status of Jewish settlements on the West Bank in a way that would bar future court challenges.

Any such measure is almost certain to be defeated in the Knesset and is therefore unacceptable to the government. A violent confrontation between the settlers and the army is still possible. Begin apparently is banking on the assurance by National Religious Party right-winger Haim Druckman that the Gush Emunim leadership has promised that the Elon Moreh settlers would transfer peacefully to Djebil Kebir.

## EVRON, CONNALLY IN 2-HOUR MEETING

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA) — Israel Ambassador Ephraim Evron and Republican Presidential contender John Connally met for two hours at the Palm Beach, Fla. home of fellow-Republican and Jewish leader Max Fisher of Detroit on Dec. 26, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned. The purpose of the meeting was to give Connally, who flew in from Texas, an opportunity to explain that he was misunderstood several months ago in a public statement which he made which seemed to link Israel's security with the conflict over oil, the JTA was informed.

In his meeting with Evron, Connally made clear his good intentions toward Israel and his hopes for a peaceful settlement of the problems in the Middle East. The JTA was also told that Connally reiterated his commitment to the security of Israel, and that, as a great friend of Israel, he would honor all commitments undertaken by previous Administrations, should he become President. The JTA also learned that Connally intends to make public what he considers his very positive stand on the Middle East very soon in another political address.

## WEIZMAN WELCOMES INCREASED U.S. INFLUENCE IN MIDEAST AS A 'CHAIN' AGAINST SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AREA

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA) — Israel Defense Minister Ezer Weizman expressed the hope today that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty would be the beginning of an "American chain" against Soviet influence in the Middle East.

Answering questions in Washington on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," Weizman said he welcomed increased American influence in the Mideast. He said he knew this meant more American arms for Saudi Arabia and Egypt but felt it was better to "see American equipment rather than Russian" in the area. However, he added that "I hope it will be well-balanced by what we have."

Weizman, who had come to the United States with Israel's request for \$3.4 billion in military and economic aid in the 1981 fiscal year, nearly double the \$1.8 billion it is receiving in the current year, said he did not expect to get the full amount. But he said reports that the Carter Administration has proposed a \$2.2 billion appropriation are untrue.

He said that President Carter, with whom he met for lunch at the White House last Friday, listened attentively and promised to consider Israel's request. "I have not been told any figure at all," Weizman said. The official U.S. reply will reportedly be given to Israel Ambassador Ephraim Evron.

in Washington tomorrow.

The Israel Defense Minister, who also met with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Special Ambassador Sol Linowitz last week, stressed today that Israel was not seeking more aid because it has increased its military budget. "We have cut down" the military budget since the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed.

But he said the problem was Israel's economic problems, some of it due to Israel's own mistakes and some to the peace treaty. As an example, he said with the return of the Sinai oilfields to Egypt, Israel will have to spend \$2 billion for oil next year.

Much of the questioning centered around the difficulties in recent developments in Iran and Afghanistan. When asked what Israel would have done if it was its embassy that had been seized in the manner that the U.S. Embassy was taken in Teheran, he stressed that Israel was not a world power and did not have the responsibilities that the U.S. did.

At first he hinted that Israel might have "quietly" tried to get the hostages out but then quickly added that the Israeli rescue of hostages at Entebbe Airport in Uganda in 1976 was a "picnic" in comparison to what it would take to rescue the American hostages in the Embassy in the center of Teheran.

#### Long-Standing Soviet Influence

Weizman continuously pointed out that the Soviet influence in the Mideast was not new. He said the overt Soviet support of the coup in Afghanistan last week was similar to what the USSR did in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 and was part of the Soviet desire to put a belt of friendly nations around its borders.

He noted that Israel has had to face the Soviet Union in the Mideast for the last 25 years. "We have had the Soviets on our backs and breathing down our necks for 25 years," Weizman said, during which time, he added, Israel destroyed 1000 Soviet planes and 2000 Soviet tanks. He said now, for the first time, the U.S. is directly involved by the situation in Afghanistan.

Asked about a report that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had offered the U.S. bases if needed, Weizman called Sadat "courageous" and said he would welcome the move. When pressed on whether Israel had made a similar offer, he said it did not need to. He said the U.S. knew Israel was a close friend and would give it anything it asked for to help its security interests in the area.

In other matters, Weizman said that the Jewish settlements on the West Bank should not harm peace efforts. He said the Israel Cabinet has accepted his view that settlements should be concentrated in four or five areas rather than spread throughout the area.

#### ISSUE OF ANTI-SEMITISM RAISED BY THE RESIGNATION OF THE ARGENTINE MINISTER OF CULTURE

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The resignation of Argentina's Minister of Culture, Dr. Raul Crespo Montes, shortly after praising Jewish contributions to that nation's cultural life has raised the issue of anti-Semitism, according to an Argentine Jewish weekly newspaper.

The newspaper, Mundo Israelita, noting

rumors that Crespo Montes was forced to step down "because of an anti-Semitic action," demanded "immediate clarification" from the authorities. "If silence persists," Mundo Israelita added, "we take it for granted that the rumors will prove to be true."

Crespo Montes resigned earlier this month after speaking at the Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires to mark the publication in Argentina of the 300th work in a series dealing with the participation of Jews in the nation's cultural activities.

According to his superior, Dr. Juan Rafael Llerena Amadeo, who heads the Ministry of Culture and Education, the resignation was for "personal reasons." Llerena Amadeo refused to elaborate when questioned at a press conference in Buenos Aires.

Argentine Jewish organizations criticized the departure of Crespo Montes and the controversy has been given wide publicity in the Argentine press.

The Sociedad Hebraica Argentina (SHA), which sponsored Crespo Montes' speech, issued a statement expressing "profound consternation" over his resignation. Pointing out that those who have spoken on its platform include Albert Einstein, Jacques Maritain and Jorge Luis Borges, the SHA said it "could not accept or believe that at this stage of Argentine social and intellectual development there are persons or circles who consider the delivery of a speech at the SHA incompatible with a high level ministry official's public function."

#### May Be The Latest Victim

Asked to comment in New York on the case, Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the Latin American Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said, "Dr. Crespo Montes may be the latest victim in a struggle within Argentina over the principle of cultural pluralism. I share the concern of the SHA in Argentina."

In his speech, Crespo Montes said, "The contribution which Jewish culture has made and can continue to make to our common Argentine culture is of unquestionable worth." He further pointed out that many Jews have contributed their brilliance, inspiration and tenacity to Argentine culture and to enhancing Argentina's image abroad in the fields of letters, the arts, the sciences and education.

In connection with the issue of cultural pluralism in Argentina, informed sources said Llerena Amadeo was the principal architect of a course in moral and civil development that was introduced into the nation's schools last March. Members of the Jewish community have raised objections to the Catholic ideological content of the course, which is mandatory for all first-year high school students in public and private schools. Next year the course will also be required for high school sophomores.

#### PALESTINIAN ASSEMBLY FORCED TO CANCEL BY GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Arab political leaders in East Jerusalem were forced to abandon a Palestinian Assembly that was to have convened there today because the Military Government prevented West Bank delegates from attending. The organizers, heads of public institutions in East Jerusalem, declared the assembly postponed when their West Bank colleagues failed to arrive. The Military Government had set up road blocks around the city and troops turned back the Arab notables.

Although the Military Government has a standing policy of banning political assemblies by West Bank Arabs, Arab community leaders have succeeded several times in recent weeks to hold such meetings. When Israeli officials realized that this was becoming a regular event since the imprisonment and subsequent release of Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus, it was decided to use physical means to enforce the ban. The Military Government informed the East Jerusalem Arabs today that if they wanted to convene they would have to obtain the proper permits.

#### TRAGIC SITES FOR JEWS IN

#### POLAND TO BE MEMORIALIZED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The Polish Embassy has given assurances that work is proceeding on memorializing Umschlagplatz in Warsaw, the place of deportation for more than a half-million Warsaw Jews to Nazi death camps, and the gravesite of more than 300 Jews, mostly children, in the village of Pysznica, near Treblinka.

Polish Ambassador Romald Spasaski has written Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) that the "works have already started to restore the mass grave" at Pysznica. He wrote "the surrounding area was leveled and fenced. The memorial stone commemorating the victims of Nazi activities is also being prepared."

Bronislaw Stawinski, the first secretary for information at the Embassy, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "work already has started" on Umschlagplatz where only a small plaque has marked the site and a gas station was built. The Polish government has given assurances to Elie Wiesel, chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, it would refurbish the site.

Holtzman appealed to the State Department and the Polish Embassy to memorialize the Pysznica gravesite after Morris Krantz, a survivor of Treblinka, was unable to persuade Polish authorities to do it. Holtzman's office reported that as a teenager in 1942, Krantz "saw almost the entire Jewish population of Pysznica sent to concentration camps. Krantz, himself, was sent to Treblinka, but later escaped. He hid in the woods along with other Jewish children. One by one, these children were caught and executed and buried in a mass grave in a field near Pysznica."

"Krantz witnessed exterminations from his hiding place in the woods. For 37 years he has been determined that this sad burial ground not go unnoticed. In 1974, he learned from friends that the site has become a littered dump... He went to Poland and pleaded with the authorities. Promising a marker, they did nothing." Krantz then turned to Holtzman for aid.

#### ANOTHER OBSTACLE REMOVED TO CONTINUED OPERATION OF EL AL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The El Al management signed an agreement with ground maintenance workers at midnight last night removing yet another obstacle to the continued operation of the airline. The ground crews agreed to waive certain wage demands and pledged to refrain from strikes or work slowdowns for the next five years.

El Al, a consistent money-loser in recent years, was threatened with imminent closure by the

government until last week when the pilots union, representing the highest paid employees, accepted 20-40 percent cuts in their salaries.

This opened the way to negotiations with other employee groups. The Cabinet set a deadline which expires in less than 48 hours for the satisfactory conclusion of those negotiations. The El Al management now believes that acceptable agreements will be reached by then with flight attendants and purser.

El Al lost \$60 million this year and is expected to lose almost double that amount in 1980. But managing director Avraham Shavit predicted today that the air line will be in the black by 1981.

#### CHANUKAH MARATHON ENDS IN ROMANIA

BUCHAREST, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The Chanukah marathon ended in Romania last week. Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, accompanied by several hundred Jewish youngsters, boys and girls, visited 27 communities, from the capital to the smallest of towns, during the 10-day celebration of the Festival of Lights.

In each place, the entire Jewish population participated. Youth orchestras and choirs performed Hebrew and Yiddish songs. Rosen, in his speeches, expressed gratitude to the Rumanian government for allowing Jews complete religious and cultural freedom and the right to emigrate for those who wish to join their families in Israel.

At a dozen communities, the Chief Rabbi was accompanied by 10 American rabbis representing the Rabbinical Council of the United Jewish Appeal. The leaders of the mission, Rabbi Stanley Rabino-witz of Washington, D.C., and Rabbi Wolf Kelman, of New York, praised Rosen for his leadership of a vital Jewish community in Rumania and thanked the Rumanian government for its humanitarian approach to Jewish problems.

#### RALLY SLATED TO PROTEST FINAL RESTITUTION PAYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BONN AND JEWISH GROUP

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Federation of Nazi Victims has announced that it will hold a demonstration outside the West German Embassy on January 21 to protest the final restitution agreement recently signed between the Bonn government and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany. The agreement calls for the payment of 440 million Marks over a three-year period. It will be the last payment to Jewish survivors of the Holocaust.

The Israeli government has endorsed the agreement. But Yuvia Friedman, chairman of the Federation, said at a press conference that his group will challenge it. He said they were dissatisfied by the way Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Claims Conference, handled the negotiations and are convinced that the payments are too small.

According to Friedman, the payment of restitution should continue for at least another 20 years -- by which time most of the survivors will have passed away -- and that all payments should be made through Israel, not through the Claims Conference in New York. Friedman claimed that the 100,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel constitute the bulk of the claimants.

The January 21 date was chosen for the demonstration because it will mark the 37th anniversary of the "Final Solution" decision at Wannsee which put the Nazi death machine into action.

## HOSPITAL RAPPED FOR BILLING PATIENTS FOR KOSHER FOOD

By Ben-Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The National Council of Young Israel, an association of Orthodox synagogues, has issued a statement criticizing the University Hospital of the New York University Medical Center for its "discriminatory" practice of billing patients for kosher food.

Nathaniel Saperstein, Young Israel president, said, "kosher food is an inalienable right of all observant Jews," adding that "the practice of billing the patient" at New York Hospital "a surcharge for this food is unconscionable." He said that, in recent months, several cases have been disclosed of Orthodox patients at New York University Hospital being charged extra for kosher food. Saperstein said that despite repeated requests, the hospital has refused to correct this situation.

Efforts by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency over the weekend to obtain comment from the hospital were unavailing.

Saperstein declared that persons requiring special diets were not billed by the hospital "unless that special diet happens to be kosher. This is clearly discriminatory and smacks of anti-Semitism." He added that "what makes this situation especially galling is the fact that the major hospital insurance companies do consider kosher food as a normal expense and reimburse the hospital for it."

Saperstein said that "in all the cases which have come to our attention, the patients were insured. Not only does the hospital bill them improperly in the first place, but they are billed even though the kosher diets are paid for by their insurance policies."

## BLACK WOMEN SEEK TO HEAL RIFT WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- Two outstanding women in America's Black community have taken action to help heal the rift that grew out of United States Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young's meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organization's UN observer in New York and the visits of some Black leaders with PLO officials in Beirut.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King has announced that "a major national workshop on Black-Jewish reconciliation" will be held during the week-long celebration in honor of her martyred husband's 51st birthday. The celebration will take place beginning Jan. 10 in Atlanta at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change of which she is president. Participants in the program include Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, one of three religious leaders invited.

Tanenbaum, who will deliver the keynote address at an ecumenical service commemorating the life and work of Dr. King on Jan. 15 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, said the invitation is a "major gesture of friendship and reconciliation between responsible leaders of the Black and Jewish communities." He added, "In a world in which there is so much human suffering and denial of human rights, what binds Jews and Blacks together 'is infinitely greater than what divides them.'"

Secretary of Health and Welfare Patricia Roberts Harris, in accepting the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Israel Bond Organization's Professions Division at a meeting in Pikesville, Md., said "we ought to be angry that more than two generations after the depression poverty and injustice still exist on such a scale" in the U.S. and the Americans ought to be "determined to do something about it." But, she added, "I have not come here tonight to scold this audience. If I had a lecture in mind, I would choose another occasion, because this group has demonstrated that it understands our responsibilities as a humane society."

Speaking of Israel, Secretary Harris said it "stands as a symbol of liberty to all freedom-loving people of the world." Whether we are Black or white, Americans or Israelis — those who stand with Israel make a stand for freedom, and make a stand for the rights of all mankind.

## B'NAI B'RITH LODGE HONORS BEGIN, SADAT

POTOMAC, Md., Dec. 30 (JTA) -- The John F. Kennedy Lodge of B'nai B'rith will honor President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel for their efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. The ceremony, which will take place Jan. 8 at Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase, Md., marks two firsts, a spokesman said. This is the first time the lodge will present its "Profiles in Courage Award" to two non-Americans and it is also the first time that co-winners have been chosen.

The awards will be presented to Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal of Egypt for Sadat, and to Ambassador Ephraim Eyal of Israel for Begin. The keynote speaker will be Arthur Goldberg, who served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and was a Supreme Court Justice and Secretary of Labor.

In reaching its decision, the Lodge's selection committee felt that both Begin and Sadat demonstrated courage because they put their careers and lives on the line, a Lodge spokesman said. In doing so, both leaders exhibited strength of character, adherence to personal conviction and concern for mankind.

## BRAZIL SAYS NO TO ANTI-BEGIN BOOKLET

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 30 (JTA) -- "O Globo," the Rio newspaper, has reported that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry "advised" the Arab League office in Brasilia not to publish an anti-Begin booklet.

The request to publish a booklet attacking Premier Menachem Begin of Israel was made by the Arab League office, on behalf of Farid Sawan, the Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Brazil, who is attached to the Arab League office.

In denying the request, the Foreign Ministry cited Brazilian law which forbids offensive expressions against heads of friendly nations. The Arab League office continued to press for permission to print the anti-Begin booklet, asserting that the Israel Embassy in Brasilia had recently published a statement about PLO head Yasser Arafat, describing him as a terrorist and a criminal.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Cabinet decided Sunday to defer action on a proposal to build 6000 new housing units, the majority of them on the West Bank, until the financial aspects of the project are studied by Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz's smaller "economic cabinet." The move followed a suggestion by Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir who said he wanted the "economic cabinet" to consider it.