

# JTA daily news bulletin

Courtesy copyright. Reprinted with permission of JTA.

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

Vol. LVIII — 63rd Year

Tuesday, February 5, 1980

No. 25

## CONCERN OVER REPLACEMENT OF SYRIAN TROOPS BY THE PLA IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Syria's decision to pull its forces out of Beirut and other Lebanese cities has aroused serious concern in the Christian enclaves in south Lebanon because the Syrian troops will be replaced by the Damascus-sponsored Palestine Liberation Army (PLA). The authorities in Beirut are also alarmed that this move could lead to a resumption of the civil war.

Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss of Lebanon went to Damascus today for urgent talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad and other top officials. He reported on his return to Beirut tonight that he had persuaded the Syrians to delay for a few days the withdrawal of their troops.

The PLA is a para-military organization which Syria has armed with tanks and artillery. It already controls the south Lebanese coast from Damour to the Zaharani River. While the Christians have been demanding that Syria end its occupation of Lebanon, they view the PLA as a surrogate for Damascus but less likely to restrain Palestinian terrorists. The terrorists have already resumed their daily shelling of Christian positions in south Lebanon.

The Syrians plan to redeploy their forces in the Baqa' valley in eastern Lebanon which they are said to believe is the most likely corridor for an Israeli attack. Only last month, Premier Menachem Begin and other Israeli leaders were expressing concern over what they said was a build-up of Syrian military forces in Lebanon. Begin warned that the Syrians may be preparing to attack Israel to divert attention from their political difficulties at home. He noted that Syria has been heavily supplied with advanced weaponry by the Soviet Union.

## MURDER OF YESHIVA STUDENT SPURS CALLS FOR JEWISH PRESENCE IN HEBRON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The murder of a yeshiva student in Hebron last Thursday has spurred demands by nationalist and religious elements that the government establish a strong Jewish presence in that West Bank Arab town where there has been no Jewish community since the Arab uprising in 1929.

The Cabinet will discuss the issue at its regular session next Sunday. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon reportedly has been urging his colleagues to support decisive action. Others, including Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, both leaders of the National Religious Party, are calling for "a Zionist response" to the murder. They are also calling for the expansion of Kiryat Arba, the Gush Emunim stronghold adjacent to Hebron where the murder victim, 23-year-old Yehoshua Sloma, had lived.

Sloma's funeral in Jerusalem yesterday, attended by more than 2000 mourners, was the occasion for political demands by Kiryat Arba residents and religious leaders, including Ashkenazic

Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren. They want the government to permit Jews to take over homes and public buildings that had been owned by Jews in Hebron before they were massacred or fled more than 50 years ago.

Kiryat Arba leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger demanded in his eulogy of Sloma that the government take over "all our stolen places and all the places where Jews were killed." He also demanded that "the brazen and evil Arab mayors be put in their place." Goren, in a tearful eulogy of the slain student, declared that he had not died in vain. "There is no force on earth that can prevent us from settling throughout our land," he said.

Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, head of the Kiryat Arba yeshiva, called on the government to "replace the nests of murderers" in Hebron with "Jewish life." Another local leader, attorney Elyakim Haetzni, repeated the long standing demand by Kiryat Arba residents that their town be expanded by seizing 5000 dunams of Arab-owned land that surrounds it. Meanwhile, the curfew in Hebron continued for the fifth day. Residents were allowed to leave their homes briefly at noon to shop for food.

## NORMALIZATION ACCELERATES FAST

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Teams of officials from the Tourism and Trade Ministry, the Transport Ministry and El Al were hard at work this morning at the Prime Minister's Office preparing for negotiations with Egypt in their various fields in the days ahead.

Israel and Egypt have resolved to conclude three major bilateral agreements — trade, culture, and civil aviation — within the next six weeks. Negotiations are to start immediately in several committees. Top priority will be given to the aviation agreement. Israeli officials say they hope to see El Al flying to Cairo within a month.

The decision to speed up the normalization process was taken in principle during the Sadat-Begin Aswan summit meeting last month and was reaffirmed two weeks later when Defense Minister Ezer Weizman met with President Anwar Sadat in Cairo.

Over the weekend, a group of six top Defense and Foreign Ministry officials, three from each side, began to translate the decision into action. Meeting in Cairo, Gen. Avraham Tamir, who is Weizman's top planning aide, Premier Menachem Begin's military secretary Gen. Ephraim Paran, and Foreign Ministry aide Elyakim Rubinstein met with an Egyptian team consisting of Gen. Labib Shurab, Brig. Mohsen Hamdi and Ambassador Taha Maghdoub. They mapped out a timetable of intensive negotiations by specialized working groups over the coming weeks.

The aviation working group is expected to begin its deliberations this week. Begin revealed last month that Egypt is planning to set up a second national carrier to fly the Cairo-Tel Aviv route.

## Business-Like Efficiency Noted

The Tamir team reported a new sense of business efficiency in the Egyptian government's attitude

towards the normalization process. The change followed Sadat's decision that Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali would coordinate normalization instead of Foreign Minister Butros Ghali. The Israeli delegation's impression was that the President's unequivocal instructions to move ahead with normalization smoothly and rapidly, has permeated through the Egyptian bureaucracy.

Hamdi and Maghdoub are due in Israel Wednesday to continue the discussions with the Israeli group led by Tamir. Together, this team will comprise a joint coordination committee to supervise the work of the various specialist committees. If the accords are concluded in six weeks, it would represent a significant advance in the schedule laid out by the third protocol of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The treaty required that negotiations on the trade, aviation and culture accords begin before July 2, 1980. It set no target date for the conclusion of the accords, and Egyptian officials had indicated in the past that there would be an unstated but nevertheless real "linkage" between the normalization negotiations and progress on the Palestinian autonomy. Now, however, under direct orders from Sadat, that policy line appears to have been dropped.

#### Preparations For Diplomatic Relations

Preparations are going ahead meanwhile, for the opening of diplomatic relations. An Israeli advance party is hard at work in Cairo preparing the eight-room house in the fashionable Dokki district where Israel finally decided to locate the temporary premises of its Embassy.

Tamir and Poran reported to Begin and Weizman yesterday that they were pleased with the tight security measures the Egyptians had already installed around the house. An Egyptian delegation arrived in Tel Aviv today to find and furnish premises for Egypt's Embassy and staff residences. The actual openings of the two embassies is now set for Feb. 15, and the two Ambassadors will take their posts on Feb. 26.

Meanwhile, another busload of American visitors, members of the Israel Bonds Prime Ministers conference, entered Egypt at noon today via El Arish. The group plans to stay in Cairo for eight days. At the same time the Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee is presently holding working sessions in Cairo and is scheduled to cross over into Israel at the end of the week.

#### FINAL GROUP EVICTED FROM ELON MOREH

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- The final group of recalcitrant settlers were forcibly removed by the army from Elon Moreh last night. A number of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement members who had come to "reinforce" the recalcitrant settlers were arrested. Heavy equipment was at work at the site today transporting the trailer homes to the new settlement at Djebel Kibir. The diehard group included four of the original 15 Elon Moreh families and 10 singles. Efforts by high army officers to persuade them to leave without a struggle proved fruitless.

#### VIOLENCE AMONG ORTHODOX DENOUNCED

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Rabbi Sol Roth, first vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America, denounced recent out-

breaks of violence and "rabid fanaticism" within the Orthodox Jewish community.

He told several hundred delegates attending the special Torah convocation of the Orthodox rabbinical organization that "we are shocked and ashamed by the recourse to physical violence, the smearing of swastikas and the vandalizing of synagogues within Orthodox ranks" which "defame the image of the entire Orthodox community and expose our faith to public ridicule and Hallel Ha Shem, the desecration of God's holy name."

Roth assailed the "irresponsible and misguided" Jews who, "while claiming to speak on behalf of Torah," smeared the swastikas and epithets on a synagogue in the Boro Park section of Brooklyn. He issued an appeal to all Orthodox Jews to "repudiate violence" and to achieve a "state of mutual respect among Orthodox and Hasidic groups."

While Roth did not identify the groups and the synagogues to which he referred, it was understood he meant the recent attacks against the Conservative Emanuel Synagogue in Boro Park and a Belzer synagogue in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, reportedly by adherents of the Satmar movement.

Declaring that "fanaticism is not to be confused with zeal," Roth said fanaticism "has no place in the Torah community" and that efforts at "imposition of an autocratic uniformity distorts the traditional pattern of Jewish life" where "disputes in religious law and practice have traditionally been settled through scholarly dialogue."

#### MORGENTHAU PREDICTS CONTINUED EMIGRATION FOR SOVIET JEWS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Political scientist Hans Morgenthau forecast today that the Soviet Union will "continue its generous emigration policy" for Soviet Jews despite the "overall situation" between the U.S. and USSR which he believes to be "more threatening than the media may make it appear."

He said he didn't think the Soviets will "clamp down on the Jewish community" but cautioned that "it is a possibility." Addressing the B'nai B'rith Board of Governors meeting here, he said Jewish emigration would continue because "the Russians want to get rid of the emigres simply because they are a pain in the neck."

Morgenthau was presented with a special humanitarian award by B'nai B'rith president Jack Spitzer, on the occasion of his 76th birthday which he marked today, for his work on behalf of Soviet Jews. Daniel Thurz, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith, was presented with a Chanukah menorah for his 25 years of service to the organization, which began when he was a member of Hillel during his student days at Queens college, New York.

#### ANTI-ISRAEL RIOT AT SOCCER MATCH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- An anti-Israel riot broke out at a soccer match between Arab and Jewish teams Saturday night resulting in injuries to six Israeli players and two policemen. Tear gas was used to disperse the rampaging spectators and the sports field at Boqaa el-Gharbiyeh village, north of Hadera, where the game was played, was closed down pending an investigation by the authorities.

The melee was the second in two weeks. The earlier incident occurred at Umm el-Fahem village where fans of the local Arab team attacked the Israeli team to protest a decision by the referee. Shots were fired into the air and tear gas was used to break up the brawl.

Saturday night's incident was also sparked by a decision by the referee in favor of the Jewish team from Binyamina. But it rapidly turned into an anti-Israel demonstration with fans shouting pro-Palestine Liberation Organization slogans. Police reinforcements had to be called to extricate the referee and Jewish team members.

#### ALLOCATION TO ISRAEL SCRUTINIZED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The Carter Administration has formally notified Congress that the allocation it has made of \$1.985 billion for the next fiscal year is sufficient to "meet Israel's essential defense and balance of payments needed in the coming year." The sum for Israel is based on the same level of military and economic aid — \$1.785 billion — for the current year, plus an additional \$200 million in redeployment aid.

While acknowledging that "Israel will continue to have serious problems" for "the next year or two," the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on the Middle East has been told that the U.S. support "is a generous aid package."

Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asia Affairs, offered a prepared statement to the subcommittee last Thursday in which he said that "barring unforeseen circumstances, this level of funding along with Israel's own efforts should enable Israel to meet its priority defense requirements and to continue to enjoy a significant margin of military superiority over any combination of potential opponents."

#### Holds Out Promise To Israel

The statement noted that the U.S. budget itself has "constraint" and "cut-backs" in other programs. But Saunders held out the "promise" that "we will, however, keep this judgment under constant review in the light of developments in the region." He said, "The Israelis fixed their aid requirements for the coming fiscal year, starting October 1, at \$3.45 billion in addition to the redeployment assistance" for withdrawal from Sinai.

"There is no question but that Israel faces very serious economic problems," Saunders said. "Escalating oil prices, the added cost of paying Egypt for oil after the return of the Alma fields and increased debt service hit Israel very hard. Israel has a potential cash flow problem resulting from its substantial military procurement plans. All of these problems have been compounded by domestic policies aimed at promoting relative rapid economic growth," he said.

Saunders noted, however, that "For the past two years, Israel has experienced a real growth of about five percent each year. Private and public consumption have increased as have real wages. Unemployment has dropped to below three percent. The expansion has been accompanied by soaring inflation.

During 1979, inflation passed the 100 percent mark. While the foreign trade deficit has increased rapidly, large inflows of aid and borrow-

ing produced sizeable overall balance of payments surpluses in both 1978 and 1979 and foreign exchange reserves rose to a record high," Saunders said.

#### View Of Israel's Situation

While making these statements, the Carter Administration also acknowledged in its presentation that "the prospects for 1980 and 1981 are that Israel's balance of payments situation will deteriorate. Oil costs, defense requirements, deployment expenses and the overheated economy will all contribute to increased pressure on the balance of payments," Saunders' statement said.

It noted that "In November, the government of Israel took major steps to institute a tough austerity program to cool the economy and to stimulate exports. Although it will be some time before these measures have a significant impact, they should eventually result in a situation in which Israel will be able to maintain a moderate rate of growth without serious balance of payments difficulties," Saunders said.

The Carter Administration also notified Congress that it wants \$3 million in the coming year for American voluntary agency programs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Saunders said that "While modest in dollar terms, this effort to assist the economic and social development of the Palestinians in the occupied territories is a significant contribution to the peace process."

The subcommittee was told that "the credibility" of U.S. efforts to work with Arab states in the area and "the future of our (U.S.) interests in the area are unavoidably related to our progress in moving toward a comprehensive Middle East peace — and especially to serious progress in the current West Bank and Gaza negotiations."

#### USSR JEWISH ACTIVIST REACHES ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Yevgeny Zirlin, a Soviet Jewish activist who has been attempting to leave the Soviet Union since 1977, has arrived in Israel after Soviet authorities unexpectedly agreed to give him an exit visa. Zirlin, a physicist, was fired from his academic position shortly after he applied for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Upon his arrival at Ben Gurion Airport he was met by Ilana Friedman, sister of Ida Nudel, the Jewish activist who is in exile in Siberia. Zirlin, who made a feature film about Nudel, which was later smuggled to the West and shown worldwide, said that he last saw Nudel last November. Although she is sick, he said her spirit is strong. He added that she lives under harsh climatic conditions where the temperature is 30 to 40 degrees centigrade below zero. "She has to gather firewood all by herself," Zirlin said.

He said that he telephoned Andrei Sakharov in the city of Gorky and then applied for permission to visit the noted Soviet scientist and dissident. Instead of permission to visit Sakharov, Zirlin said, he was visited by KGB agents who informed him he was granted an exit visa to Israel.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Between 11-12 percent of Jewish brides in Israel are pregnant at the time of their marriage, according to a survey by two staff members of the Central Bureau of Statistics. The study showed that pregnancy before marriage is most frequent among Israel-born women. Pre-marital first pregnancies among them is 14 percent.

## WORLD JEWISH POPULATION IS REPORTED TO BE 14,396,000

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Continuing a pattern of recent years, the Jewish population of the United States is moving in increasing numbers from the Northeast to the Sun Belt — the Southern and Western parts of the country. This trend is demonstrated in demographic reports that appear in the 1980 edition of the American Jewish Year Book. The new edition, Volume 80 in the annual series, has just appeared.

The American Jewish Year Book is published jointly by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society of America. Its editors are Milton Himmelfarb and David Singer. Morris Fine is editor emeritus. The book sells for \$15.00.

Figures on world Jewish population in the Year Book show an increase of 110,000 over the previous year, or a total current world Jewish population of 14,396,000. However, Prof. Leon Shapiro, of Rutgers University, who compiled the world statistics, cautions that "there are no precise data on Jewish population in the various countries. The figures presented represent the best possible estimates. . . . The figures are of varying degrees of accuracy and are subject to substantial margins of error."

Similarly, the authors of the demographic report on Jewish population in the United States, Alvin Chenkin and Maynard Miran, research consultant and associate respectively of the Council of Jewish Federations, warn that two factors combine to make their total estimate problematic: "The extent of the shift to the 'sun-belt' states may not yet be fully reported. On the other hand, the New York City area estimate is, in all likelihood, 'overstated.'"

### 5,860,900 Jews in The U.S.

They estimate that the current U.S. Jewish population is 5,860,900, a modest increase over the previous year's figure of 5,780,960. The South and West comprise 30.2 percent of the total, as compared to 29.1 in 1978 and 27.8 in 1977. The Northeast and Northcentral states represent 69.8 percent of the total Jewish population, as compared to 70.9 and 72.2 percent in 1978 and 1977 respectively. Jews comprise 2.7 percent of the total population in the U.S.

Estimating the New York City Jewish population at 1,228,000, a figure based on the 1970 National Jewish Population Study, the authors point out that unofficial estimates by the New York Department of City Planning show a 13.5 percent drop in the city's white population between 1970 and 1977. "An extrapolation of this figure to 1979 could reduce the Jewish population figure for New York City to around 1,000,000," they added.

After the United States, countries with significantly large numbers of Jews are: Israel, 3,135,000; Soviet Union, 2,666,000; France, 650,000; Great Britain, 410,000; Canada, 305,000; Argentina, 300,000; Brazil, 150,000; and South Africa, 118,000.

Among the Jewish population figures for U.S. cities listed in the Year Book's tables are: Greater New York, 1,998,000; Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, 455,000; Philadelphia Metropolitan Area, 295,000; Chicago Metropolitan Area, 253,000; Miami, 225,000; Boston,

170,000; Greater Washington, 160,000; Bergen County (N.J.), 100,000; Essex County (N.J.), 95,000; Baltimore, 92,000; Cleveland, 75,000; Detroit, 75,000; San Francisco, 75,000; Montgomery County (Md.), 70,000; St. Louis, 60,000; Fort Lauderdale, 60,000; Hollywood (Fla.), 55,000; Pittsburgh, 51,000.

In Europe, including Asiatic USSR and Turkey, there are 4,142,450 Jews. The Jewish population of the Americas is 6,783,220. In Asia, there are 3,221,010 Jews; in Africa, 174,320; and in Australia-New Zealand, 75,000. The Jewish population in major cities in the Soviet Union is: Khar'kov, 80,000; Kiev, 170,000; Leningrad, 165,000; Moscow, 285,000; Odessa, 120,000; Sverdlovsk, 40,000; and Zhitomir, 20,000.

## WEIZMAN BETS BOTTLE OF WHISKEY THAT CARTER WILL WIN RE-ELECTION

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Israel Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, in a television interview shown last night, said he expected President Carter to be re-elected but refused to "advise" American Jews to support Carter.

Weizman was interviewed in Israel by Mike Wallace on the CBS-TV production "60 Minutes." There was no indication if the interview was conducted before or after Weizman's controversial remarks in Washington in December and Israel Television last week supporting Carter's re-election.

When Wallace said that he had heard that Weizman believed Carter would be re-elected, the Defense Minister replied that he had bet a bottle of whiskey on it. Wallace noted that many American Jews oppose Carter, and Weizman replied that they were caught up in the general feeling among Americans, a statement he did not explain.

But when Wallace asked if Weizman would "advise" his "brethren" in the United States to support Carter, the Defense Minister declared, "I don't advise anyone." He added that he has trouble getting Israelis to accept his advice.

## YONA YAGOL DEAD AT 68

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Yona Yagol, the well-known journalist and author, and an ardent Labor Zionist spokesman who founded in Poland the Gordonia movement named after A. D. Gordon, has died here at the age of 68. A close associate of the late Pinhas Lavon, Yagol left Mapai when Lavon left the Labor government in 1955 over charges that he was involved in an Israeli spy ring in Egypt. But Yagol returned to the Labor Party in which he subsequently held various key positions. He was also the representative of Histadrut in the European Trade Union Council.

After the Likud victory in 1978, Yagol wrote two books, both controversial. One, "The End of the Hegemony," analyzed the reason for Labor's defeat, and the other, a fictional story, dealt with the possibility of a takeover of the Temple Mount by Jewish militants resembling the Jewish Defense League. He will be buried at Deganya Beth, the place where he resided and worked after coming to Palestine in the 1920s.