

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL MAINTAINING CAREFUL WATCH OVER SYRIAN TROOPS IN LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) — Israel is maintaining a close watch over Syrian troop movements in Lebanon but according to sources here they appear for the moment to be defensive and not a cause for immediate concern.

Syria's 30,000-man "peacekeeping" force, in Lebanon under a mandate from the Arab League, has been spread thin. Accordingly, Damascus plans to pull its troops out of Beirut and other cities and concentrate them in the Baqa'a region of eastern Lebanon. Israeli sources said this move seems to have been planned for some time and was not precipitated by any external reasons.

The pull-back has been delayed, however, because the Lebanese authorities fear that the withdrawal could lead to a resumption of the civil war, particularly if the Syrian forces are replaced by the Syrian-sponsored Palestine Liberation Army (PLA). Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss of Lebanon flew to Damascus yesterday for urgent talks with President Hafez Assad and other top officials. He persuaded them to delay the pull-back until a suitable defensive arrangement can be worked out.

The Syrians have a mechanized division in the southern region of the Baqa'a valley and another division in the north. The basic concept of the deployment is defensive. But the Russian-type of defensive deployment adopted by the Syrian army can be changed quickly to an offensive springboard. The Syrian move has escalated tension between Christians and Moslems in Beirut and the Christians and Palestinian terrorists in south Lebanon.

## EGYPTIANS SEARCHING FOR AN EMBASSY

By Gili Sedan

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) — Nine Egyptian diplomats spent a hectic day here in search of a location for the Egyptian Embassy. Although they liked some of the premises they saw, they indicated it would probably take a week "until we find the best."

The delegation is headed by Hassan Abdul Samad Kamel, a pleasant career diplomat who holds the rank of Ambassador in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. It was escorted by two senior officials of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The tour guides were real estate agents, representing two of Tel Aviv's most prestigious firms.

"We are not looking for anything specific," Kamel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "merely for something that will fit our needs." The delegation spent a long time at an apartment hotel on Hayarion Street, the Tel Aviv hotel area, close to the Sheraton and the Hilton, only a few yards away from one of the most popular beaches.

They were offered two floors, each comprising 13 flats. But the Egyptian diplomat wasn't sure how many members the diplomatic mission would have and at this stage he did not know how many rooms were needed.

The Egyptians will search later for a suitable private residence for the Ambassador and the diplomatic staff. The Ambassador probably will live either in Kfar Shemaryahu or in the Herzliya Pitua section, the latter being the residence of U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and many other diplomats. Kfar Shemaryahu has the only American school in the country. The Egyptians reportedly were interested in the availability of such schools, although it is believed that for the time being families will not accompany the diplomats.

There is a shortage of houses suitable for ambassadors, one agent said. Such houses must have at least three bedrooms as well as proper lodging for the house staff. An ambassador's house also must have at least a quarter-acre plot. Current rentals in the Israeli housing market are between \$2,000-\$3,000 a month. The Egyptians expressed no interest in purchasing permanent housing.

## BEGIN DENOUNCES VANDALISM AGAINST CHRISTIAN PROPERTY IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin has denounced as "intolerable" acts of vandalism against Christian institutions in Jerusalem and pledged that "The authorities will do the utmost to prevent" their recurrence.

The statement, issued by the Premier last night, referred to a series of recent incidents of vandalism by Jewish militants. They included the breaking of stained glass windows at the Benedictine Dormition Basilica on Mt. Zion; smearing a bookstore selling the New Testament and Christian writings with the Hebrew words, in red and black paint, "Missionaries Get Out" and "Bloodsuckers"; and the smearing of anti-Soviet slogans on the Russian Orthodox Church in downtown Jerusalem.

Mayor Teddy Kollek has condemned these acts and the municipality has paid for repairs. Officials here have blamed the Jewish Defense League. Begin's statement said:

"Following reports which have recently been published here concerning a number of incidents of vandalism affecting church properties in Jerusalem, I wish to state that the authorities will not tolerate acts of this kind. By the laws of Israel, all faiths enjoy absolute freedom of worship, protection of their property and freedom of access to their shrines. The Government of Israel upholds these principles in the fullest measure, just as it has always done in the past in the spirit of respect for all the faiths represented in Jerusalem.

"Indeed, we take pride that since the reunification of our capital city, Jerusalem has enjoyed the harmony of co-existence and mutual toleration. The authorities therefore will do their utmost to prevent the recurrence of such intolerable criminal acts."

## UAHC Assails Vigilante Actions

(In New York, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of the department of interreligious affairs of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) denounced the Jewish "vigilantes" responsible for the vandalism in Jerusalem. "Those responsible for those outrageous acts are an embarrassing blot on the Jewish community of the entire world," the

statement said.

"In a land where Arab terrorism violates every shred of humanity, Jewish terrorism is equally contemptible. The behavior of these vigilantes, allegedly members of the Jewish Defense League, and their misguided motives evoke the revulsion and disgust of the Jewish community. These criminals do not serve Judaism, and they do not save Jews. There can be no justification nor defense of their activities and when apprehended they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

(The Reform rabbi stressed that "civil and religious rights for all — Christians, Jews and others — must be guaranteed and protected in Israel." He said "We are gratified that responsible authorities in Jerusalem, led by Mayor Teddy Kollek, have forcefully and publicly condemned these barbarous acts.")

### U.S. ACCUSED OF INITIATING ARMS RACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) — Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, accused the United States of initiating a "Middle East arms race" by supplying modern weaponry to Egypt and Saudi Arabia and also claimed that the U.S. is "pressuring Israel to 'solve' the Palestinian problem through a return to the 1967 border" so that Washington can "prove its good faith to the Arabs."

Arens, a Likud hawk who voted against the Camp David accords in the Knesset, made his remarks at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations here last week. He charged that the formulators of American foreign policy are committing a grave error if they believe arming Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia will stabilize an "inherently unstable Arab world."

Arens said that "U.S. and Israeli interests in the Mideast are identical" but "because of the widespread belief that 'Jerusalem is in America's pocket anyway,' Israel is being treated at arm's length while Egypt and Saudi Arabia are being wooed with advanced arms — 75 F-15 jets for Egypt, 80 F-16 jets for Saudi Arabia; 800 armed personnel carriers and 900 tanks for Egypt."

According to Arens, the net result of "the American-initiated Middle East arms race" was that "Israel must increase its military spending to counter the huge increase in weaponry now or soon to be in Arab hands from both the U.S. and from the Soviets."

### Raps U.S. Policy Of Ignoring Israel

Arens, who is visiting the U.S., made similar remarks in an address earlier to another group of Jewish leaders at American Jewish Committee headquarters. Claiming that Israel is America's only consistent ally in the Middle East, he maintained that a U.S. policy which ignored Israel was based on illusory thinking. However, he said he welcomed the growing awareness in this country of the menace of Soviet aggression in the Middle East.

"What is good for the United States is good for Israel," he declared, "and similarly, what is in Israel's security interest benefits the United States." He warned against wooing the Arabs and other Moslem states because "most Middle Eastern countries are inherently unstable and have no commitment to democracy and Western interests and

ideals." Consequently, he said, an American policy that provides such countries with large quantities of sophisticated arms risks having those arms fall into unfriendly hands without any assurance that they would be used in defense of American interests.

### BEGIN REJECTS URGINGS THAT ISRAEL MAKE CONCESSIONS IN VIEW OF EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin rejected "voices in Europe and sometimes in America" urging Israel to make concessions because of events in Iran and Afghanistan and insisted that "because of the Islamic revolution and because of the growing force of the USSR, Israel must be stronger and more careful than ever."

Begin made those remarks to Israel Bonds leaders from the United States and Canada who had just reaffirmed their pledge to raise \$525 million in Bond sales this year "to help Israel meet the economic challenges of peace." The Premier addressed the closing session of the 1980 Israel Bonds Prime Ministers Conference at the Knesset Sunday night. He told the participants that Israel would implement the autonomy plan for the Palestinians provided that it adhered strictly to the agreements reached at Camp David. "We say yes to the Camp David agreements," he said.

### Declaration Of Faith And Support

The Bonds leaders, who left Israel yesterday for a tour of Egypt, adopted a "Declaration of Faith and Support" which was read by Jane Stern of New York, chairperson of the Women's Division of the Israel Bond Organization: "Mindful that the coming decade of the '80s poses the greatest challenge yet, we therefore declare and resolve that our initial goal is to provide Israel with \$525 million in investment funds in 1980, thus setting a new record of support for the State and exceeding the sums raised during the year of the Yom Kippur War."

Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, told Begin, "We will help you build the Negev." He observed that "In the 30 years of the Israel Bond Organization, we have met every crisis and challenge. We are now prepared to meet the urgent task of peace and intend to surpass the record of \$515 in sales achieved during the Yom Kippur War."

The Israel Bond Organization launched a new \$1 billion economic development for peace loan issue late last year, earmarked primarily for infrastructure development in the Negev. Projected building costs in the areas of energy, water pipelines and roads were outlined to the Bond leaders during their five-day visit. They were told that the Negev needs 240 miles of new highways and secondary roads.

### STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN 154 COUNTRIES GIVES BALANCED PICTURE OF ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA) — In its annual report to Congress on human rights conditions in 154 countries which was released today, the State Department again divided its treatment of Israel in two parts because of the sharply differing political-social environment in Israel and in the Arab territories Israel has occupied since the

1967 war." The 854-page report, the most comprehensive issued by the Department, devotes 14 pages to Israel, more than any other country except the Soviet Union and Argentina which each receive 15 pages. The Soviet Union is among 39 countries that were not in previous reports which had been restricted by law to those receiving United States assistance. In the past year the law was amended to include all countries.

By comparison with reports on Israel in other years, the current one appears milder in its treatment of Israel's practices in "occupied territories" and more scrupulously balanced in terms of allegations and responses, but it persistently points out that "East Jerusalem" is under "occupation" and is treated as such in its discussion of "occupied territories."

Besides Israel, the report contains discussions on Jews and emigration to Israel in several other countries, including the Soviet Union, Rumania, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Unlike other years, too, general media reports on the volume did not stress Israel virtually in every instance in dark colors. Instead, this time, the media seemed to put emphasis on countries not mentioned in previous reports such as the Soviet Union, Cambodia, Rhodesia and South Africa.

#### Israel Proper And Occupied Areas

"Israel is a parliamentary democracy with high standards of justice and human rights," the report said. "These standards are applied fully inside Israel proper. Under the military regime that governs the occupied territories, however, certain of the normal human rights guarantees that are taken for granted in Israel proper have been suspended on security grounds. This dichotomy poses a dilemma that will be probably resolved only in the context of a final peace settlement between Israel and its neighbors."

Regarding Israel proper, the report said "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment is not sanctioned in Israel and law enforcement is carried out without the excessive use of force." It also said that "arbitrary arrest or imprisonment is not practiced and there are strong guarantees against it."

"Israel is a welfare state whose economy is organized along the general lines of the Western European mixed economies," the report said. "Income distribution in Israel is relatively egalitarian." The report stated that "all Israelis are guaranteed good health care and housing for the poor is modestly subsidized." It also observed that "since 1948 Israel has taken in well over one million largely-impoorished Jewish refugees from Europe, the Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa and has worked to integrate them into its society and economy."

#### Freedoms In Israel Described

"All Israelis between the ages of 5 and 16 are guaranteed free public education," the report said. "The parallel educational systems for Jews and Arabs, conducted in Hebrew and Arabic, respectively, show a marked disparity in quality, with greater resources per student going into the Jewish system." On this phase the report did not give specific statistics or rebuttal information.

"Corruption is not widespread in Israel, but, crime has recently become more of a problem than previously," the report said.

"Israelis of all faiths and ethnic groups continue to enjoy freedom of religion, expression and assembly," the State Department said. "There is full freedom of speech in Israel. Both the Hebrew and Arabic press are free and express a wide variety of political opinions."

The report pointed out that "all Israeli citizens enjoy freedom of movement within the country and are free to travel abroad or emigrate." It said that the "organized labor movement functions without hindrance" and "most workers, Arab as well as Jewish, are members of the Histadrut, the general confederation of workers."

But the report added, "because of the explicitly Jewish character of the State and the isolation of Israel from most of its Arab neighbors, the Arab minority tends to feel powerless and largely alienated. Despite some governmental and private efforts to bridge the gap there is very little social interaction between Israeli Arabs and Jews. The Arab minority has equal rights under the law, although various forms of discrimination do occur in such areas as employment and appointment to government positions."

In its section on "occupied territories," which includes, according to the report, East Jerusalem, it states that "Israel has settled approximately 18,000 people in 111 non-military settlements in the occupied territories, excluding East Jerusalem. Also included are 19 settlements — about 4000 people — in the Sinai, all of which Israel has agreed to withdraw by April 1982 as part of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty."

#### Allegations About Torture

Referring to allegations about the use of torture and instances of brutality by Israeli officials during interrogation of Arab security suspects, the report noted that "Israeli authorities have repeatedly stressed that such practices are forbidden by Israeli law" and that "official reaction to allegations of torture and mistreatment have been vigorous and prompt."

The report observed that "generally, the International Committee for the Red Cross may at any time visit prisoners not under interrogation. In addition, ICRC delegates visit convicted Arab security prisoners in Israel and the occupied territories. Whenever the ICRC feels its necessary, an ICRC physician may conduct medical examinations without witnesses; the ICRC may submit inquiries about specific cases to the Israeli authorities."

The report said that, as of November 1979, there were about 2661 non-Israeli Arabs in prison for security offenses in Israel proper or in the territories. The report said that "legal procedures" and trials of alleged security offenders "appear generally to meet the standards of a fair trial, although Arab prisoners charge that convictions are frequently based on confessions obtained through coercion. The Department of State is not able to substantiate these charges," the report said.

"The Israeli government states it has allowed since 1967 more than 50,000 Palestinians to return permanently to the occupied territories for family reunification," the report said. Noting that "most returned in 1968," it added that in 1977, there were 1397; in 1978, there were 1511 and from January through July 1979, there were 1008 returnees. The report added that the West Bank press "is subject to censorship but is allowed in practice to operate quite freely and is frequently outspoken in its criticism of Israeli policies."

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA****JEWISH INVOLVEMENT WITH THE  
BOAT PEOPLE, VIETNAMESE REFUGEES**

By Ben Frank  
(Part One Of A Three-Part Series)

HONG KONG, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Like much else in the Orient, even the story of Jewish involvement in concern and help for the "boat people" must come to Hong Kong, this "fragrant harbor" where more than four-and-a-half million persons, packed into 404 square miles of land, have created a modern urban miracle, especially since only about 70 square miles are usable; there are no natural resources; and the British Crown Colony even has to import its own water.

It is here in this overcrowded city of flotillas of sampans, block after block of skyscrapers, shop after shop of stalls of Made-in-Hong-Kong goods, that on a mild late January day, Rabbi Steven Jacobs of Temple Judea in Tarzana, California, and Elmer Winter, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, past president of the American Jewish Committee, accompanied by this writer, toured a Vietnamese refugee camp where more than 9500 persons are jammed into an area capable of housing at best 2000 human beings.

This tour and a swing throughout the Far East by this writer, talks with refugee officials as well as the refugees themselves, showed that though slow in coming, there is a Jewish presence here in South East Asia in the struggle to save these unfortunate refugees who are being used as mere pawns in a labyrinth of cruel politics.

There are approximately 55,000 Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong. The camp we visited is in the district called Shum Shui Po. It is composed of quonset huts where whole families of six or seven sleep in one bed in large single room areas containing 300 people; a few concrete buildings of make-shift classrooms; primitive toilet facilities; and an unpaved and rocky soccer field that is often used as an assembly point. In a camp nearby, an apartment usually reserved for six persons holds 250 people.

**Reminder Of Jewish History**

Jacobs and Winter flew more than 7000 miles to see Shum Shui Po and other camps here and in Thailand and to bring a message back to America. At the end of the tour, Jacobs asserted: "My thousands of years of Jewish history walks with me in this camp. We have been here before."

Both Jacobs and Winter are actively involved in helping the refugees in their local communities, in their states and in various organizations. Jacobs, a Reform rabbi, is chairperson of that state's "Governor's Task Force on Refugees." Winter is chairperson of the Fund Raising Committee of the Wisconsin Indo-China Refugee Relief.

The two Jewish leaders pledged that they would continue their work "to raise the consciousness of the Jewish community as to the plight of the boat people." If they have to, they said, they will "go up and down" the length and breadth of the U.S. to move American Jews to take on an even greater role in this human effort to shorten the stay of refugees in the camps and place them into the homes of Americans.

Winter, who is also past president of Manpower, Inc. and experienced in vocational training, offered suggestions to the officials of the

camp to set up vocational instruction programs to prepare the refugees for life in the U.S. He said he hopes that these programs not only will occupy them while they wait, but give them a useful occupation for absorption in their new home. Winter also is helping in the formation of American medical teams to come out here and aid the sick and the starving.

Jacobs feels that for the last 10 years, Jews have turned inward because they feel that they have been criticized. "But we must remember," he asserts, "we are compassionate children of a compassionate people and our history demands that we feed the hungry and clothe the naked." Last summer his congregation resettled 12 Vietnamese families and set up a model for other congregations to follow.

**Appeals For Resettlement Process**

The three of us were taken on the tour of the camp by K. L. Stumpf, director of the camp and director of the Hong Kong Christian Service. He is a Christian refugee from Nazi Germany who since 1937, in his own words, "has belonged to Asia." He met Jacobs at the International Conference on Refugees in Geneva this past summer. Over and over again, he implored visitors to try to speed up the process of resettlement, especially from Hong Kong. There are about 400,000 boat people in camps in South East Asia.

Meanwhile, the refugees wait. In the Shum Shui Po camp they often look up at the sky as a jet liner, taking off from Hong Kong's Kai Tak Airport, heads out over the harbor for the U.S. Someday, they hope, they'll be on that plane and that is what Jacobs and Winter want to help achieve: resettlement of these people who risked so much to reach freedom.

(Tomorrow: Part 2)

**SINAI AIRFIELDS TO BE COMPLETED ON TIME**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The two American-financed airfields now building in the Negev to replace those Israel will give up in Sinai, will be completed and operational by April, 1982, Israeli military correspondents were informed today. Heavy equipment is evident all over the area and the outlines of the airstrips are already visible.

Brig. Gen. Paul Hartung of the U.S. Army Engineers Corps., who is in charge of construction of the two airfields and Col. Dick Carl, chief engineer for the Ovda airfield, told the correspondents that the work would be completed on schedule and within the cost limits. There are presently 1200 workers, mainly foreigners, employed at the Ovda base, an hour's drive from Eilat. Their number is expected to reach a peak of about 2200. The estimated cost for one day's labor is \$250,000.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The aircraft carrier Forrestal, flagship of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, is due in Haifa Wednesday for a five-day "rest and recreation" visit. She is accompanied by two cruisers and a Navy auxiliary ship. The crews will be guests of the Israel Navy. The American ships will not be open to the public.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- A recent Belgian study, "Auschwitz and Modern German Literature," by Jean-Paul Bier, shows that most contemporary German writers remain preoccupied with the enormity of crimes by the Nazis and Hitler's effect on history.