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## CABINET DEFERS DECISION ON JEWISH PRESENCE IN HEBRON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) — The Cabinet deferred action to restore a Jewish presence in Hebron today but affirmed the right of Jews to live in that West Bank Arab town. The decision represented a compromise initiated by Premier Menachem Begin to break a deadlock between his ministers on the issue.

One group, led by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, urged the immediate occupation by Jews of buildings in Hebron that had been owned by Jews who were massacred or forced to flee during the Arab uprising in 1929. This was supported by the Herut ministers, with the exception of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. He and the Democratic Movement and most Liberal Party ministers, called for a postponement of any such move. The resolution finally adopted by the Cabinet stated that, in principle, there is no reason why Jews should not live in Hebron as they do anywhere else in "Eretz Israel."

The matter is expected to be discussed again when the Cabinet meets next Sunday. The issue came to the fore in the aftermath of the murder of a 23-year-old yeshiva student, Yehoshua Slama, in Hebron on January 31. Residents of Kiryat Arba, the Gush Emunim stronghold adjacent to Hebron, demanded the immediate occupation of former Jewish property in the town and the creation of a strong Jewish presence there. They were supported by other nationalist and religious militants.

## Funds Approved For More Housing In Territories

The Kiryat Arba residents in fact have proclaimed the restoration of the Jewish quarter in Hebron. One of their leaders, Elyokim Haetzni, warned that if the government did not approve "there is a danger of having a development which we really would not want to have." Haetzni, who spoke to reporters before today's Cabinet decision was announced, apparently was hinting that Kiryat Arba Jews would occupy buildings in Hebron without official sanction. A group of women from Kiryat Arba have been ensconced in the old Hadassah building in Hebron for several months.

The Kiryat Arba people also have been demanding the expansion and strengthening of their town. The Cabinet acceded to their wishes, at least partially, today when it decided to transfer funds to the Ministry of Housing to build new homes in the administered territories. It was understood that an additional 1,400 housing units will be constructed in Kiryat Arba, in Efrat, a new town planned near Bethlehem, Maale Ephraim in the Jordan Valley and Katzrin on the Golan Heights.

## SPECIAL INTERVIEW

### KNESSET LEADER WHO VOTED AGAINST

### CAMP DAVID STILL SKEPTICAL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Moshe Arens,

chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, warned here that Israel's economic woes might weaken its defense ability. "Israel is facing now a shortage of funds and resources and that might influence its security," Arens said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the conclusion of his two-and-a-half week visit to the United States Thursday. While in the country he spoke on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and met with Congressmen in Washington.

Arens, a member of Likud, was among the 25 MKs who voted against the Camp David accords in the Knesset. Asked if in retrospect he would still vote again against the Camp David agreements in view of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the normalization process that followed he replied: "I voted against the agreements because I thought Israel was taking unreasonable risks. My opposition was not to the peace agreements but rather to its terms. I was especially concerned over the oil fields in the Sinai and the airfields Israel agreed to give back to the Egyptians."

He added: "As far as I am concerned Israel's energy problems today are even worse than it used to be. The same situation is with the redeployment of Israel's forces in the Negev. Today it's not clear at all how we are going to finance this redeployment. If we will not get the necessary funds we are going to face difficulties." He said the redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in the Negev will require at least \$5 billion.

## Fears Egyptian Pressure Over Palestinians

Arens said that those in Israel who assumed that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt is not really interested in solving the Palestinian problem and that he will ease the pressure on Israel as far as Judea and Samaria are concerned once Sinai is restored to Egyptian control, were mistaken.

"Israel is finding that it is under stronger Egyptian pressure now for concessions in Judea and Samaria," Arens observed, "with a threat hanging on the horizon that if Israel will not be forthcoming, a situation will be created in which Israel will have neither the Sinai nor a peace with Egypt."

Noting that Israel uses about 160,000 barrels of oil daily, Arens said that the energy situation in his country is "grave," considering the high cost of gasoline and the fact that many countries refuse to sell oil to the Jewish State. "This situation can be even graver if one day Egypt decides it is not going to provide Israel with the 40,000 barrels of oil (a day) she is seeking."

Asked about Likud's chances of winning the next elections, the hawkish MK said he believed that unless the new economic measures by Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz are successful — "and I think he is likely to succeed" — Likud will lose the elections.

## CABINET APPROVES IL 405 BILLION BUDGET FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) — The Cabinet today approved a budget ceiling of IL 405 billion for the fiscal year 1980-81, beginning April 1.

It is based on a predicted inflation rate of six percent per month for the first six months of the fiscal year and a four percent rate thereafter.

But economic experts contended today that the new budget is already obsolete since it is based on the value of the Pound as of October, 1979. The Pound has since eroded by another 30 percent and in those terms the true budget amounts to IL 653 billion. The economists also maintained that the Treasury was deliberately underestimating the rate of inflation for the next fiscal year.

Approval of the budget is regarded as only a temporary victory for Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz. An understanding was reached among the various ministers last week to extract additional funds for housing, welfare and settlements from the budget reserves. This would leave the Treasury with virtually no reserves and Hurwitz may have no choice but to abandon his IL 405 billion ceiling. Hurwitz himself said today that the budget will be updated by mid-year according "to the developments in the economy."

According to the Treasury's forecast of a limited rise in the inflation rate, the exchange rate of the Pound to the dollar will be IL 50-\$1 by next September. The prices of basic commodities such as oil fuel, bread and public transportation will be some 50-60 percent higher than at present.

Economic observers noted that the Treasury made a point of predicting a modest rise in inflation because a higher forecast would have created a public reaction that would make such a forecast a self-fulfilling prophecy.

#### DOCTORS PROTEST HEALTH BUDGET CUTS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Public medical services were curtailed today when doctors began a work slow-down to protest the four percent cut in the health budget which will lead to the dismissal of many specialists on short term contracts. The out-patient departments of all public hospitals were closed, except those treating soldiers and surgery was postponed except in emergency cases.

The doctors have also held up discharging patients which is expected to put a severe strain on hospital facilities inasmuch as there will be insufficient beds for new patients. A short work stoppage is planned for tomorrow. The doctors warned that if any of them receive a dismissal notice, all physicians in the hospital involved would tender their resignations.

The doctors have charged that the Health Ministry made no effort to resist the budget cut and noted that Health Minister Eliezer Shostak was out of the country when the government took that action.

#### TERRORIST BOMBING AVERTED IN ASHKELON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA) — An alert taxi dispatcher in Ashkelon was credited by police with averting a terrorist bombing in the center of that town and assisting in the capture of two suspects.

The incident occurred last Thursday when Gaston Bardo, the dispatcher, noticed an Arab depositing an object in a trash can near a bus stop. He and several cab drivers seized the Arab, and held him under guard in the taxi office while

summoning police. At the same time, he spotted another Arab fleeing the vicinity. When the police car arrived, Bardo got in and directed the officers to the Gaza road where a taxi carrying the Arab was stopped and the second suspect was detained. The subsequent police investigation resulted in the arrest of several other suspects.

The object placed in the trash can turned out to be a bomb containing 200 grams of high explosives, enough to cause serious casualties had it detonated. In the event, the bomb was safely dismantled.

#### BEGIN RECEIVES FIRST JEWISH TOURISTS FROM EGYPT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) — The first group of Egyptian Jews to visit Israel was warmly received by Premier Menachem Begin over the weekend. He invited them to "stay forever." Many were accompanied by their non-Jewish spouses.

Begin embraced the leaders of the group, Raphael Bilboul and Yitzhak de Picciotto. He recalled that when he visited Alexandria last spring he had promised that you will all visit us and that I would discuss the matter with President (Anwar) Sadat. Well, I have kept my word and when I talked about it to Sadat, he said, 'sure, why not?' Begin said. He added, "I hope you enjoy your stay here but if you wish you can stay forever."

The Premier introduced the visitors to Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Israel's Ambassador-designate to Cairo. "In a few weeks you can come to him and present your wishes," he said. Ben-Elissar will take up his post on February 26. The group spent Sunday touring the country.

#### GOREN REJECTS ORTHODOX COMPLAINTS OVER KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren is expected to issue a halachic decree declaring that the transplant of kidneys from a deceased person to save the life of another is permissible under Jewish law and is in fact a "mitzva."

Goren initiated the ruling apparently to still the furor in some Orthodox circles over the transplant of a kidney from slain yeshiva student Yehoshua Sloma to a nine-year-old Arab girl at Hadassah Hospital. Sloma, 23, was fatally shot by unknown assailants in the Hebron market place on January 31. He was a resident of the militant Orthodox town of Kiryat Arba, adjacent to Hebron.

Religious circles protested vehemently that the transplant was done without the prior consent of the youth's family and that the recipient was violently anti-Israel. According to Aguda Israel MK Menachem Porush, she is "known for her enthusiastic support of the P.L.O." Goren rejected that complaint, saying it made no difference whose life was saved.

The Arab child was identified as Amira Bukassah. She lives in a refugee camp near Nablus and had been coming to Hadassah Hospital regularly for dialysis treatment. The selection of Sloma's kidney was made on the basis of corresponding blood types. The transplant surgery was performed 45 minutes after Sloma was pronounced dead. A Beersheba resident was the recipient of the other kidney. A spokesman for Hadassah Hospital said the transplants were made according

to law and on the recommendation of three doctors who signed the authorization.

### BRITAIN PLANS NEW MIDEAST INITIATIVE TO INCLUDE PLO

By Maurice Samyelson

LONDON, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Britain believes the current talks on Palestinian autonomy between Israel, Egypt and the United States will fail and it may launch its own Middle East initiative before May 26, the deadline for the tripartite talks under the Camp David agreement.

The new initiative, for which Britain would seek maximum support from other West European countries, would open the door to participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization in the peace process. Foreign Office experts are believed to be drawing up a formula for simultaneous mutual recognition by Israel and the Palestinians.

According to the Daily Telegraph, Britain is floating a two part proposal among its European allies. The first part would entail an amendment to UN Security Council Resolution 242, the November 1967 document calling for Israeli withdrawal to secure and recognized boundaries and mutual recognition by Israel and the neighboring states. The addition would be designed to accept in unequivocal terms "the rights of the Palestinian people."

The second and more important part would be to convene a new international conference. In order to deprive the Soviet Union of its role of co-chairman at a reconvened Geneva conference, an alternative setting would be sought.

Britain's chief motive for launching a new initiative is to capitalize on the strong anti-Soviet mood sweeping the Moslem and Arab world following Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan. Since this is also an American objective, it is assumed here that the U.S. would not be adverse to Britain and other European states giving their assistance over the Palestinian question.

### Thatcher's Position Uncertain

There have already been several public signals about Britain's softer attitude toward the PLO. The most recent was a statement on January 30 by Foreign Office Minister of State Douglas Hurd that the PLO "would have to be involved in the peace process." However, it remains to be seen whether Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, will give this new policy her full endorsement. Known as "the iron maiden," for her stern denunciation of Soviet internal and foreign policies, she may well regard the PLO as a Trojan Horse for Soviet expansionism and share some of Israel's reservations about the dangers of an "Arafat State" on the West Bank.

At the same time, she has great respect for Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in the wake of his achievement of a peace agreement for Rhodesia which had eluded Britain for the past 15 years. While Mrs. Thatcher is strong on political principles, Lord Carrington is more of a pragmatist who relies on briefs provided by his advisers rather than innovating his own solutions. Another important figure is Sir Ian Gilmour, the Cabinet Minister who speaks on foreign affairs in the House of Commons. He has long been closely associated with the Arab cause and will give strong support to a pro-Palestinian shift in British policy.

In the House debate on January 28, Sir Ian

spoke of "the importance of solving the problem of Palestine," and "the urgency of the need to find a just and comprehensive settlement." He also pledged that Britain would consider with her allies how to help the peace process forward.

One of the pro-Arab speakers in that debate was Denis Walters, a Conservative MP who co-authored with Gilmour a series of anti-Israel articles in the London Times following the Six-Day War.

Besides talking in Parliament of "a fully independent Palestine government" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Walters suggested that the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission should be revived. The commission, consisting of the United States, France and Turkey, has been dormant, if not defunct, since the 1950s. But according to Walters, its original terms of reference would enable it to deal with the PLO as well as with the Syrians in promoting a settlement over the Golan Heights.

### AMERICAN DEFENDS ISRAEL'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AT UN PARLEY

GENEVA, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Jerome Shestack, the American delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, said here that attacks on Israel's human rights practices in the occupied Arab territories "simply (do) not accord" with the findings of the U.S. State Department published in its 1979 report on human rights in Israel and other countries throughout the world.

Shestack spoke after a succession of speakers denounced Israel for alleged violations of Arab rights in the territories during a debate on the issue which opened here last week under the auspices of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. He noted that "The specific issues concerning the occupied territories, such as civilian settlements, allegations of torture, arrests and detention, economic development and political rights are dealt with" in the State Department's report. He offered to make copies available to any delegate.

"I must regretfully note for the record here that much of what we have been hearing at this session about the human rights situation in Israel and the occupied territories simply does not accord with the careful, considered conclusions in that report," Shestack said.

Speaking earlier, Niall MacDermot, secretary general of the International Commission of Jurists, one of the non-governmental bodies participating in the debate, claimed that on a visit to Israel and the occupied territories last month he found that "psychological pressure, including prolonged periods of sleep deprivation, are still widely resorted to by Israeli officials in the course of interrogating Arab suspects."

MacDermot also said that he was fully convinced that the "Camp David agreements" and the "autonomy" scheme were totally rejected by the Palestinian population. He said that while he understood Israel's concern for "secure frontiers" he was not certain exactly what frontiers the Israelis wanted to secure.

He said he could not accept the "extreme explanation" given him by Premier Menachem Begin in which the Israeli leader claimed that the Balfour Declaration established the right of the Jewish people to the entirety of the Palestinian territories under the British Mandate.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

BEGIN AND SHAMIR: CAST  
FROM THE SAME MOLD

By Uzi Benzman

**JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA)** — Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir will soon become Israel's new Foreign Minister. The Liberal Party wing of Likud, by failing to put up a credible candidate of its own, has in effect removed its opposition to the appointment of Shamir, a Herut hawk.

By nominating Shamir as successor to Moshe Dayan, Premier Menachem Begin, a man who delights in symbolic significance, emphasizes the irony of history which has made him, the former Irgun leader, Israel's Premier and his historic underground rival, Shamir, once the Lehi (Stern Group) commander, the new Foreign Minister.

Begin and Shamir are of the same origin and milieu. Both were born in Poland; both are in their mid-sixties (Begin is 67, Shamir 65); both are products of Betar, the Zionist Revisionist youth movement.

Their ways parted when they immigrated to Palestine. Shamir, who arrived in 1935, joined the Lehi underground movement which later broke away from Irgun. Begin, who came in 1942, became the commander of the Irgun.

Thereafter, during the long struggle against the British Mandatory regime Begin and Shamir were rivals. They differed in their tactical moves, their ideological motives and their operational actions though they were united in their goal: the termination of British rule in Palestine.

Lehi and the Irgun represented different types of resistance movements. While Lehi comprised several dozen zealous fighters, who considered themselves messianic revolutionaries, they regarded Irgun as a semi-military organization headed by an authoritative commander. Lehi's self-image was that of a group of young individualist intellectuals. They saw the Irgun as a spartan order governed by an absolute commander. Even in jail, prisoners of both movements maintained their mutual rivalry.

After the establishment of the State, Begin and Shamir turned to different ways of life. The former Irgun commander became the leader of the Herut Party while Shamir turned to business. In 1955, Shamir joined the Mossad (the Israeli intelligence agency) and made an impressive record during his ten years of service.

Only in 1970 did the two men become political allies. The former Lehi leader joined Herut. With Begin's blessing in 1975, Shamir was elected Herut's Executive Chairman. For Begin, the cooption of Shamir into the Herut leadership symbolized the reconciliation of the two former underground organizations and the unification of the "national front."

Begin, indeed, discussed the possibility of bringing Shamir into the Cabinet he formed after the 1977 elections. But due to coalition difficulties, he had to drop this intention, and Shamir took the position of Knesset Speaker. From this vantage point Shamir observed Begin's role in the peace negotiations. As Speaker, Shamir chaired the historic sessions at which President Anwar Sadat, in November 1977, and President Carter, in March 1979, addressed the Knesset. Shamir also conducted the sessions at which the Camp David agreement and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty were approved.

Throughout the peace process Shamir has had doubts about Begin's views. He expressed fear that the autonomy plan bears the seeds of a Palestinian state. When the Knesset endorsed the Camp David agreements and the peace treaty, Shamir abstained.

## Absolute Faith In Begin

Reportedly, he considered voting against Camp David but he decided to abstain, he told friends, because the pact had become an unchallengeable political reality. He expressed his firm belief however, that Begin would not countenance any further compromise in the Israeli position. Recently, Shamir has insisted that he was never "against the peace," but only had doubts about its terms.

Shamir's confidence in Begin is indeed one of the most characteristic components of their relationship as politicians. Shamir feels that he owes Begin his political career which started late, when he was 55. Some political pundits describe the relation between these two men as that of a patron and his protégé, although there is only two years difference in their ages. During his service in Herut, Shamir never challenged Begin's views.

He is not expected to differ from the Premier when he becomes Foreign Minister, despite his doubts about the conditions of the peace treaty. Shamir is a worldly and experienced man endowed with several talents. He is a balanced and practical person, whose honesty and integrity have never been in doubt and whose authoritative personality and analytical way of thinking was always praised by his subordinates. Shamir admires the restraint and the patience of Far Eastern people. His acquaintances describe him as a man who takes infinite pains before arriving at a decision and who stubbornly strives to implement his decisions once they are taken. Shamir is almost unknown to the international community. As Israel's Foreign Minister he will have to adapt himself to the exposed television diplomacy of the eighties.

## IT'S A GIRL FOR SILVA

**TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)** — Silva Zalmanson, the former "prisoner of conscience," gave birth to a daughter at the Sheba Medical Center near Ramat Gan last night. Her husband, Eduard Kuznetsov, who came to Israel ten months ago after serving nearly ten years in a Soviet jail, was at her bedside. It is their first child.

Zalmanson and Kuznetsov were married in the Soviet Union in 1969. Six months after their wedding, both were defendants in the first Lenin-grad hijack trial. She was released a number of years ago and settled in Israel but continued to travel the world to arouse public opinion for the release of her husband who had been sentenced to 15 years. He was released last spring.

**TEL AVIV (JTA)** — The Tel Aviv Municipality presented its Bielik Award for literature and Jewish knowledge to two academicians Thursday. The recipients were Prof. Dov Sadan, in recognition of his life's work and the recent publication of three volumes of essays entitled "Roads and Tracks"; and Prof. Dan Miron for his book, "Visions and Truth" tracing the beginnings of Yiddish and Hebrew novels in the 19th century.