

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## WEIZMAN: JEWISH SETTLEMENTS HAVE NO SECURITY VALUE; WORLD IS TIRED OF ISRAEL'S POSITION ON HEBRON, ELON MOREH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ezer Weizman clashed angrily with Premier Menachem Begin and Cabinet hawks when he declared flatly at yesterday's Cabinet meeting that the Jewish settlements on the West Bank have no security value and warned that Israel is making the world "sick and tired" by its positions on such issues as Elon Moreh and Hebron.

The confrontation occurred in the course of the Cabinet's discussion of Saturday's Security Council resolution condemning Israel's settlement policies in the occupied territories and Jerusalem. The Cabinet denounced the resolution as "repugnant" and expressed "deep resentment" toward the United States for supporting it.

Weizman said the settlements simply are not needed for security purposes although they were of national value as an expression of Zionism. Later, under heavy fire from the hawkish ministers, he modified his statement by saying he was referring to settlements like Elon Moreh which had no security value rather than all settlements. Elon Moreh was ordered dismantled by the Supreme Court last October. He said the government's claims that the settlements were needed for security were contrary to the facts.

### Rejects Attacks On U.S.

But Weizman, long at odds with the Cabinet majority on the settlements issue, angered the hawks further by asserting that there was no justification to attack the U.S. for its role in the Security Council resolution. President Carter placed his career on the line in the autonomy negotiations, Weizman said, and Israel must learn to live with its differences with the U.S.

He said that the peace treaty with Egypt has not engendered a new spirit in the country but rather an air of depression. The moment of truth has arrived and the world no longer agrees with the Israeli stand on settlements, Weizman said.

His bitter exchange with Begin came after the latter insisted that the settlements were vital to Israel's security. "We are making everyone sick and tired of us," the Defense Minister declared. "We spend time on marginal matters like Hebron and Elon Moreh and this drags on endlessly. Things cannot carry on like this any more."

Begin retorted, "Keep your voice down please. I am the chairman here. It is I who set the tone at this meeting, not you." Weizman replied that "if a proposal is tabled here to settle Jews in Hebron I shall vote against it." Begin reminded Weizman that he had supported the Cabinet decision last month that Israel has the right in principle to settle Jews in Hebron. To which Weizman responded, "I would ask you too not to raise your voice to me."

The Cabinet deferred a decision on Hebron until its next regular meeting on Sunday. According to reports today, Begin will press for a clear decision to settle Jews in vacant buildings in that West Bank Arab town. It had been reported earlier that the Premier favored a compromise which would

establish a yeshiva in Hebron as a symbol of a Jewish presence but not install Jewish families there at this time.

His apparent shift to a tougher stance is believed to have forestalled plans by the Gush Emunim militants of Kiryat Arba to seize buildings in Hebron without official sanction. The militants have become increasingly impatient with the Cabinet's repeated postponement of a decision on Hebron. Now, confident of Begin's support, they expect to have their way without taking unilateral action.

## McHENRY SAYS THE U.S. WILL NOT INITIATE A MOVE TO CORRECT THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 5 (JTA) -- United States Ambassador Donald McHenry said today that his country will not initiate a move to correct the Security Council resolution of last Saturday which demanded that Israel dismantle all settlements in the occupied territories including East Jerusalem. President Carter late Monday night said the U.S. support of the resolution was an "error."

Answering reporters' questions at a press conference at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, McHenry said the U.S. will not initiate changing the resolution because "there are no provisions in the Security Council for changing the vote."

McHenry, carefully wording his answers to reporters' questions, reiterated throughout the half-hour press conference that "it is not necessary for me to go beyond the President's statement." Carter had said that "the U.S. vote in the UN was approved" by him "with the understanding that all references to Jerusalem would be deleted. The failure to communicate this clearly resulted in a vote in favor of the resolution rather than abstention." But the American envoy refused to go into details of the "failure in communication," its nature or whom it involved. "It was a simple communication problem," he contended.

He said, however, that as a result of the incident he believes his task at the UN will be "more difficult" now. He said he expects more debates on the issue of Israeli settlements, reiterating, in response to a question that Israeli settlements in the occupied territory are "contrary to international law and are an obstacle to peace."

### Avoids Question On U.S. Position On Jerusalem

Asked to state the U.S. position regarding Jerusalem in view of the Security Council resolution, McHenry avoided the question, saying only that the resolution "in my judgement was on settlements, and not on Jerusalem."

He also said he does not believe, following the foul-up over the U.S. vote in the Council, that there is any kind of "conspiracy" against his "incumbency." He also rejected outright rumors which he termed "unfounded and irresponsible," to the effect that he bypassed Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and dealt with the President directly regarding the U.S. vote in the Council.

Today's press conference was scheduled some time ago to enable McHenry to discuss his recent seven-nation tour to the Mideast. But the session was dominated by the issue of the U.S. vote in the Council. McHenry said that in his talks in the Mid-

east he was told by Arab leaders that the Palestinian question is the number one priority for them and no less important than the issue of Afghanistan. They urged the U.S. to move "quicker" to resolve the Palestinian question, McHenry said.

#### ANGER AMONG JEWISH LEADERS CONTINUES

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA) -- Political reverberations in the Jewish community continued today over the United States vote in the United Nations Security Council. Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told an emergency meeting of the organization which convened here yesterday afternoon to discuss the situation, that the Conference would be writing to President Carter to complain about the resolution, including its call for dismantling the Jewish settlements on the West Bank, its reference to "Palestinian territories" and its call for sanctions against Israel.

Mann said the U.S. vote for the resolution was "unacceptable to all segments of opinion within American Jewry," a fact that he said he thought the White House quickly realized Monday when Carter late that night repudiated the U.S. vote. Mann called the incident a demonstration of "quite extraordinary incompetence in an extraordinarily delicate situation."

#### Carter Seeks to Reassure Jewish Delegation

Meanwhile, a 30-member delegation from the World Jewish Congress-American Section was in Washington yesterday for previously scheduled briefings with the State Department and the White House. Carter conferred with them in a meeting that was not on their original agenda to try to reassure them that there was no change in U.S. policy toward Israel. Members of the delegation said after the meeting with Carter that he was emphatic in describing the U.S. vote in the Security Council as a mistake.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the WJC-American Section and spiritual leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York City, told reporters that the delegation conveyed "our dismay and concern and consternation about the U.S. vote. But I must also stress that the President made it clear that his orders were to abstain if there should be any reference to Jerusalem or dismantling of existing settlements." He said he and other delegation members accepted Carter's explanation and quoted the President as saying a similar mistake would never happen again.

Also in Washington yesterday, Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith, called on Carter to "publicly repudiate" the Security Council resolution. This should be done, he said, because "the resolution does serious harm to the peace process, and because the White House now concedes that some of the resolution's sections are inconsistent with American policy."

While welcoming the subsequent explanation from the White House, Spitzer said that if the Administration believes that the call for dismantling Israeli settlements on the West Bank "was neither proper nor practical" and disagrees with all references to Jerusalem, "the United States must now move to formally disassociate itself from the resolution." Spitzer added that the statement should come from Carter himself, in "unambiguous language."

#### Mondale Defends Carter

In a related development in Chicago today,

Vice President Walter Mondale strongly defended Carter's repudiation of the Security Council vote, declaring that there was no change in U.S. Middle East policy. "It was just as the President put it, a mistake was made and when a mistake is made the honest thing to do is admit it," Mondale said at a press conference.

He angrily rejected charges that the outcry from Israel and American Jewish leaders forced the President to reverse himself. "That had nothing to do with it. Our position on the Middle East has not changed," the Vice President declared.

#### U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN ISRAEL OPPOSED

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA) -- A Defense Department official said yesterday that "Moslem states" are damaging themselves by impeding the U.S. use of military facilities in Israel. Robert Komer, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, expressed that view to 200 editors and broadcasters from all over the country attending a series of briefings here at the invitation of the State Department.

Speaking at length on Soviet military power and its use of that power to penetrate the Middle East and threaten the oilfields on which the West relies, Komer was asked by Leon Brown, editor of the Jewish Times of Philadelphia, why the Carter Administration does not take advantage of military bases in Israel to help overcome the situation he described. Komer replied, "We got a little problem."

He said "Most of the oil-rich states are Moslem" and they make "U.S. use of Israel a little difficult to abide by. The Moslem states -- including Iran -- are biting off their noses to spite their faces," he said. "The Moslem world makes it difficult for us to use Israeli bases for our support."

State Department chief spokesman Hodding Carter was asked today if he agreed with Komer's views. He declined to comment directly on them but observed: "The question of base facilities in Israel have been at the same point over a long period."

The State Department's official public position has been that the U.S. does not want bases in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East but is interested in "facilities" and these are now under discussion with Somalia, Kenya and Oman. Asked about these discussions, particularly with Oman in light of the Administration's "foul-up" over the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlement policies, spokesman Carter said "We continue to have satisfactory talks with Oman." He said "The discussions on facilities are moving at an appropriate pace" and "we expect to use facilities in those countries."

#### 25,000 FARMERS STORM KNESSET TO PROTEST AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 5 (JTA) -- Some 25,000 angry farmers from all parts of Israel stormed the Knesset building today in a furious protest against the Likud government's agricultural policies which they said are driving them to bankruptcy. They pelted Knesset guards and police with tomatoes, eggs, snowballs and stones. Police counter-attacked with high pressure fire hoses. One policeman was injured by a stone and at least one demonstrator was injured and hospitalized.

The demonstration, which became one of the worst riots in Jerusalem in many years, was triggered by the government's reduction of price support subsidies for agricultural products. The farmers charged that the government was subsidizing frozen beef imports while local poultry farmers were suffer-

ing. They carried banners reading, "You Won't Destroy the Agriculture" and "The Stock Exchange is Thieving but Agriculture is Dying."

The farmers' wrath was directed mainly at Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon who they accused of devoting all his time to planting settlements in the occupied territories but doing nothing for the farmers. Sharon is presently abroad. Several Knesset members who tried to mollify the demonstrators were booed and hooted down.

The Knesset Economic Committee called a special session to discuss agricultural problems and invited representatives of the farmers to present their complaints. The committee was told by Dov Peled, of the Kibbutz Artzi movement, that even old established kibbutzim, the pride of Israel's agriculture, are being crushed by deficits and unemployment. Yitzhak Nehemia, of the Negev settlements, said the moshavim there were gradually being destroyed. "All their exports will not even cover the interest on their debts," he said.

Yehuda Soudi, of the Agricultural Center, said the protestors represented the entire agricultural sector regardless of political affiliations. The thousands of demonstrators in fact included young farmers and grizzled veterans of the pioneer era. One observer noted: "The public who came today to the Knesset represented some 100,000 voters. If this situation continues, not one of them will vote for Likud in the next elections." But government sources dismissed the demonstration, claiming that the farmers were the most pampered section of Israeli society.

#### YESHIVA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SAYS INSTITUTION WILL NOT FOLD

By Ben Gallo

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA) -- Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, said today, commenting on a press report that a major New York City savings bank, the Bowery Savings Bank, is seeking to foreclose its portion of the university's \$40 million mortgage, that "there is no way that Yeshiva University will fold."

A spokesperson for the university had told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, before Lamm's statement was publicized, that the university had been involved for several months in efforts to reorganize the mortgage. The spokesperson said the mortgage had been underwritten by a consortium of commercial and savings banks in the 1970s, adding that the commercial banks were "relatively responsive" to those debt reorganization efforts while the savings banks, including the Bowery Savings Bank, have been "less so."

The university was established in 1886, and has grown to become a four-campus, 7000-student institution, the pride and joy of American Orthodox Jewry.

According to the press report, the university has not paid anything to the Bowery Savings Bank on the mortgage since September. The spokesperson said the university has made payments totaling \$5.5 million since September and was making every effort to work out a negotiated formula to stretch out future payments.

Lamm also said that "we want to reassure the faculty, our students and supporters of our continuing strength and determination to function as a major educational force in this country." He also said "our attorneys are studying the papers in the current lawsuit and we will respond shortly."

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Beverly Cohen signed an order, returnable Friday in the Manhattan court, requiring the university to show

why the Bowery Savings Bank should not "recover from Yeshiva University all unrestricted pledges and contributions ... as security" for the mortgage. Mortgage terms require the university to make monthly \$373,000 payments until 1997. The court order was part of the lawsuit to which Lamm referred.

The spokesman said that since the mortgage was negotiated in the 1970s, the university has paid to date to the participating banks payments which, in toto, exceed the size of that mortgage. The university, which has an annual budget of \$115 million, is currently in the midst of a campaign to raise \$100 million, with hopes of completing that campaign in 1986, the 100th anniversary of the university's founding.

#### NEED TO DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA) -- Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East Harold Saunders said today that "it is necessary to deal with the Palestinian problem both as a matter of justice and stability in the Middle East." Saunders addressed the National Foreign Policy Conference for editors and broadcasters at the State Department.

After prefacing his remarks with discussion of Soviet efforts in the Mideast, Saunders said the continuing negotiations for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict are aimed at "avoiding another war." He added that "the problem strikes deeper" because the Palestinian movement rests "not only on Palestinian nationalism but also on its radical philosophy that reaches beyond Palestinian objectives." He said the Palestinian movement is "meshed in" with social, economic and political changes in the Middle East.

Earlier in his prepared remarks, Saunders said that "the Soviets support governments and liberation organizations" and while "not necessarily in control" of them, the USSR takes "advantage for the achievement of similar goals." He did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organization which has been described as a "surrogate" of the Soviet Union and receives its diplomatic and military support.

Saunders skirted questions dealing directly with the "foul-up" over the United Nations Security Council resolution last Saturday. He said in response to one question regarding U.S. "credibility" in the Middle East and on "Israel in particular" that the U.S., Egypt and Israel, having signed the Camp David agreements, are "fully committed to the peace process as the most viable approach to a peace settlement that has been devised." He added that "their interests will impel them to go forward" and that "the results achieved speak for themselves."

He emphasized, in response to another question, "nothing that has happened in the last few days, indeed nothing that has happened, signified any interest of the United States abandoning or in any way lessening the Camp David process." He added: "We are committed to it because we believe it will lead to progress in the Middle East and we will do nothing in any way that could lessen its success."

#### COPENHAGEN (JTA) -- Water from the Dead

Sea is the basis of a new treatment being developed at the University of Bergen in Norway for the treatment of psoriasis. The university's department of dermatology is trying to produce a "Dead Sea pill" to be given to the chronically ill who cannot visit the Dead Sea water spas. Psoriasis affects some three percent of Scandinavians.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry, has reported that 3017 Soviet Jews arrived in Vienna last month and that 42% of them indicated they will go to Israel.

### UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BERGEN COUNTY AMENDS RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUE OF AID TO SOVIET JEWS

NEWARK, N.J., March 5 (JTA) -- The Board of Trustees of the United Jewish Community (UJC) of Bergen County (N.J.), meeting in River Edge late last month amended a previous resolution on Soviet Jewish emigration and now will pursue a policy which will support first degree relatives of Soviet Jews previously resettled in the County, it was officially reported. The amended resolution provides that "Soviet Jews with first degree relatives previously resettled by the United Jewish Community of Bergen County and/or the Jewish Family Service and already residing in Bergen County shall receive aid from the UJC for the reunification with their families."

It continues: "The term 'first degree relatives' is hereby defined in accordance with the generally accepted international definition to mean only husbands and wives, their children, their parents and their brothers and sisters."

The UJC Board's original resolution attempted to discourage additional Soviet Jewish resettlement in Bergen County but provided for those already living there a model program for integration into the Jewish community.

The amendment emphasizes the Board's goal, which was the basis for the original action -- "in order to encourage maximum Russian Jewish immigration to Israel and to discourage Russian Jewish immigration to the United States."

#### Intensive Discussion In Community

The UJC, which merged six separate entities into one federation less than two years ago, has been steadfastly trying to weld the more than 100,000 Bergen County Jews into one cohesive body for communal strength. Passage of the original resolution last October was followed by intensive discussion in the community.

There were those who felt Israel needed the Soviet Jews for its survival, and that the Russian Jews needed to be in Israel for their survival as Jews, and those who felt that Russian Jews should be helped with U.S. Jewish charitable funds wherever they chose to settle.

The amended resolution was proposed at the UJC monthly Board meeting after study by a special committee appointed by UJC's president, Sidney Silverstein, to hear the community's reactions and to report them to the Board. Investigation also was undertaken to determine what action was being taken on the issue in other communities, nationally and internationally.

The amendment, it was reported, was hailed as a "compromise that will maintain the continued good growth of our community, so that we can continue to realize our potential for Israel and local services." The vote for passage of the amended resolution was 33-1 and one abstention.

#### HISTORY MADE IN CAIRO SYNAGOGUE

By Haskell Cohen

CAIRO, March 5 (JTA) -- History was made on a recent Friday night at the Giniza Synagogue here when members of the Israel Consul staff, which several days earlier settled into an office in Cairo, attended the Shabbat evening services. Normally an attendance of 15 people at the Friday night services is considered good, but on this particular weekend 80 people crowded into the synagogue to attend the services.

The Israeli contingent was headed by Josef

Hadass, Israel's Consul General, who established residence in this city earlier in the week.

The services were conducted by Moaded Gabai, a reader, while contingents in addition to the Israeli group included three French visitors to the city; this correspondent, who was accompanied by Saul Bodner, a member of the U.S. Committee Sports for Israel Board of Directors; a student from Bethpage, Long Island, who is studying at the American University here; and a student from California who serves as a part-time correspondent for Time Magazine.

The services were held in Middle East Sephardic style while Israel television cameras clicked away. Hadass and his contingent, including several wives and women secretaries, walked in just prior to the start of the maariv service and were guided to their seats by Sexton Samuel Cohen. Ophira Saphir, one of the two remaining Ashkenazic Jews in Egypt, supervised the allocation of seats to the Israeli contingent and directed the women to a section set aside for them.

Hadass, of Syrian birth, and a Sephardic Jew, was honored with the cantillation of the traditional Friday night kiddush prayer. After tasting the wine, the cup was carried around to all members in attendance at the service by Mrs. Saphir.

At the conclusion of the service, Hadass seated himself at the rear of the little synagogue and conversed in Arabic with the Jewish members of the local community. Mrs. Saphir told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that there are only 140 members of the Jewish faith remaining in all of Cairo, which has an overall population of about eight million people.

#### NATHAN BISTRITZKY DEAD AT 83

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here Monday for Nathan (Agmon) Bistrizky, a writer, dramatist and official of the Jewish National Fund for 30 years, who died at the age of 83. Bistrizky was born in Russia and came to Palestine in 1920 as a member of the third aliya.

He was a member of the senior staff of the JNF from 1922 until his retirement in 1952, specializing in its youth and information activities. He was best known for his dramatic works, many of which dealt with Jewish history and such controversial personalities as Judas Iscariot and Shabbtai Tzvi. He also published books on South American Jewry and Zionism. His latest book, dealing with the struggle of the third aliya, was about to be published at the time of his death. He was named academician by the Royal Academy of Fine Letters in Spain for the first complete translation of Don Quixote into Hebrew in 1958.

#### FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT BEGIN

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA) -- Commercial flights between Israel and Egypt are now a reality. El Al flew its first flight to Cairo and back Monday. Nefertiti, the new Egyptian airline, started specifically for the Egypt-Israel route, inaugurated its run to Ben Gurion Airport today and then flew back to Cairo.

The Egyptian plane had only a few passengers, two Egyptians, and the rest Israelis. It recently bought two planes from Britain for use on the route. El Al has trained a special team to handle the new flights. Nefertiti has also given special training to employees who will be dealing with Israelis. Both lines will be making round-trip flights twice a week; El Al on Mondays and Thursdays and Nefertiti on Wednesdays and Sundays. (By Yitzhak Shargil)