

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents Copyright Republication only by previous arrangement

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

Vol. LVIII — 63rd Year

Monday, March 10, 1980

Nb. 48

SHAMIR TO BE SWORN IN MONDAY AS ISRAEL'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER

By David London

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) — Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir, a Herut hard-liner, will resign his office tomorrow and will be sworn in immediately as Israel's new Foreign Minister, replacing Moshe Dayan who resigned last October 21. The announcement of Shamir's appointment was made after today's Cabinet meeting which approved his selection by Premier Menachem Begin.

Shamir, 65, was one of the triumvirate of leaders who headed the underground Stern Group or Lehi which fought the British during the final years of the Palestine Mandate. He was its chief of operations. His elevation to the post of Foreign Minister, the second most powerful office in government, is expected to significantly strengthen the right-wing bloc urging a tougher stance by Israel on settlements in the occupied territories and other controversial issues.

Shamir abstained when the Knesset voted to approve the Camp David accords and on the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. When Begin was asked by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin today "how does his appointment square with his opposition to the Camp David agreements?" he replied that Shamir would faithfully execute government policy. Begin was seconded by Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing, who described the Foreign Minister-designate as "a serious and honorable man" who "knows full well the policy of the government that he is about to join."

The Cabinet will convene briefly tomorrow to formally endorse Shamir's appointment following his resignation as Knesset Speaker. Liberal Party sources said last night that their candidate to succeed Shamir as Speaker will be Yitzhak Berman, presently chairman of the Knesset's House Committee. (See Feb. 11 Bulletin for background on Shamir.)

Debate On Hebron Deferred Again

Meanwhile, the Cabinet deferred debate on the Hebron issue for the fourth time in as many weeks. Begin acceded to the demands by the four Liberal Party ministers that a decision on settling Jews in the West Bank Arab town be postponed for at least another week. He had received a similar request from Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, a leading supporter of placing Jews in Hebron. Sharon is presently abroad and did not want the debate to be held in his absence.

Ehrlich has said publicly that he hoped the Hebron issue would be allowed to die down quietly. But Housing Minister David Levy has drawn up detailed plans to refurbish former Jewish-owned buildings in Hebron for immediate occupancy by some 200 Jews from neighboring Kiryat Arba, a Gush Emunim stronghold.

Many observers predict, however, that the Cabinet will eventually agree to a compromise. The establishment of a symbolic Jewish presence

in Hebron in the form of a yeshiva or a museum has been proposed in order to avoid the provocation of settling Jews in the middle of the strongly nationalistic Arab town.

ISRAEL CONCERNED THAT 3 EEC NATIONS MAY TRY TO NULLIFY RESOLUTION 242

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA) — Israeli officials are bracing for a possible early attempt by France, West Germany and Britain to nullify United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 or amend it in a way that would recognize the Palestinians as a political entity. The thrust of the three countries, the most powerful members of the European Economic Community (EEC), was made clear in the recent statements by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France, endorsing Palestinian self-determination. He was backed up strongly by West German leaders. (See related story.)

Resolution 242, agreed to by all parties as the basis for a Middle East peace settlement when it was first formulated in November, 1967, is the foundation on which the Camp David accords rest. Premier Menachem Begin warned last week that any alteration of the resolution would eliminate the basis of the Camp David agreements with inevitable consequences.

Giscard's position was stated in the course of his visit to the Persian Gulf states and Jordan. He said in Amman that the Palestine Liberation Organization must be given a voice in a Middle East settlement and that it was time to cease regarding the Palestinians as refugees but as a people with the right to self-determination. Resolution 242 refers to the Palestinians in the context of a refugee problem.

In Washington, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt supported the idea of self-determination for the Palestinians. He noted that West Germany itself was seeking self-determination for the East Germans. West Germany's Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher was quoted in an interview published in Cairo yesterday as saying that more countries should follow the lead of France in recognizing self-determination for the Palestinians.

British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington has been pressing that view for some time. Israeli political circles believe it is inevitable that the three EEC powers will sponsor a resolution in the Security Council stressing the role of the Palestinians and possibly recognizing the PLO as their main or sole representative.

Israel has taken a grave view of these moves and its Ambassadors in Bonn, Paris and London have expressed their government's displeasure over the recent statements with respect to the Middle East.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES GISCARD AND EUROPE

By Edward Eytan

PARIS, March 9 (JTA) — Like the "Sons of the former British empire," French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing loves Arab lore and traditions. Those who know him well say that he likes to lounge on a priceless Persian carpet in the tent of an Arab oil-rich sheik, review the men of King Khaled's Black Guard, or engage in the "sports of kings,"

falcon hunting with a bird of prey soaring in the skies.

Last weekend Giscard went gazelle hunting with a diamond encrusted rifle in the Jordan desert. King Hussein, an old friend who knows the President's weak spots well, took him hunting "traditional Arab style."

The French President has often acted, in both internal and foreign affairs, according to subjective motivations. His government includes, or has included a couple of princes and a half dozen counts. His wife is a descendant of half a dozen kings. He himself claims to be a scion of Louis XIV and his intimate circle of friends generally consists of dukes, princes and an occasional billionaire.

In foreign affairs he has launched France on an ambitious and independent policy which makes him feel the equal of the world's main leaders. French paratroopers have intervened, rapidly and abruptly, in half a dozen African states and French diplomacy is persistently trying to deal as an equal with the United States and the Soviet Union.

In the Middle East, Giscard has tried to pursue an independent and increasingly pro-Arab policy since his election. It was for him, at the time, both a question of France's interest and a symbol of prestige and independence.

France Leads The Way

Only a few months after his election, in April 1974, when practically all of Western Europe was still staunchly pro-Israel and Jerusalem and Washington were in the heyday of their friendship and cooperation, Giscard's Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues met and shook Yasser Arafat's hand in Beirut. The incident, now half-forgotten, practically marked the Palestine Liberation Organization's official entry onto the international scene.

Since then, France gave the tone and marked the increasingly pro-Arab West European line. It was France which first spoke of a Palestinian homeland, France which welcomed a PLO office in Paris, France which failed to welcome Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's trip to Jerusalem and led an offensive of ice-cold indifference to the Camp David agreements.

Giscard's declarations last week, calling for Palestinian "self-determination" which implies the creation of a Palestinian state, gives another and still sharper pro-Arab turn to his Middle East policy.

Reasons For The Initiative

A number of reasons have prompted this new initiative. There are concrete material interests aimed at reducing France's important economic deficit in its trade with the Arab world. Last year alone, France imported \$6 billion worth of oil from Saudi Arabia and \$2 billion more from the other four Persian Gulf states: Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi. It sold them slightly over \$1 billion worth of goods, mainly arms.

France believes that by improving its ties with them, it can also improve both its economic situation and ensure a guaranteed flow of oil in coming years. Saudi Arabia supplies 40 percent of France's oil consumption and the other four states, another 15 percent.

But, it would be both unfair and inaccurate to attribute Giscard's increasingly pro-Palestinian policy to material considerations.

According to the French official analysis, the Arab world, and especially Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, are increasingly disappointed with Washington. This, both because of America's failure to support the regime of the Shah of Iran and because of what the Arabs claim to be its continued pro-Israeli policy.

The French believe that the time is ripe to try and step into America's shoes and slowly replace U.S. political and economic influence.

French officials openly confess that Western Europe, led by France, could play the major role in the Arabian Peninsula and for the first time fully enjoy the fruits of such a cooperation. The French are also worried by both increasing Soviet influence and by the dangers of instability and possible revolutions. The Giscard government is probably the world's staunchest supporter of stability throughout the Third World.

It has rapidly intervened militarily throughout Africa whenever it felt the stability of the regimes in power threatened. French paratroopers and planes operated in Chad, Mauritania, Zaïre, Djibuti, the Central African Republic and more recently in Tunisia.

Even at Mecca, during the recent attempted religious zealots' coup, France reacted at once. Within a few hours, after the Saudi request, it flew military experts and technical equipment to help put down the revolt.

The official French analysis believes that the basic factor of instability in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia and even Jordan are the Palestinian refugees. French experts incessantly repeat that until their problem is solved the whole area is threatened with chronic instability and a new Iranian situation could occur at any time, anywhere throughout the Arab world.

Giscard feels that Western Europe is increasingly leaning towards the Palestinian side. A French initiative in this respect would give him the political leadership within the European Economic Community (EEC), to which he openly aspires.

Support From EEC Nations

At least seven EEC member states, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Ireland, West Germany, Spain and Portugal, increasingly tend to support a recognition of the PLO and a revision of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. France feels that West Germany, because of its Nazi past, cannot take an initiative in this field and that Britain is too weak within the EEC to lead. France's initiative, Giscard believes, according to his advisers, could help him assume the political leadership he wants.

Two days before he left for Kuwait he held a long telephone conversation with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt who reportedly backed him to the hilt. Three days after Giscard's declaration on Palestinian self-autonomy, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher made a similar statement.

The French initiative is dangerous in that, as analysts view it, it encourages the Palestinians and most of the Arab states to resist the Camp David agreements; and that it also seeks to influence America's own policy, especially if France manages to establish the impression that it is speaking in the name of West Europe as a whole.

Meanwhile, for the time being, neither the French Jewish community nor Israel's non-Jewish friends in France have reacted in a vigorous and sustained manner against Giscard's policy. Giscard,

himself, appears to feel that his pro-Palestinian policy will cost him few electoral votes and the loss of minimal sympathy when he runs for reelection a year from now.

BACKGROUND REPORT

JEWS IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 9 (JTA) — The number of Jews permanently residing in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin rose slightly last year — from 27,295 on January 1, 1979 to 27,768 on January 1, 1980. The statistics, released in Frankfurt several days ago, by the Central Organization of Jews in West Germany (Zentralrat) attributed the increase mainly to the immigration of Jews from Eastern bloc countries.

Other factors were conversions — a total of 55 persons converted to Judaism — and 80 births. The origin of another 156 Jews who contributed to the population growth was not stated in the statistics. The largest Jewish community is in West Berlin where 6145 reside, followed by 4931 in Frankfurt, 3920 in Munich, 1375 in Hamburg and 1248 in Cologne. Men outnumber women by 14,462-13,306. The average age of the Jewish population in West Germany is 44.6 years.

According to official statistics from East Germany, only 900 Jews reside in that country, 400 in East Berlin and the remainder distributed among seven other communities. No data is available as to their age structure but most are believed to be elderly.

According to Werner Nachmann, chairman of the Zentralrat, as long as West Germany remains free and democratic, Jews can find a home here. He observed, however, that there is still anti-Jewish feeling in Germany and it would be mistaken to believe that problems between Germans and Jews would resolve themselves with the passage of time.

Speaking in Hamburg, Nachmann said there was greater understanding shown toward Jews and Judaism by German youths who studied the Nazi era thoroughly than among those who did not. He urged schools, public organizations and the media to deal extensively with the horrors of the past in order to prevent their recurrence.

Nachmann referred to recent incidents which disturbed the Jewish community. In one, journalists expressed anti-Jewish views in a Radio Bremen broadcast. The other was a demonstration by Turkish workers in Berlin where signs were carried with the slogan "Kill the Jews."

ISRAEL: KLAVAN DEAD AT 64

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) — A memorial service was held today at Yeshiva University for Rabbi Israel Klavan, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America, a major Orthodox rabbinic organization, who died Friday after a prolonged illness. He was 64 years old.

He graduated from Yeshiva College in 1937 and was ordained by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 1940. In his early rabbinic career Klavan occupied pulpits in Fitchburg, Mass.; Williamsport, Pa.; and Mount Vernon, N.Y. His effectiveness as a spiritual leader gained him a national reputation. In 1950 he was invited to assume the leading executive position of the Rabbinical Council. Under his

guidance and direction the organization grew in members and its activities were expanded to include programs on behalf of Soviet Jewry and Israel.

Klavan's contributions to Jewish life were acknowledged by Yeshiva University on three separate occasions; in 1963 he received the Bernard Revel Award; in 1970 he was the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree; in 1973 he received the coveted Mordechai Ben David Award.

In 1974, the Commission on Synagogue Relations of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies honored him with its Tzodoka Award. In the same year he was honored by the Rabbinical Council at a special dinner marking his 25th anniversary with the organization. In 1979 the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America conferred upon him its distinguished National Rabbinic Leadership Award.

JAKOBOVITS MEETING CANCELLED

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) — A spokesperson for Shuva, which identifies itself as the North American Aliya Movement, said today that a speaking engagement by British Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits at the Forest Hills Jewish Center tonight was cancelled after several groups protested to the Queens congregation against his appearance there. Shifra Hoffman, of Shuva, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Center gave security problems as the reason for the cancellation.

Jakobovits came under intense attack last month for his strong criticism of Israel government policies, particularly the proliferation of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories at a time when Israel is negotiating with Egypt and the U.S. over autonomy in those territories. He was particularly attacked for his statement "that he did not rule out the possibility of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that he would even allow such a state to have its capital in East Jerusalem."

The JTA called the Center several times during the day for confirmation, but no one answered the telephone. However, Jakobovits told the JTA Friday that he was scheduled to speak there Sunday night on the topic of "Contemporary Jewish Issues." He said he would not include those issues he referred to in his controversial remarks in London. He said he expected questions about his positions and heckling but that he had made it plain to his hosts that he would not speak if there were any disorderly demonstrations.

According to Hoffman, individual members of the Center's board were contacted by representatives of Shuva and of the Jewish Identity Center, the Jewish Defense League and the "Committee for Settlements in the Land of Israel," objecting to Jakobovits' appearance.

Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser, spiritual leader of the Forest Hills Jewish Center, told the JTA late this afternoon that Jakobovits himself had cancelled his address and had notified him late Friday that he would not appear. Bokser would not say what reason Jakobovits gave but suggested that he "was intimidated." He said his congregation had been approached by certain groups protesting a forum for Jakobovits, "but we felt a responsibility, we were not intimidated, you can't cancel free speech," Bokser said. He said he was not aware that security problems were given as the reason for the cancellation.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — An Israeli-fashion show is being held at the Hilton Hotel.

HOFFBERGER ENDORSES KENNEDY

BALTIMORE, March 9 (JTA) — Jerold Hoffberger, president of the United Israel Appeal and former president of the Council of Jewish Federations, today announced his endorsement of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) for the Presidency. He stressed his endorsement was personal and not in the name of the organizations with which he is associated.

Asserting that President Carter's "inept" handling of United States foreign policy "renders the President's commitment to Israel virtually meaningless," Hoffberger said he supports Kennedy because "He has stood for a foreign policy that reflects the ideals of our nation. He recognizes the necessity for a strong and consistent U.S. position in support of Israel. He understands that the bonds between the U.S. and Israel, deeply rooted in moral commitment and common political, social and religious values, are founded on a realistic view of our country's own security interests."

Hoffberger added that Kennedy in his 17 years in the Senate "has also stood for compassion toward the less advantaged in our society, for economic growth and social justice and for an international policy that upholds our vital national interests."

Meetings With Jewish Leaders

Meanwhile, the U.S. vote March 1 for the United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements and President Carter's subsequent repudiation of the vote has become a major issue among Jewish voters. With the Florida primary scheduled for Tuesday, Carter supporters have been trying to prevent a backlash among that state's 436,000 Jews. Kennedy, who had earlier been prepared to concede Florida along with Alabama and Georgia, has been making a last-minute concerted effort in the Miami area.

Over the weekend it was announced that Robert Strauss, the President's campaign manager, and Sol Linowitz, Carter's special envoy for Middle East negotiations, have asked about 60 Jewish leaders to meet with them in New York tomorrow.

Commerce Secretary Philip Klutznick was in Miami Friday where he addressed a group of mostly-Jewish residents at a North Miami Beach condominium on this Tuesday's important Florida primary elections. According to press reports, Klutznick, who is on leave as president of the World Jewish Congress, said he believed the President when he said the UN vote was the result of a communications failure. "I believe him.... And I say do not judge him by a single act," Klutznick was quoted as saying.

Ronald Reagan, who is considered the favorite in the Republican primary in Florida, told a news conference in Miami yesterday that the Carter Administration's acknowledged mistake in voting for the UN resolution demonstrated its "gross incompetence" and "raises fundamental questions about Mr. Carter's real attitudes and intentions toward Israel." The former California Governor called on Carter to state unequivocally that "the United States will not endanger Israel" and to "stop playing political roulette with Israel's vital national interests."

George Bush, who is Reagan's chief rival in the Florida GOP contest, called the incident

"another example of the Carter Administration bullying our friends and another example of vacillation." Bush said the UN resolution is a "good example" of his criticism of Carter "for vacillation" and "for failing to keep commitments."

Former Texas Governor John Connally, another Republican contender, said Carter's disavowal of the UN vote makes him "the most cynical politician to occupy the White House in my lifetime." He said despite the President's renunciation of the vote "the undeniable reality is that the Carter Administration has weakened America's commitment to Israel's security as a sop to Israel's antagonists in the UN."

Meanwhile, at an off-the-record meeting with reporters in the White House yesterday, Carter reiterated his position that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal. According to The New York Times, "The President is convinced that the question of the 50 Israeli settlements on the West Bank must eventually be addressed and that it may well prove to be one of the most troublesome issues to resolve."

ISRAEL DIPLOMAT SAYS U.S. TAKES TOO MANY RISKS AT THE EXPENSE OF ISRAEL

By Jaime Reibel

TARRYTOWN, N.Y., March 9 (JTA) — An Israeli diplomat said here today that "The U.S. is inclined to take too many risks at the expense of Israel." Ambassador Shalom Kahana, Deputy Representative of Israel to the United Nations, referred to the Security Council vote of March 1 condemning Israel's settlements in the occupied territories, which the U.S. supported and President Carter later disavowed.

"The last test in the Security Council was only a symptom of Israel's difficult political situation," Kahana told an audience of 200 at Temple Beth Abraham here. With respect to Carter's renunciation of the vote, he said, "We accept the position of the President as the last word... What is disturbing is the drift of U.S. policy. The U.S. is inclined to take too many risks at the expense of Israel."

Kahana said "The Israel government has a sincere interest in a continuous and ongoing cooperation with the U.S. It would be a pity if, as a result of the present experience, that our relations would be damaged in any way. We are anxious that good relations continue and be intensified as we approach a critical moment in the peace process."

Kahana said that "One of the problems a sector of the American public has is that it pays attention to what happens in the UN. The UN has become the graveyard of many fine and some not so fine resolutions.... Eventually, this resolution will be forgotten."

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) called upon the New York State Legislature to strengthen existing state and federal legislation by passing a law that would forbid the state from doing business with companies which are found to be complying with the Arab boycott. Such a bill was passed by the New York City Council last year. JCRC officials said that the measure has been submitted based upon the NYC experience, which would serve notice on companies that would stand to lose the considerable state and city markets and would underscore determination not to tolerate any act of discrimination.