

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL TAKES SERIOUS VIEW OF EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA) -- Israel has taken a "very serious" view of the resolution adopted by the Egyptian parliament yesterday declaring East Jerusalem to be part of the West Bank. Political sources here said it did not contribute to the peace process and could jeopardize the autonomy talks.

The resolution, adopted unanimously by the People's Council in Cairo, called for the participation by East Jerusalem residents in the elections for an administrative council that would be the self-governing authority on the West Bank under the autonomy plan. It also proposed that the council have its seat in East Jerusalem. It declared "null and void" all measures taken by Israel to change the demographic composition of East Jerusalem which it annexed in 1967.

Premier Menachem Begin was reportedly consulting with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on an appropriate reaction to the Egyptian resolution. One proposal is a unanimous statement by the Knesset, supported by the coalition and opposition factions, reaffirming the status of Jerusalem as an undivided city and the capital of Israel.

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres sharply criticized the Egyptian action today. He said it contradicted the Camp David accords and that he could not understand why such a resolution was initiated by the Egyptians on the eve of President Anwar Sadat's trip to Washington to meet with President Carter and Begin's meeting with Carter later this month.

The Egyptian motivation was a source of speculation today. Some Israeli circles saw it as an attempt to bring the subject of Jerusalem's future status into the autonomy talks through the "back door." Israel has made it clear that it will not discuss Jerusalem in any context. Another possibility, according to Israeli observers, is that the resolution was intended to counter the growing opposition in Egypt to the normalization process with Israel and to raise tensions between Egypt and Israel on the eve of the Washington talks.

## A SEDER IN CAIRO: EGYPTIAN ENVOY PARTAKES IN A SEDER IN TEL AVIV

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA) -- Israelis celebrated their first Passover since the normalization of relations with Egypt, some of them in the land from which Moses liberated their ancestors from slavery. More than 100 Egyptian Jews joined 50 Israelis at a seder in Cairo conducted by Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar. Ironically, the ceremony was held at the Pharos Hotel.

In Israel, Egyptian Ambassador Saad Mortada was a guest at a seder in the home of Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres. Mortada, who brought with him a Haggadah with a French translation, frequently asked questions during the readings. When the section on the plagues inflicted on Egypt was read, Mortada commented, "I represent Egypt not the Pharos." At one point, the Egyptian envoy quipped, "If you were so happy to leave Egypt, why are there such long lines of Is-

raelis asking for entry visas to Egypt?"

The army had its main seder at Camp Kfir in the central region with Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Rafael Eytan attending. The soldiers who stole the afikomen were promised a swimming pool and a trip to Eilat. The first day of Passover was a hot day and many people headed for the beaches and picnic areas. Some went to Mt. Hermon where they took what was probably their last chance to ski until next winter.

## JTA DURING TRANSIT STRIKE

For the duration of the mass transit strike, the Daily News Bulletin will appear in a reduced two-page form. Despite the drastically reduced staff and related problems due to the strike, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency will provide its subscribers with major news developments.

## ISRAEL, EGYPT IN TRANSPORT PACT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt have concluded an agreement covering land and sea transportation between the two countries. The pact, signed on the eve of Passover, is in addition to the air-transportation agreement which went into effect last month, and is seen here as one more advance in the process of normalization.

The new agreement, effective April 15, establishes the regulations for motor travel between Israel and Egypt via Sinai. It also provides berthing facilities, harbor services, pilotage and other technical and business requirements for the merchant ships of each country in the ports and territorial waters of the other.

The land travel agreement is of most interest to Israelis planning to visit Egypt. Private cars will be able to cross the border at Neot Sinai or any other official crossing point. The drivers will require a car registration, international driver's license and a visa. Each car may carry as many as seven persons. The same rules will apply to Egyptians driving to Israel.

It was learned, meanwhile, that Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil of Egypt will host a special reception in Cairo for the Israeli Ambassador, Eliahu Ben-Elissar. This was conveyed to Premier Menachem Begin by the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, Saad Mortada. Apparently, Begin had expressed some concern recently over Ben-Elissar's social isolation in the Egyptian capital. Israeli journalists have reported from Cairo that Ben-Elissar is shunned by Egypt's social and diplomatic elite who have no contact with him beyond the minimum required by protocol. Mortada did not indicate when the reception would be held.

## UN COUNCIL PONDERING RESUMING DEBATE ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 2 (JTA) -- Members of the Security Council were holding private consultations today on the resumption of the debate which began Monday on Palestinian rights. A spokesperson for the UN could not say this morning when the debate is likely to resume.

The Palestine Liberation Organization and its supporters initiated the debate, pressing the Council to vote on the issue of Palestinian statehood despite the fact that the United States is virtually certain to

veto such a resolution.

Addressing the Council Monday, Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, charged that "this debate was initiated and timed to try and frustrate the ongoing peace process in the Mideast." He said that the PLO and its supporters initiated the debate to sabotage the autonomy talks and the upcoming peace talks in Washington between President Carter and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel.

As for the PLO's campaign to have the Council support the creation of an independent Palestinian state, Blum said that a Palestinian Arab state has been in existence since 1946. "Two states have been established on the territory of the former Palestine Mandate," Blum declared. "One is the Palestinian Arab state of Jordan, which achieved national self-determination, independence and sovereignty in 1946. The other is the Palestinian Jewish State of Israel which became independent in 1948."

#### CENSOR BANS BOOK ON ISRAEL AND THE ATOMIC BOMB By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA) — The Israel government censor has banned from publication a book by two Israeli journalists on whether Israel has the atomic bomb. The authors, Eli Teicher, 37, and Ami Doron, both former members of the editorial staff of Haaretz, also told a press conference this week that they have also had to turn over to the censor all their notes and other pertinent material.

The two journalists said that after holding the manuscript of the book for 45 days the censor ruled the book contains material that is harmful to Israel's security. The authors have also been prohibited from divulging any details of the book.

"We asked the censor to allow us to have the manuscript for two more days so as to enable our attorney to study material for an order nisi" (show cause order), Teicher said. "But the censor refused." They now have asked their attorney to seek an injunction from the Supreme Court ordering the censor to return the manuscript even for a short time.

The two authors said that when CBS correspondent Dan Raviv first reported on the book, the Defense Ministry said "the book contains nothing secret, it contains lies and untruths and it cannot harm the State security. Yet now, the fact that the book is banned apparently means something else," Teicher, while careful not to reveal what the book contains, stressed it was non-fiction.

The CBS correspondent avoided the censor on the story by flying to Rome to broadcast it. His credentials were later lifted by Israel. The CBS story said that Israel and South Africa have jointly exploded a nuclear device. "This story is not included in the book," Teicher and Doron stressed.

#### LINOWITZ WARNS ISRAEL ABOUT AN ISRAELI PRESENCE ON THE WEST BANK By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA) — U.S. special Middle East Ambassador Sol Linowitz has warned Israel that unless it halts developing the Israeli presence on the West Bank the Carter Administration would not be able to prevent West European countries and others from taking steps toward expelling Israel from the area.

Linowitz said that the U.S. has no plan for

any of the issues outstanding between Egypt and Israel in their autonomy talks but said that substantial progress must be made by May 26 — the target date in the Israeli-Egyptian treaty for an autonomy treaty — to induce the Europeans to refrain from pressing for a solution in the United Nations.

Linowitz spoke to reporters of the general American media yesterday and of the Israeli media today despite the Passover holiday which found the Israeli Embassy closed.

According to those present, he said that President Carter's talks April 7-10 with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin April 15-16 will seek to clarify principles but would not replace the negotiations among the three governments.

Some reporters understood that the clarification of principles was to include a commitment by Begin to stop any further Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Linowitz said the settlement policy, apart from the question of legality, was not good for Israel's public relations. He said also that in giving up the Sinai and the oilfields there Israel gave up more of its security than it would in abandoning the settlements on the West Bank.

Linowitz said if substantial progress is made by May 26 it may be possible to extend the target date by three months without having the United Nations move towards a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He would not define substantial progress. Linowitz also said that a three-way summit this month is impossible since Sadat would be leaving Washington after his three-day visit and before Begin arrives.

#### CATHOLIC TEACHING DECREE MODIFIED

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) — The protests of the Jewish community and of other religious groups in Argentina all during last year have caused the Argentine government to modify a decree, issued a little over a year ago, that mandated the teaching of Catholic religious values and attitudes in secondary schools, according to Jacob Kovadloff, director of the South American office of the American Jewish Committee, and a native Argentinian.

As a result of their combined efforts, he said, the prescribed course, called "Moral and Civic Education," has been revised to exclude certain "confessional elements" and to include some books by noted Jewish philosophers and political scientists.

Another favorable development, Kovadloff reported, was an Argentine government decision to conduct dialogues with representatives of all faiths and political parties on subjects of national interest. This dialogue process, which will include the Jewish community, was announced by Interior Minister General Albano Horguindeguy last month and already has been put into action.

Kovadloff explained that the course was aimed originally at students in the first year of high school. In February, 1980, it was extended to include the second year of high school as well, including private Jewish schools.

PARIS (JTA) — The Grenoble Synagogue was desecrated last week with anti-Semitic slogans and swastikas. Police say that slogans stating that the claim that the Holocaust took six million Jewish lives is "nothing but six million Jewish lies," were found dubbed on the building's walls. The slogans were immediately washed off by municipal employees and police are investigating. The incident took place last Thursday but was reported only on Monday.