

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Friday, April 4, 1980

No. 65

## BURG FORESEES BREAKTHROUGH IN AUTONOMY TALKS BY MAY 26

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA) — Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks, predicted today that a breakthrough will be achieved by the target date of May 26, at least on some of the substantive issues that have been unresolved until now.

Appearing on the Israeli Broadcasting Service's Arab Hour program, Burg said that the momentum of the autonomy talks will pick up after Passover when four separate working groups will apply themselves to the task of finding a common ground. According to Burg, an achievement of significant importance could be reached by May 26 on election procedures and the structure of the self-governing administrative council for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He conceded, however, that he saw no possibility of progress on the major issues: the scope of the administrative council's authority, security and the question of East Jerusalem. But he said he opposed a freeze on settlements for the duration of the autonomy talks which has been proposed by the U.S.

### Begin To Stand Pat On Autonomy

Meanwhile, Israeli officials made it clear today that Premier Menachem Begin has no intention of changing Israel's basic position on autonomy when he meets with President Carter in Washington later this month, despite mounting international pressure.

The officials were apparently reacting to the statement by U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz that unless Israel is more malleable and there is substantial progress by May 26, the U.S. would not be able to prevent its European Economic Community (EEC) allies from going ahead with their initiative to alter UN Security Council Resolution 242. The EEC countries are expected to press for an amendment that would change the status of the Palestinians from refugees to that of a political entity.

## ISRAEL ARMY CONSIDERING RAISING INDUCTION AGE FROM 18 TO 19 OR 20

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA) — The army is considering proposals to raise the induction age from 18 to 19 or possibly 20. While military sources stressed that the idea is far from being implemented and must be studied for its implications, with respect to manpower needs, Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eytan appears to favor the prospect of older conscripts.

At a question and answer session with Boy Scouts in Haifa today, Eytan noted that a higher induction age would allow youngsters to finish high school and possibly a year or two of university studies. They would enter the armed forces more mature and with fewer adjustment problems. They would have an opportunity before induction to contribute to socially productive tasks such as neighborhood work and new town development, he said.

Eytan also lectured the scouts on the necessity for continued Jewish settlements on the West Bank and claimed that world opinion is de-

manding that Israel return not only to its pre-1967 borders but to those of 1947. He said that the State was founded on five main principles: Zionism, settlement, immigration, Jewish labor and freedom to work and live anywhere in the country.

But according to Eytan, the old ideals have long been forgotten or lost and the time has come to search for new ones and revive the old ones. "If we do not revive and rejuvenate the attractive power of the land of Israel we may have to pay a very dear price," the Chief of Staff said.

## U.S. REFUGEE ACT SEEN AS HAVING NEGATIVE EFFECT ON SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin has been urged by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, to discuss with President Carter the negative effect on Soviet Jewish aliya of the recently-enacted U.S. Refugee Act of 1980. Begin is scheduled to meet with Carter in Washington April 15-16.

In a meeting with Begin here yesterday, Dulzin stressed while the new U.S. law was "a positive and humanitarian bill," the Premier should explain to the U.S. President that Soviet emigrants cannot be considered political refugees since they all have exit visas to Israel.

Dulzin told the JTA today that although the law does not imply any specific benefits to Soviet Jewish emigrants, the new bill may be mistaken by Jews coming out of the Soviet Union to mean that they will receive increased benefits and thus encourage the already very high dropout rate.

Dulzin said he wanted to emphasize that Jews leaving the USSR are not political refugees because they left it legally and are already citizens of Israel under the Law of Return. He said the dropout rate is endangering Soviet Jewish emigration. He noted that recently Soviet authorities have been refusing visas for Jews whose relatives left the USSR with visas for Israel but then settled in the United States. "Every dropout prevents aliya of another Jew," Dulzin told the JTA.

In an open letter to Haaretz today, Dulzin again stressed the U.S. bill was a humanitarian law. "Nobody wants to compel Jews who do not so wish, to come and settle in Israel," he said. But, he added, Israel cannot approve allowing the visa to Israel, which Soviet Jews must get in order to emigrate, to become "a mere transit paper."

Dulzin said American Jews "have a right" to see to it that Soviet Jews who want to come to the U.S. get direct entry visas. "The U.S.A. will do what she has to do as leader of the free world and as a shelter for persecuted people," Dulzin stated. "Israel will not aid Jews exchange one diaspora with another .... An Israeli citizen is no more a homeless person. Every Jew has a mother country. He may not make use of it, but by no means can he be regarded as a refugee."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — About 4000 settlers demonstrated outside the Knesset building Thursday to demand changes in the legal status of the West Bank so that Jewish settlements there cannot be challenged in the courts.

## UN COUNCIL TO DEFER VOTE ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS TILL JULY By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 3 (JTA) — The Security Council continued its debate on Palestinian rights but will not vote on a resolution endorsing an independent Palestinian state until July at the earliest, it was learned here today. The deferment, not officially announced, was attributed to the threat of a U.S. veto and the unwillingness of the Western European countries to support such a resolution at this time.

Meanwhile, the discussion of Palestinian rights, which opened Monday, went into its second session this morning. Sources here explained that the European members, including France, decided not to endorse the Palestinian statehood resolution pending the outcome of President Carter's meetings with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin in Washington later this month and the progress of the autonomy talks up to the May 26 target date.

Another reason cited was the summit meeting of the European Economic Community (EEC) scheduled to be held in July, at which time the issue of Palestinian independence is expected to be discussed.

At today's debate, the Egyptian representative, Ambassador Achmed Ismat Abdel Meguid, declared that "Egypt's commitment to the Palestinian cause is total and unwavering." He condemned Israel for its new settlements on the West Bank and its decision to seize Arab-owned land in East Jerusalem and other territories. He said that these moves by Israel "created serious obstacles which hinder the faithful implementation of the Camp David accords under which Israel is committed to honor the rights of the Palestinian people."

## FORMER INS OFFICIAL JAILED FOR REFUSING TO ANSWER QUESTION IN LIBEL CASE BY ALLEGED EX-NAZI

By Rochelle Saidel Walk

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) — Former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) investigator Anthony DeVito, a defense witness in a federal libel case by alleged Nazi war criminal Tserim Soobzakov, has been imprisoned since March 25 because of his refusal to answer a question during his deposition.

Soobzakov is a resident of Paterson, N.J., where he is the chief of the Purchasing Department for Passaic County. On Dec. 5, 1979, the U.S. Attorney General's Office and the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) served him with a denaturalization notice, accusing him of concealing his collaboration with the Waffen SS and his participation in Nazi atrocities in and around Krasnodar, in the Transcaucasus.

DeVito, who retired early from INS in 1974 to protest against what he said was years of cover-up by the INS on the subject of Nazi war criminals, is a witness in Soobzakov's federal libel case against Quadrangle Books; the New York Times; CBS, Inc.; Fawcett Books; and Howard Blum, author of "Wanted: The Search for Nazi War Criminals in America." (In Soobzakov's state libel suit, DeVito, who is portrayed in "Wanted," is also a defendant.)

DeVito was ordered remanded to the Metropolitan Correction Center in Manhattan by U.S. District Judge Gerard Goettel, of the Southern

District of New York, when he refused to answer a question posed by Michael Dennis, Soobzakov's attorney, regarding the source of funds that enabled him to go to the Soviet Union to gather evidence about Nazi war criminals in the U.S.

DeVito, who is acting as his own attorney, refused to answer on the grounds that he had given his word never to reveal this source. He was placed under a civil contempt order by Goettel and jailed indefinitely until he answers the question. Reliable sources have indicated that DeVito may be released shortly on his own recognizance but may have to pay a fine.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA FINNISH GOV'T. URGED TO SPURN IRAQI DEMAND TO BLACKLIST ISRAEL

HELSINKI, April 3 (JTA) — Members of parliament, the press and leaders of Finland's tiny Jewish community have called on the government for a firm, negative response to Iraq's recent demand for information to facilitate the blacklisting of Finnish companies doing business with Israel. The demands were contained in a "strictly confidential" letter from the Iraqi Ambassador, Gen. Saleh Mehdi Amash, to Foreign Trade Minister Esko Rekala.

The letter, dated March 14, gave the government 10 days to respond. It cited seven firms which it said imported various products from Israel that are "also available from Iraq" and wanted to know if "there is a Zionist or Jew on your board of directors or in any subordinate managerial position" and whether the company deals with any Israeli company or has "links with a company doing business with Israel." The letter also asked for details of the companies' financial positions, the names of their stockholders, board members and managers of their subdivisions.

The letter was acknowledged by Rekala only after it was exposed in the local press last week. The Trade Minister said "I leave it up to our companies each to make its own reply." He also made the point that Finland's relations with Iraq are "very good" and professed to be uncertain whether the letter was an expression of Amash's private views or a statement of the Baghdad government's policy.

Ben Ziscovitch, a member of Kokoomus, the national coalition party opposition bloc in Parliament, called for a statement of clarification when Parliament reconvenes in two weeks. Leo Motzkin, president of the Jewish community of Helsinki, will head a delegation calling on Prime Minister Mouno Koivisto later this week to ask for a "clear, strong" stand by the government against the Iraqi demands.

Israel's Ambassador to Finland, Rehavim Amir, reported this week that his office was "flooded" with telephone calls and messages from Finnish friends and others expressing their "outrage" over the "threat of a blacklist." There are 1350 Jews in Finland out of a general population of 4.7 million. All but 350 Jews reside in Helsinki.

TORONTO (JTA) — James McQuirter, 21, and Amand Siksa, 36, both of Toronto, were acquitted by a county judge of conspiracy to distribute hate literature. While describing the material as "absolute garbage," Judge Douglas Coe said he was not persuaded that it constituted hate propaganda under the law or that there was evidence that it was circulated or planned to be circulated. McQuirter, reportedly an avowed organizer for the Ku Klux Klan and the defunct rightwing Western Guard, said he had given copies only to sympathizers.