

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## CARTER-BEGIN TALKS END WITH INDICATION THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD ISRAEL-EGYPT AGREEMENT Sadat Accepts Begin's Proposal On Talks By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA) — President Carter and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel ended their two days of talks on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza today with remarks which indicated that progress has been made toward an agreement between Israel and Egypt.

With Begin at his side, Carter told reporters in the White House Rose Garden that the talks were "constructive and very productive between myself and Prime Minister Begin. I wish to particularly emphasize the issues are being resolved."

Carter announced that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has agreed to Begin's proposal that during the next 40 days the autonomy talks be divided equally in sessions in Tel Aviv and Alexandria between Israel and Egypt with the U.S. as a full partner in a "concerted effort" to reach the "goal" of an agreement by the May 26 target date. "We made good progress toward that goal," Carter said.

Begin said, "I am absolutely truthful" in saying that "we had very good talks -- thanks to the atmosphere created by President Carter in the Cabinet room and in our private talks. I think we made real good progress." The Premier also stated that the autonomy negotiations will be conducted "daily, almost hourly. There is a hope indeed we may reach the goal of May 26."

Begin expressed "our deep friendship to the people of the United States for their role in world affairs." He said he "hoped" the American hostages in Teheran would be released soon. He urged "all men for liberty to stand up for it" and said "American-Israeli relations are important from this point of view."

### No Pressure, No Confrontation

Before entering the White House for their final session this morning, Begin remarked to Israeli reporters, "There has been no pressure and no confrontation. Your predictions have proven wrong."

According to reliable sources, the issue of Jewish settlements on the West Bank was not raised, at least up to the time of their final meeting. On the issue of Jerusalem, Carter took the same position he has taken publicly in the past -- that Jerusalem should remain an undivided city. But he did not specify under whose sovereignty. Sadat said here after his meetings with Carter last week that East Jerusalem should be under Arab sovereignty. Begin insists that the undivided city is the "eternal capital" of Israel.

### Lifelines Are More Important Than Deadlines

At a White House dinner last night attended by 180 persons -- many of them Jewish Democrats favorable to Carter's re-election -- Begin praised the President in a 25-minute discourse. He also indicated that it was not important if Egypt and Israel continued their negotiations over autonomy beyond the May 26 target date. "The sky is not on our heads," Begin said. "We relate to lifelines, not deadlines. We shall continue the negotiations until we reach agreement."

At the dinner last night, Rep. Clement Zablocki (D.-Wisc.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was asked by a reporter if Begin's "uncompromising position" was harmful to U.S.-Israel relations. Zablocki, who is close to the State Department's views on the Arab-Israeli conflict, replied, "There is no question" that "the American public is becoming very concerned about what they perceive as Prime Minister Begin's intransigence." Begin has maintained, during his current visit to the U.S., that the Camp David accords must be adhered to strictly by all parties.

Carter drew laughter from the dinner guests when he observed that when he and Begin agree "we both prosper." The President noted that "late, for instance, my own positions have caused him some trouble as you may have noticed a month or so ago on the West Bank of the Jordan. And I might say that our disagreements also caused me some trouble on the east bank of the Hudson River."

### BEGIN: NO FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA) — Israeli Premier Menachem Begin made it clear at a press conference this afternoon following his final meeting with President Carter that Israel will not agree to a freeze of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it will not permit the Arabs of East Jerusalem to vote in the autonomy elections and that he regards the May 26 date for reaching agreement with Egypt over autonomy as "not a deadline, not a target date but a goal."

He insisted that the autonomy issue is spelled out in the Camp David accords and instructed one reporter, who asked him to define "full autonomy" as distinguished from statehood, to read "the Camp David booklet issued by the State Department... very carefully and you will see what autonomy is. It is in very short sentences."

Asked why he thought the non-stop autonomy talks over the next 40 days have a better chance of achieving an agreement than the negotiations that have been taking place during the last 10 months, Begin replied, "We may reach an agreement or not reach an agreement. Why be pessimistic in advance?" He said in reply to another question that the possibility of a three-way summit meeting between himself, President Carter and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was "not discussed" in his just concluded talks with Carter.

Addressing reporters at Blair House shortly after he and Carter told reporters in the White House Rose Garden that very good progress had been made toward an agreement on autonomy, Begin was unyielding on the issue of a settlement freeze. He said it had not been discussed in his meetings with Carter. Asked if he had agreed to be "moderate" on that issue, he replied, "I don't have to be moderate" on settlements. "President Sadat expressed his opinion and Carter expressed his opinion. I have my opinion."

### A. Bulwark Against Terrorist Acts

He insisted that Jewish settlements are "perfectly legal" and part of the "inherent right" of the Jewish people and form "part of the national security of Israel." He dwelt on the latter point, noting that "during one year," which he did not specify, Israeli security forces uncovered 97 terrorist cells on the West Bank and 40 cells in the Gaza Strip.

"During the same period there were 55 acts of terrorism in Israel" and of these "53 were exposed." He insisted that "It is a matter of the life of our citizens. The settlements are a wall of defense against bloody terrorist acts. They are inseparable from the vital defense of Israel."

Asked if he was satisfied that the U.S. vote for the March 1 Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements was a "mistake" and how he felt about the American Jewish community's reaction to it, Begin said the vote "belongs to the past" and "we cannot live in the past."

Nevertheless, he added, "We regret very deeply that vote" and Carter also expressed his "deep regret." With respect to the American Jewish reaction, he said, "As an Israeli citizen I don't interfere with the American elections. Jews in America don't need my advice and I won't give them advice. We would not like anyone to interfere in our elections." Begin said he didn't ask Carter for additional aid for Israel "at all." He said that the situations in Iran and Afghanistan came up in their talks.

### **SARTRE, DEAD AT 74, FOUGHT ON BEHALF OF PERSECUTED JEWS**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 16 (JTA) — Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher who dominated the Western intellectual world for several decades, died here last night at the age of 74. A humanist, a liberal and a political activist, he had always been keenly interested in Judaism and fought some of the battles in favor of persecuted Jews. In recent years, however, and especially since his trip to Israel on the eve of the Six-Day War, he also backed Palestinian demands for self-determination.

There were three people at his bedside when he died last night as a result of pulmonary edema: his companion Simone de Beauvoir, his adopted daughter Arlette Elkhayam, and a close friend and favorite biographer, Liliane Siegal. The fact that two out of three, his daughter and Ms. Siegal, are Jews is symbolic of his lifelong preoccupation — some say obsession — with the Jewish problem. Sartre was a Protestant.

Drafted into the French army in 1940 as a private, he spent several years as a POW in Germany. He eventually escaped with forged papers and joined the French resistance movement. While in the POW camp, he spent his time reading the works of German philosophers but also managed to obtain a first-hand knowledge of Nazism and its methods.

### **Pervasiveness Of Jewish Theme**

Shortly after the war, in 1946, he published "Thoughts on the Jewish Problem" which he later summed up by quoting the Black American writer Richard Wright who said "There is no Black problem in the States. There is a white one." According to Sartre, the same applied to Jews. "It was not they who were a problem but those who were against them. In his book, Sartre went one step further claiming that a Jew is someone considered as such by anti-Semites.

Sartre's interest with everything concerning Jews continued. In most of his books or plays, the Jewish theme was somewhere present even if only hinted at. By the late 1950s, his interest spread to Israel. He backed Israel to the hilt and even after his visit to Israel in early 1967 he supported Israel's pre-emptive strike. "Each country has the right to defend itself in the way it thinks best

suitable," he told friends at the time.

He denounced Soviet anti-Semitism in spite of his leftist leanings. Throughout the years both Sartre and de Beauvoir were active in all campaigns on behalf of persecuted Jews whether in the Soviet Union, Syria or Ethiopia. A few years ago, while already half-blind and plagued by various serious diseases, he was still always ready to personally demonstrate in favor of human and Jewish rights wherever they might be in danger.

### **Drew Closer To The Palestinian Cause**

Simultaneously, and some say paradoxically, Sartre drew nearer to the Palestinian cause. A special 400-page issue of his review, "Modern Times," devoted to the Israeli-Arab conflict, presented a bright image of Israel but also pleaded for Palestinian rights. In recent years, while avoiding public statements on this subject — with de Beauvoir squarely backing Israel — he privately told friends and admirers that Israel should recognize Palestinian rights to self-determination.

During these last few years, Sartre regularly met with Arab intellectuals but also kept in contact with many Jews and many Zionists. A prolific writer of novels, plays, cinema scripts, philosophic essays and newspaper articles, Sartre was best known as the father of Existentialism — a fame which he abhorred and which he always stressed had nothing in common with his actual teachings. He also loathed public honors and recognition and in 1964 turned down the Nobel Prize for Literature. He will be buried Friday at the Pere Lachaise Cemetery with no pomp, no honors and no speeches.

### **U.S. TO VETO ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION**

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 16 (JTA) — The United States assured Israel that it will cast a veto in case the Security Council is presented with a resolution condemning Israel for its incursion into south Lebanon following a terrorist attack on Kibbutz Misgav Am, diplomatic sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The U.S. pledge was made yesterday during a meeting between Israel's UN Ambassador Yehuda Blum and U.S. Ambassador Donald McHenry, the sources said.

The Security Council, which began discussing the situation in south Lebanon last Sunday, met again this morning but adjourned early in the afternoon for private consultations. Members of the Council are reportedly trying to reach a compromise resolution in order to avoid a U.S. veto and make it acceptable to the West European members of the Council. A UN spokesman said he expects that the Council will vote either tomorrow or Friday.

Meanwhile, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim issued a new report today on the situation in south Lebanon, warning that although firing in the area had been greatly reduced, the situation remains tense and that threats and acts of harassment by the Christian forces against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and UN truce observers in the observation posts continue.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A delegation of representatives of the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Former Concentration Camp Inmates left for Poland for a two-week visit to take part in international events marking the 35th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps and to mark the 37th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

## U.S. RULES HASIDIM NOT DISADVANTAGED AS GROUP BUT INDIVIDUALS MAY GET AID

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA) — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced last week it has rejected an application that would designate the Hasidic Jews as "a socially and economically disadvantaged group" that would entitle them to federal aid provided minority businesses but held that individual Hasidic-owned business firms could receive such assistance.

In a 25-page decision, the SBA held that "Hasidic firms owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged persons are eligible to participate in the programs but not on the basis of a group designation of social disadvantage."

"Based on the information submitted in support of the Hasidic application and without prejudging any particular case," the SBA decision said, "it is frankly anticipated that the typical Hasidic entrepreneur will have little difficulty in establishing his or her social disadvantage."

### Cites Abuse Of Discretion

In ruling out the Hasidim as a group "in light of the serious constitutional questions raised by the Hasidic application," the SBA concluded, "it would be an abuse of discretion" in the absence of "express congressional direction, to render a decision which might establish an impermissible religious classification."

The assistance program, the SBA held, "is based in part on a Congressional finding that groups with members who are socially disadvantaged include but are not limited to, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, native Americans, and other minorities." "Noting that 'none of those three groups designated in the statute is a religiously based cultural group,' the SBA held that 'if anything, the absence of a statutory reference to a religiously based cultural group indicates Congressional disinterest in, or disapproval of, such a designation.'"

The decision, signed by William Clement Jr., associate administrator, and A. Vernon Weaver, administrator of the SBA, culminates what they described as factual and legal issues that "are complex and have been exceedingly difficult to resolve."

### Widespread Support And Opposition

The issue generated widespread support for the Hasidim and intense opposition against their application. Some of the individual protests were tainted with prejudice. Most opposed aid on constitutional grounds — separation of church and state — and that aid to Hasidim would lessen the funds available to Blacks.

Among those siding with the Hasidim were 10 Senators, including those from New York, New Jersey and Maryland; and Stuart Eisenstat, special assistant to President Carter. Also favoring the Hasidim were Black U.S. Representatives Shirley Chisholm (D.N.Y.) and Louis Stokes (D.Ohio).

Communications to the SBA indicated that Rep. Parren Mitchell (D.Md.), a leading Black member of Congress, had circulated a letter suggesting protests. Groups opposing aid included the Washington offices of the National Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Association of Black Manufacturers, and the Black

elected Democrats of Ohio.

### Background Of Issue

The issue originated on Dec. 27 when the Opportunity Development Association of Brooklyn, N.Y., and six Hasidic businessmen filed an application on behalf of the approximately 100,000 to 150,000 Hasidim as a minority group of Americans. Most of them live in Brooklyn — Williamsburg, Crown Heights and Boro Park — and other smaller communities "scattered across the country" as in Monroe and Monsey, N.Y., Lakewood, N.J., Boston and Los Angeles.

Pointing out that "the evidence of prejudice and discrimination experienced by Hasidim is overwhelming and essentially unrefuted," the SBA observed that "relatively few comments submitted in opposition to the Hasidic application even addressed this factual issue." The "cultural bias imposed by the larger society upon the Hasidim," the SBA said, is found in the discrimination in employment, by potential business customers, and in financing of Hasidic businesses.

The SBA cited the testimony of Norbert Weissberg, who headed a project in New York City designed in part to place young Hasidim in training programs with accounting and commercial firms but "not one single placement of Hasidic personnel was made by those businessmen contacted."

"In addition to suffering from prejudice and discrimination, many Hasidic entrepreneurs — like other small businessmen — face an uphill battle to eke out a living for themselves and their families," the SBA reported. "Many Hasidic firms are retail or service businesses located within their own communities" which "are a major source of employment for Hasidic Jews." A director of "minority vendors" in the SBA documentation showed that of 297 Hasidic firms, most are in textiles and in the special needs of Hasidic and other Orthodox Jews for religious articles, clothing and kosher food.

### Two Major Points In Opposition

"Some comments submitted in opposition to the Hasidic application raised two major points," the SBA said. These were that "Hasidic Jews control large parts of New York City's diamond trade and that Jews control a significant portion of the wealth in this country and have generally succeeded in the business world."

"Hasidic Jews play a significant role" in the diamond trade and related industries, the SBA said; but "while the wealthy diamond merchant is probably the most visible of all Hasidic entrepreneurs, it would appear that his numbers are small and that he is not representative of the larger Hasidic business community."

"The second point — that Jews control great wealth and have succeeded in business — is irrelevant to an evaluation of Hasidic circumstances," the SBA added. "Whatever the accuracy of this timeworn stereotype, there is little to suggest that the Hasidim, who are culturally distinct from most other American Jews, have control over the levers of economic power in this country. The allegation that Jews own a majority of communications property ignores the simple truth that the Hasidim — who disdain radio, television and most other public media — own few, if any communications properties.... Broad-based allegations about the economic power of American Jews have no probative value in deciding the issues raised by the Hasidic application."

Discussing the economic status of Hasidim, the SBA said that "certain features of the Hasidic

culture -- large families, parochial schools, expensive kosher food -- place economic demands on Hasidic Jews beyond those imposed on most other Americans" and that "thus the Hasidic family which is slightly above the poverty line may in fact face economic burdens which are greater than those confronting non-Hasidic families below the poverty line."

In discussing the legal issues, the SBA observed that "numerous comments" opposing the application "on the basis that disadvantages suffered by the Hasidim are self-imposed" and the Hasidic lifestyle "is a matter of personal choice arising out of religious beliefs."

"Many comments emphasized that, in contrast to the Hasidim, Blacks and other traditional minorities have no choice with respect to the color of their skin and hence literally no control over the social disadvantages imposed on them by race," the SBA said. "From a literal standpoint, this argument is unassailable. The practice of the Hasidim which engender bias -- their distinctive appearance for example -- are ultimately matters of choice. No matter how deep-rooted the cultural convictions and religious beliefs which prompt behavior that is objectionable to others, the decision to adhere to and act upon those convictions is a voluntary one."

But, "from a legal standpoint, however, this argument must be rejected," the SBA added. "Congress did not intend the control test to be interpreted so literally as to disqualify individual Hasidim entry" into the aid program. "Even more fundamentally," the SBA said, "to exclude Hasidic firms from participation 'because their principals refuse to renounce religious beliefs would raise serious constitutional questions. Such a decision might well abridge the right of Hasidic Jews to the free exercise of religion guaranteed them by the First Amendment.'" The SBA held that "no individual could be excluded from the program simply because he was white or a member of a group not considered a traditional minority group."

#### **EBAN INDICATES ENDORSEMENT OF CARTER** By Jaime Reibel

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., April 16 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel issued a veiled endorsement of President Carter Monday night when he stated that "a President that helped us achieve a peace treaty that we never achieved before and under whose regime we have received \$10 billion worth of aid, more than in all the treaties of 26 years put together, cannot be subject to any derogatory reference by an Israeli.... This is in the full tradition of the support of every American President from Truman to Carter."

Eban, who is visiting the United States as a scholar-in-residence at Princeton University's Institute for Advanced Studies, addressed a capacity crowd of 1250 at Temple Beth El here.

He held that the intertwined history of Jews and Moslems in the Middle East is perceived in radically different ways by the two groups, both of which views impeded conciliation. Arab Moslems, according to Eban, see the Mideast as their region "so that anything in it that is not Arab or Moslem reflects itself in their imagination as external, alien, hostile, disconcerting, artificial. They have a monolithic view of the Middle East."

On the other hand, the Israelis conceive of the Middle East as "a tapestry of many colors of which the central thread was woven by Jewish experience for thousands of years," Eban said.

In spite of such a profoundly different con-

ceptual framework, the Israeli-Egyptian accords hammered out at Camp David caused "a breach in both walls," Eban said. He affirmed that continuing negotiations will serve to temper both Arab rejection and Israeli suspicion.

#### **MEETING IN WASHINGTON MAY 16 TO DEAL WITH SOVIET DROPOUT PROBLEM** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, and Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's aliya department, are going to Washington for a meeting May 16 of the Committee of Nine. The Committee, comprising representatives of the Israel government, the Jewish Agency and American Jewish organizations, is trying to deal with the problem of dropouts among Soviet Jewish emigrants. The meeting will seek to resolve the basic dispute over Soviet dropouts that exists between American Jewish leaders and Dulzin.

High on the agenda of the May 16 meeting is the recently enacted U.S. Refugee Act of 1980 which makes it easier for political refugees to enter the United States and provides additional aid for them which the Israelis fear will encourage more Soviet Jews to go to the U.S., rather than to Israel. Dulzin has urged that the law be amended or that American Jewish organizations dealing with refugees make it clear that the law does not apply to Soviet Jews who have Israeli visas, and certainly not to would-be yordim from Israel.

(In New York, the American Jewish Committee, in a background paper on the refugee act, stresses that Soviet Jews who arrive in Israel automatically become Israeli citizens and "therefore would not qualify under the U.S. definition of 'refugee' as one 'outside any country of such person's nationality' or persons having no nationality. Nor obviously would they fit under the clause in the law that permits the President to specify as refugees nationals in a country where they are persecuted.")

(The A.J. Committee report also notes that 3000 Soviet Jews have been entering the U.S. each month under previous legislation which allows the Attorney General to grant them parole. "The new Act continues this parole authority but transfers it to the President and outlines a detailed procedure for consultation with Congress before it can become operative," the A.J. Committee explained.)

Howard Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Jerusalem: "What they (the Israelis) are asking us to do is to repudiate the values we have always stood for and fought for." He noted that American Jewish groups, including the A.J. Congress, have campaigned over the years for a liberal immigration policy towards disparate ethnic and geographic groups of refugees. It would be paradoxical for those same Jewish groups now to favor restrictive approach by the federal government towards Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union who exercise their free choice and decide to make their new lives in the U.S., Squadron said.

Dulzin's position is that Jews presently are not refugees because a Jewish State exists, ready and willing to welcome them. This is especially the case of Soviet emigrants who leave the USSR on Israeli visas, he argues.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A bomb exploded Wednesday at the Jerusalem license bureau, but no one was hurt. The explosion, however, caused considerable damage to the office. Leaflets left at the scene had been signed by Fatah terrorists.