

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## U.S. TO SEEK MEANING FROM EGYPT ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE AUTONOMY TALKS WILL NOT BE RESUMED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA) — The Foreign Ministry of Egypt announced today that the autonomy talks with Israel will not be resumed. The official reason given was Egypt's displeasure with an announcement yesterday in Jerusalem that the Knesset on first reading had approved a bill declaring united Jerusalem the capital of Israel and with "repressive measures" Israel has taken against the Palestinians.

President Anwar Sadat had suspended the talks last week because of "lack of progress" but declared, in the course of a four-hour speech to the Egyptian Parliament yesterday that he had decided, on the basis of a telephone conversation with President Carter Tuesday to resume the talks at an early date. Sadat said he would announce the date of the resumed talks today. Instead, the Foreign Ministry statement followed.

The State Department, visibly irked by the Egyptians' on-again-off-again tactics on the West Bank-Gaza autonomy negotiations, said it would take up with the Egyptians on an urgent basis the meaning of today's announcement in Cairo. However, the State Department cautioned the media not to consider the situation critical.

### Not Of Crisis Proportion

"We are going to attack the problem urgently but I don't want by any means to lead you to believe this is a matter of crisis proportion," Department spokesman Tom Reston said. He recalled that Sadat "had assured" Carter in his telephone conversation Tuesday that the "talks could get underway after their temporary suspension very soon."

Reston added that "what we want to do is to have a chance to talk with the Egyptians on what lays behind the Foreign Ministry announcement. We hope we can resolve the matter." Reston said he was not aware in advance of the Foreign Ministry's announcement "or any communication" from Egypt about the Egyptian government's second suspension of the talks within the week.

Reston said that the talks with the Egyptians will begin "very shortly" but he did not specify when that would happen. The U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Alfred Atherton, who came here last week to brief Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, returned to Cairo on Tuesday.

Reston said that the State Department was studying the Foreign Ministry's statement and attempting to obtain a "clarification" between the U.S. and Egyptian governments. He said that the U.S. was "heartened yesterday" by Sadat's statement that Egypt would resume negotiations with Israel.

With reference to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's complaint about Israel preparing a law declaring unified Jerusalem the capital of Israel, Reston pointed out "we are dealing with a position which apparently was put before the Knesset" but, he emphasized, there is "no bill" before the Knesset.

"I understand a draft of a restatement of policy (on Jerusalem) has been submitted by a

Knesset member and it has been referred to a committee of the Knesset," Reston said. "This statement of the position of the status of Jerusalem has been put forward by a member of an opposition party — a party not part of the government." He added that U.S. officials will be discussing with both Egypt and Israel who has done what and what it means.

## 3 TERRORISTS KILLED BY ISRAELIS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA) — An Israeli patrol surprised and killed three heavily armed terrorists trying to infiltrate into Israel from south Lebanon last night. The incident occurred at 9 p.m. local time when the three were caught in the process of cutting through the barbed wire security fence just east of the Rosh Hanikra border checkpoint.

Security sources said documents found on the bodies indicated that the men were members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and that their mission was to seize hostages at Kibbutz Hanita and hold them for the release of terrorists imprisoned in Israel. The Israeli patrol suffered no casualties in the brief exchange of fire that marked the incident.

Meanwhile, a Tel Aviv district court judge imposed life prison sentences today on two young Arab women and a man who comprised a terrorist cell allegedly responsible for the deaths of at least six persons and injuries to more than 130 others in a long series of terrorist acts, mainly in the Jerusalem area. Those convicted were Jamal Yassin, 22 and Nadia el-Tyat and Nan Masieh, both 21. A fourth member of the group, Aataf Yousef, 22, was sentenced to 20 years.

## U.S. JEWS FACING BLEAK FUTURE, ACCORDING TO A COMMITTEE LEADER

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) — Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, declared today that the American Jewish community must be prepared to meet new realities in the future, a future that will be beset "by conflict, confusion and contradiction."

Delivering the keynote address to the 74th annual meeting of the AJCommittee which opened here today at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Gold said, however, that despite the prospects for a bleak future "we must retain a vision of a hopeful future. For without such a vision, there can be no meaning to the Holocaust that destroyed six million of us, nor the Jewish State which arose out of the ashes."

Noting that the future of the American Jewish community is closely related and intertwined with the international situation as well as the internal American scene, Gold said American Jews should speak out on foreign policy issues. He stated: "I am not advocating that we become involved in every American foreign policy issue. There are some matters, however, such as the nature of our defense budget, which, whether we like it or not, will have to become a subject of our concern."

Gold, underscoring the priority of Israel's survival on the American Jewish agenda, pointed out that "we have always known that this survival depended on America's unstinting support. But what good is such support if the United States has neither the power nor resolve to commit itself?" He added:

"How then, we must ask ourselves, can the American Jewish community avoid coming to grips with the larger issues of American foreign policy? How can we not be concerned with America's credibility and strength?"

Gold stressed that the recent developments in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan made many people realize that, contrary to what our State Department has been saying, the Arab-Israeli conflict, important as it is, is not the central issue in the Middle East, nor would the creation of a Palestinian state make possible an "Islamic Alliance" that will keep the Soviets out of the Persian Gulf. "A strong, dependable Israel is vital to American efforts to keep the Persian Gulf from becoming 'a Soviet lake,'" Gold claimed, adding: "It is this reality that we must continue to stress to every American Administration."

#### New Realities Facing U.S. Jews

The new realities facing American society in the 80s will have a profound effect on the Jewish community, Gold said. Demographic changes, new social and economic developments in America will create new realities and force changes in the life of American Jews, the AJCommittee official predicted.

He said that "with a larger working population, an increase in minorities, and possibly a diminishing economy, we are bound to see increased competition for jobs and a resultant increase in intergroup tensions."

Gold noted that the trend among the well educated and prosperous to return to live in the cities will create a situation in which cities will be occupied by two classes — the affluent whites, of which many are Jews, and the poor, mostly Black and Hispanic. This situation raises the question whether the cities can offer peace and stability, Gold said. "The answer to this question is vitally important to us," he stressed.

#### Five Demographic Factors

He pointed to five demographic factors which "are fraught with implications" for the Jewish community: "fertility, intermarriage, dispersion, the age-bulge, and immigration." Focusing on these factors, Gold declared:

"If we want the Jewish community to continue, we must strengthen the Jewish family and advocate social policies that encourage childbirth in families in which both parents work. More day care centers and experimentation with flex time and job sharing arrangements which would make it possible for working men and women to share the responsibilities of parenting are social policies of special importance to us."

Other challenges facing the Jewish community are the needs of the aged and newly arrived immigrants in the United States, Gold said. "We will need to think in terms of outreach programs to the new Jewish immigrants — Russian, Israeli, Iranian — now in this country," he stated.

#### Issue Of Jewish Unity

Gold concluded his remarks on the issue of the "plea for Jewish unity" which he said "is heard most often in the attempt to discourage public criticism of Israeli policies." He declared:

"It is one thing for an individual or Jewish organization to refrain from public criticism of one or another Israeli policy in the belief that it might be harmful to Israel, or because of an understanding of the internal constraints that have

resulted in the formulation of a particular policy. I can understand and commend such responsible behavior and restraint. It is quite another matter, however, to refrain from taking positions for the sake of so-called 'Jewish unity.' A unity that cannot tolerate difference is a unity not worth maintaining."

#### Wishner New AJCommittee President

Richard Moass, AJCommittee president, concluded his three-year term as head of the organization. He was elected today honorary president of the AJCommittee. Maynard Wishner of Chicago, an attorney and financial expert and the immediate past chairman of the AJCommittee's Board of Governors, succeeded Moass as president. Wishner has served the organization in a variety of top leadership posts over the course of many years, including, chairman of the National Executive Council, chairman of the Jewish Communal Affairs Commission, a national vice chairman, and chairman of the Chicago chapter.

#### CATHOLIC BISHOP EXPRESSES SORROW OVER TERRORIST ATTACK IN HEBRON

MONTREAL, May 15 (JTA) — Paul Gregoire, Archbishop of Montreal, the highest ranking Catholic official in Canada, expressed his deep sorrow over the murders of six yeshiva students by Arab terrorists in Hebron on May 2, in a personal letter addressed to Michael Solomon, editor-in-chief of "Regards Sur Israel," a monthly publication of the Canada-Israel Committee.

Solomon, who is also the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's correspondent in Montreal, welcomed the letter which, he said, indicated that the Archbishop shares the sentiments of all friends of Israel. The letter, written in French, said:

"With regard to the tragic events which have struck many of your people in Hebron, I would like to tell you how much I share your pain and that of all friends of Israel. I pray the Lord, together with you, that He should grant peace to that region which is so dear to all of us. Let us hope that beyond hatred and murderous divisions, the people will learn to recognize each other as brothers in mutual respect, comprehension and love. Please accept the expression of my best feelings and my cordial greetings to the readers of 'Regards Sur Israel'."

#### LATE NEWS

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin said today that there was no justification for the Egyptian postponement of the autonomy talks. He described the move as an "extreme turnabout in the Egyptian policy." He said that the Egyptians were merely using the announcement yesterday in Jerusalem that the Knesset had approved a bill declaring united Jerusalem the capital of Israel as an excuse for postponing the talks.

"There was nothing new in this resolution," said Begin. "I myself read a similar statement in the ears of President Sadat when I visited Alexandria last July." Begin added that the autonomy negotiations should continue, but this depends on the positive attitude of all participants. He will meet tomorrow with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis to discuss, among other things, the present crisis in the autonomy talks.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who heads the Israeli committee to the autonomy talks, described the Egyptian on-again-off-again position on the talks as "strange." He added that "this is a sign of instability" and wondered whether it was connected with internal problems or merely a way of exerting pressure on Israel.

## SOCIAL UNREST IN CENTRAL AMERICA POSES THREAT TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- The pattern of revolution and counter-revolution, Marxist terrorist kidnappings and social unrest in Central America poses serious threats to the continued existence of Jewish communities in several countries here. This grave outlook was reported by Sergio Nudelstejer, director of the Mexican office of the American Jewish Committee, at the Committee's 74th annual meeting, which continues through Sunday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here.

Since Jews in Central American countries generally belong to the business and merchant community, they often are considered class enemies along with other business leaders, by Marxist and leftist forces, Nudelstejer said. Similar social and political conditions in many of the Central American countries, moreover, gives rise to a spilling over of revolutionary ferment from one country to another, the AJCommittee official pointed out.

Thus, he continued, although overt anti-Semitism is not very prevalent, the Jews have become victims of the social chaos and political instability in some of these countries, solely because of their class association. As a result, the Jewish community in some of the countries has either left or is in the process of departing.

### Situation In Nicaragua, El Salvador

In Nicaragua, Nudelstejer reported, where the long-time Somoza dictatorship was recently overthrown by the Sandinistas, the entire Jewish community of some 70 families (about 350 people) has vanished from the land. Some Jews suffered from the earthquake which devastated the capital city of Managua some years ago. Others fled during the revolutionary conflict. A few have returned, probably to liquidate their holdings in the country, he reported. Thus, he concluded, in spite of the fact that the Sandinistas have exhibited no anti-Semitism, the Jewish community there has just about ceased to exist.

In El Salvador, Nudelstejer continued, where terrorism and violence are almost daily occurrences and where the rightist government is trying to hold off leftist guerillas, most of the members of the 80 Jewish families have left the country and only about 50 Jews, almost all males, remain.

The kidnapping and murder of a Jewish businessman and Honorary Israeli Consul, Ernesto Liebes, by a group of leftist guerillas, in March 1979 shook the stability of the Jewish community, giving rise to the exodus of many. As a result, though there has been no evidence of overt anti-Semitism by either the revolutionaries or the government, and Jewish synagogues, the Jewish center and the Jewish cemetery have not been harmed, there does not seem to be much of a future for Jews in that country.

### Situation In Other Countries

Similar conditions exist in Guatemala, the AJCommittee official declared, with murder, kidnapping and clashes between guerilla forces and the army rampant. Here too the Jews are targets as bourgeois. There are about 1500 Jews who remain in the country, down by about one-fourth from the previous year.

Nudelstejer stated that in Honduras, which is the poorest of the Central American states and which has about 200 Jews, officials are trying to

prevent revolution by offering to hold free elections. However, he reported, here too the government is beset by political forces from both extremes. Only in Costa Rica (2500 Jews), a country which has traditionally been democratic and stable, and Panama (5000 Jews), where the military are firmly in control, does the Jewish community presently feel secure, he declared.

But the overall unrest in Central America, Nudelstejer continued, has had an effect in Colombia, the northernmost country in South America. In that land, a country with a long and stable democratic tradition, leftist forces have been growing in size, recently seizing the Dominican Republic Embassy in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, for several weeks.

There have been a number of cases of kidnappings by rebels of Jews, who number 15,000 in the country. "Colombia's democratic principles notwithstanding," Nudelstejer stated, "these new threats and uprisings augur ill for the future, and the Jewish community is uncomfortably aware of the social disruption they portend."

## INTERNATIONAL SHCHARANSKY COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS ESTABLISHED

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 15 (JTA) -- The organizers and participants in an international tribunal on the Anatoly Shcharansky case announced here that they will continue their efforts on a permanent basis to gain freedom for the Soviet Jewish activist and for all prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union. Their first move was the establishment of an International Shcharansky Committee for Human Rights. The group is also considering sending a delegation to Moscow.

The committee is chaired by Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and Robert Badinter, a French lawyer. Harry van den Bergh, a Labor member of the Dutch Parliament, is honorary secretary. All had a part in the tribunal which convened here for two days this week under Young's chairmanship and, after a detailed study of the evidence, concluded that the Soviet government was guilty of a grave miscarriage of justice when it sentenced Shcharansky in 1977 to 13 years in prison.

At a press conference here yesterday, Young said the Shcharansky committee can play a role of its own in the struggle for human rights. The American diplomat was critical of the UN Human Rights Commission. "The problem of the United Nations Human Rights Commission is that the governments of the countries represented thereon have a natural inclination to protect each other's interests," he said.

Former Netherlands Prime Minister Johan den Uyl, a Laborite, stressed that while many of those on the committee are "leftwing" like himself and opposed to the Cold War, they also protest when human rights are violated in the Soviet Union. He said the human rights clauses of the Helsinki Final Act, which he himself had signed on behalf of Holland, are still of value but so far they have not been sufficiently implemented. . . .

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A district court judge will rule this Sunday on the validity of an administrative detention order issued by the Defense Minister against Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the ultra-nationalist "Kach" movement. The judge heard the government's case during a five-hour closed door hearing Thursday. Kahane and an aide, Baruch Green, were placed under administrative arrest Wednesday for reportedly trying to organize a counter-terrorist movement against Palestinian Arabs.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW****NEW UJA CHIEF HAS THREE GOALS**

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA)** — Herschel Blumberg, the Washington, D.C. builder soon to be installed as the new national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, has devoted the past few months to a detailed and intimate study of his new bailiwick. He is crisscrossing the country, meeting with lay and professional leaders on the national and local levels, and looking for areas where he can contribute new ideas, new input.

Soft-spoken and a systematic thinker, Blumberg, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, outlined three goals that he will set himself during his chairmanship:

\* **More workers:** "There are lots of people who would want to help — but they just haven't been asked," he said. "Volunteering is indeed part of the way of life in America. But voluntary work for the UJA is often not sufficiently recognized."

He wants to see more "UJA Sabbaths" in local synagogues, when UJA volunteers receive public praise. He wants to see an even greater involvement by rabbis in UJA work. The UJA "Rabbis' Cabinet" has been an unqualified success, he said, but more rabbis need to be drawn into UJA fundraising on the local level. "They are among the most articulate and best-informed people we have," he said.

**Need For Informed Jews**

Synagogues as such, and their membership lists, are not always used as vehicles for conveying the UJA message. "My experience," Blumberg said, "is that a Jew who is informed about the needs will give. But he needs to be informed. And that needs someone to sit with him and to talk to him. For that — we need more people."

\* **More gifts:** The incumbent national chairman, Irving Field, set up a "New Gifts Task Force" which has submitted a long list of recommendations regarding soliciting techniques, Blumberg said. Mail, phone, press advertisements, and the personal approach — they have all been carefully examined in their myriad forms, and conclusions drawn.

Techniques evolving out of the committee's recommendations are presently being tried in three West Coast cities, and Blumberg said he intends to monitor the results carefully.

In Cleveland and Detroit, he noted, some 30 percent of the Jews are registered contributors to the UJA. The average across the country is less than 20 percent, in the big cities it is only around 15 percent. "I am going to go to Detroit and Cleveland, and ask them how they do it," he said.

**Focus On Big Givers**

\* **Focus on big givers:** "That is where the money is," the chairman-designate noted with disarming frankness. He said he intends "to use lay people on the national level more than before to make approaches to potential contributors on their peer level." Some people who themselves make handsome annual contributions would perhaps be ready to give of their time to UJA, too, to encourage others to give. But they have to be asked, Blumberg stressed.

A committee has now been formed to keep tabs on people who are active in the "Young Leadership" echelon and then often tend to drift

away, he noted.

Blumberg spoke above all like the seasoned fundraiser he is. The new system of electing a UJA national chairman, he said, is designed to put the accent on fundraising ability above all other qualities. He is the first chairman to have been nominated by a 10-member committee whose composition (it includes four UJA national vice chairmen) is weighted in favor of fundraisers.

This year's campaign appears to be in good shape so far, with pledges 16.5 percent up on last year, Blumberg reported. He said he hopes that, if he can get many more people directly involved in working for UJA, the UJA will take off from the "plateau" on which it has been for the past several years.

**Settlements Policy Not Affecting UJA Income**

Responding to the recent spate of reports in Israel that U.S. Jewish criticism of the government's settlement policy is affecting UJA income, Blumberg said he has personally not come across a reluctance to give on the grounds of political criticism.

"But I have heard indirectly from other fundraisers that some people say they don't want to give because of the government's policy. When they are spoken to, however, they understand that UJA moneys are used for humanitarian projects, for social work" — and they generally make their contribution in the end.

Blumberg dismissed any talk of real, widespread decline in giving to the UJA. But that does not mean that U.S. Jews all agree with the policies of Israel's government. "You can disagree with the policies and still give for humanitarian needs. Our policy at UJA is not to interfere with the government's policies," Blumberg stated.

**JDC INAUGURATES EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND**

**NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA)** — Participation in a Community Education Program in the Khao I Dang holding center for Cambodian refugees in Thailand was formally inaugurated last month by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) it was announced here by JDC president Donald Robinson. "The JDC," he said, "has received over \$250,000 in donations, primarily from American Jews who wished to help the Cambodian refugees."

Ralph Goldman, JDC executive vice president, noted that the education program in Khao I Dang and other holding centers for Cambodian refugees was developed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as part of that agency's overall program of support for the refugee population. "As a participant in the program, JDC is providing the professional and financial resources necessary for the operation of schools, thus serving a population of 9000 children aged six to eleven."

JDC support, Goldman added, "aids in the training of teachers, provides for educational supplies and materials, contributes to the remuneration of teachers and teachers assistants, encourages the development of secondary and adult education and enhances Cambodian culture."

Goldman, in making the announcement, said that the JDC had secured the services of a project coordinator based in Thailand who is monitoring the activities in the holding centers, and providing liaison between the UNHCR in Bangkok and JDC's New York headquarters. "This will help facilitate the operation of the schools, encourage creative development of the program, and maintain accountability," he said.