

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright reproduction prohibited by law without permission

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

Vol. LVIII -- 63rd Year

Friday, June 6, 1980

No. 108

## ISRAELI RAIDING PARTY HITS TERRORIST TARGETS IN SIDON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA) -- An Israeli raiding party attacked terrorist targets in the port of Sidon in south Lebanon last night and returned safely to its base, an army spokesman announced today. A number of terrorists were killed or wounded in the operation. There were no Israeli casualties.

The spokesman said the raid was carried out within the framework of the preventive action policy intended to forestall terrorist incursions against Israel. The armed forces were placed on special alert today, the 13th anniversary of the start of the Six-Day War, in anticipation of possible terrorist acts on the West Bank, Jerusalem or elsewhere.

Foreign intelligence agencies are said to have warned that the Palestine Liberation Organization and sympathetic terrorist groups such as Germany's Bader-Meinhoff gang and Italy's Red Brigade have planned activities for this day. In Beirut, El Fatah leader Abu Ayyad warned that prominent Israeli personalities have been targeted for attacks in revenge for the bomb attacks on Arab mayors on the West Bank Monday, believed to have been carried out by extremist Jewish groups.

## LEWIS OPTIMISTIC ON AUTONOMY TALKS

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis expressed optimism today that the stalled autonomy talks between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. would resume very shortly. The talks were suspended by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt last month on grounds that Israeli positions were preventing progress. The Israelis insisted that the Egyptian proposals for Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which they have rejected outright, would jeopardize Israel's security.

But the American envoy indicated, during a visit to Haifa today, that the peace process could get underway again within a few days, leading to an early resumption of the autonomy negotiations. He said he based his assumption on new ideas he has conveyed to Israel's chief negotiator, Interior Minister Yosef Burg. Lewis met with Burg this morning but he refused to elaborate on the new ideas before they are presented to Premier Menachem Begin.

Burg met with Begin at noon today, presumably to brief him on his meeting with Lewis. According to some sources, the U.S. has suggested that the autonomy talks be resumed without preconditions by any of the parties. In addition to Burg, the chief negotiators are former Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil of Egypt and U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz. The three men are expected to meet in Washington soon, according to one report. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

## KKK LEADER WINS PRIMARY CONTEST

By Robert Polner

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA) -- The Anti-Déformation League of B'nai B'rith expressed dismay at the victory of Ku Klux Klan leader Tom Metzger in Tuesday's Democratic primary for Cal-

ifornia's 43rd Congressional District, representing San Diego and neighboring counties.

Morris Casato, director of ADL's regional office in San Diego, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "We can only respond with dismay at the fact that so many of our citizens were willing to vote for an avowed bigot who is a leader of an extremist organization with a record of violence."

Metzger received about 35 percent of the vote and easily defeated Edward Skagen, San Diego's Democratic Party chairman, and "unknown" Hubert Higgins, who stopped campaigning in the middle of the race but remained on the ballot. Close to 87,000 people voted in the primary.

Formerly the "grand dragon" and now "state chairman" of California's KKK, Metzger will oppose incumbent Republican Clair Burgener, who is seeking his fifth term. The district is overwhelmingly Republican and Burgener is expected to triumph in November.

## CENTRIST PARTY URGED FOR ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA) -- Elimelech Rimalt, a former close associate of Premier Menachem Begin who he helped establish the Likud coalition, accused him of non-leadership today and urged the formation of a centrist party to confront Likud in the next elections.

Rimalt, a member of Likud's Liberal Party wing and at one time its leader, spoke at a meeting of the Shai faction which defected last year from the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) and left the coalition. "Likud has long ceased to disappoint its voters, it simply causes them to despair," said Rimalt. He charged that the present government is no government, its leadership is no leadership and its policies go round and round in an endless circle.

The result is that the government finds itself in a cul de sac of its own making because it clings to goals that are unattainable in the present national and international situation, Rimalt said. Rimalt, who once stepped aside to allow former Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich to assume leadership of the Liberal Party, stressed that he is still a member of the party. But, he said, he shares with members of Shai the feeling that a strong center party must be established as an alternative for bewildered voters who cannot identify either with Likud or the opposition Labor Alignment.

Unless there is a center, Rimalt warned, the polarization between Likud and Labor would widen and both factions would become hostage to their most extremist elements. He said in that case, many new splinter factions would spring up, each with its own demands, which could put an end to democratic government.

Meanwhile, the small leftist Sheli faction lost one of its members today when Meir Tzaban, its representative in the Histadrut Executive, announced that he was joining Mapam, a partner in the Labor Alignment. Tzaban, who was warmly greeted by Mapam Secretary General Victor Shemtov, said he hoped to work for the rejuvenation of the Labor camp and shift it further to the left.

## SHAKA TRANSFERRED TO JORDAN

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) -- Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus who lost both legs in Monday's

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents Copyright Reserved and may be used in any form

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

Vol. LVIII -- 63rd Year

Friday, June 6, 1980

No. 108

## ISRAELI RAIDING PARTY HITS TERRORIST TARGETS IN SIDON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA) -- An Israeli raiding party attacked terrorist targets in the port of Sidon in south Lebanon last night and returned safely to its base, an army spokesman announced today. A number of terrorists were killed or wounded in the operation. There were no Israeli casualties.

The spokesman said the raid was carried out within the framework of the preventive action policy intended to forestall terrorist incursions against Israel. The armed forces were placed on special alert today, the 13th anniversary of the start of the Six-Day War, in anticipation of possible terrorist acts on the West Bank, Jerusalem or elsewhere.

Foreign intelligence agencies are said to have warned that the Palestine Liberation Organization and sympathetic terrorist groups such as Germany's Bader-Meinhoff gang and Italy's Red Brigade have planned activities for this day. In Beirut, El Fatah leader Abu Ayyad warned that prominent Israeli personalities have been targeted for attacks in revenge for the bomb attacks on Arab mayors on the West Bank Monday, believed to have been carried out by extremist Jewish groups.

## LEWIS OPTIMISTIC ON AUTONOMY TALKS

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis expressed optimism today that the stalled autonomy talks between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. would resume very shortly. The talks were suspended by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt last month on grounds that Israeli positions were preventing progress. The Israelis insisted that the Egyptian proposals for Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which they have rejected outright, would jeopardize Israel's security.

But the American envoy indicated, during a visit to Haifa today, that the peace process could get underway again within a few days, leading to an early resumption of the autonomy negotiations. He said he based his assumption on new ideas he has conveyed to Israel's chief negotiator, Interior Minister Yosef Burg. Lewis met with Burg this morning but he refused to elaborate on the new ideas before they are presented to Premier Menachem Begin.

Burg met with Begin at noon today, presumably to brief him on his meeting with Lewis. According to some sources, the U.S. has suggested that the autonomy talks be resumed without preconditions by any of the parties. In addition to Burg, the chief negotiators are former Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil of Egypt and U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz. The three men are expected to meet in Washington soon, according to one report. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

## KKK LEADER WINS PRIMARY CONTEST

By Robert Polner

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA) -- The Anti-Déformation League of B'nai B'rith expressed dismay at the victory of Ku Klux Klan leader Tom Metzgar in Tuesday's Democratic primary for Cal-

ifornia's 43rd Congressional District, representing San Diego and neighboring counties.

Morris Casato, director of ADL's regional office in San Diego, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "We can only respond with dismay at the fact that so many of our citizens were willing to vote for an avowed bigot who is a leader of an extremist organization with a record of violence."

Metzgar received about 35 percent of the vote and easily defeated Edward Skagen, San Diego's Democratic Party chairman, and "unknown" Hubert Higgins, who stopped campaigning in the middle of the race but remained on the ballot. Close to 87,000 people voted in the primary.

Formerly the "grand dragon" and now "state chairman" of California's KKK, Metzgar will oppose incumbent Republican Clair Burgener, who is seeking his fifth term. The district is overwhelmingly Republican and Burgener is expected to triumph in November.

## CENTRIST PARTY URGED FOR ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA) -- Elimelech Rimalt, a former close associate of Premier Menachem Begin who he helped establish the Likud coalition, accused him of non-leadership today and urged the formation of a centrist party to confront Likud in the next elections.

Rimalt, a member of Likud's Liberal Party wing and at one time its leader, spoke at a meeting of the Shai faction which defected last year from the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) and left the coalition. "Likud has long ceased to disappoint its voters, it simply causes them to despair," said Rimalt. He charged that the present government is no government, its leadership is no leadership and its policies go round and round in an endless circle.

The result is that the government finds itself in a cul de sac of its own making because it clings to goals that are unattainable in the present national and international situation, Rimalt said. Rimalt, who once stepped aside to allow former Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich to assume leadership of the Liberal Party, stressed that he is still a member of the party. But, he said, he shares with members of Shai the feeling that a strong center party must be established as an alternative for bewildered voters who cannot identify either with Likud or the opposition Labor Alignment.

Unless there is a center, Rimalt warned, the polarization between Likud and Labor would widen and both factions would become hostage to their most extremist elements. He said in that case, many new splinter factions would spring up, each with its own demands, which could put an end to democratic government.

Meanwhile, the small leftist Sheli faction lost one of its members today when Meir Tzaban, its representative in the Histadrut Executive, announced that he was joining Mapam, a partner in the Labor Alignment. Tzaban, who was warmly greeted by Mapam Secretary General Victor Shemtov, said he hoped to work for the rejuvenation of the Labor camp and shift it further to the left.

## SHAKA TRANSFERRED TO JORDAN

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) -- Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus who lost both legs in Monday's

bomb attack, was flown to Amman, Jordan for further treatment today after refusing to be treated in an Israeli hospital against possible gangrene. Shaka was taken to the Allenby Bridge early this morning and from there by helicopter to a hospital in Amman. The arrangements were made by the direct orders of Premier Menachem Begin who is Acting Defense Minister.

Earlier, Begin offered to have Shaka admitted to any of Israel's top hospitals for treatment of his wounds, but the West Bank mayor angrily spurned the offer.

Israeli soldiers and police continued for the third successive day to force East Jerusalem Arab merchants to keep their shops open despite a general strike called to protest Monday's bombings. The merchants were threatened with imprisonment if they refused to comply. Heavily armed troops stood guard at their premises to make sure they kept open and to prevent harassment by Palestinian nationalists.

That policy drew protests from two senior members of Begin's Cabinet today. Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich of Likud's Liberal Party wing and Interior Minister Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party maintained that Israel should not interfere in the commercial strike as long as it remained peaceful. But Begin is determined to break the strike in East Jerusalem, if not in the various West Bank towns, and is prepared to force Arab shopkeepers to serve tourists and other visitors.

Israeli troops were visible in unusually large numbers throughout Jerusalem today in anticipation of possible terrorist acts on the 13th anniversary of the Six-Day War.

Meanwhile, Mayor Rashad Shawa of Gaza and Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem met in Gaza today and announced that they will not rescind their resignations tendered earlier this week in protest against the West Bank bombings. They declared that they could not function properly under conditions which they likened to house arrest. They said they were not permitted to talk to the press and were restricted in their actions.

However, both officials hinted that they might be persuaded to return to office if conditions were eased. This seemed to be a signal that they would respond to pressure from Israeli authorities and their own citizens.

#### MUSKIE URGES 'MAXIMUM RESTRAINT'

BY ARABS, ISRAELIS ON WEST BANK

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA) — Secretary of State Edmund Muskie urged "maximum restraint on the West Bank" today as concern mounted here over threats and counter-threats in the aftermath of the bomb attacks against Arab mayors in that territory.

"I strongly appeal to both Arabs and Israelis to exercise maximum restraint on the West Bank," Muskie said in a prepared statement. "Terrorism is unacceptable for any reason by any party. Once begun, the cycle of violence can only lead us away from our fundamental roles. This is a time for cooling down of emotions and for reason to prevail over passion," Muskie said.

His statement was read to the media by the State Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, who said it was "precipitated by the physical events of the last few days and now the threats and counter-threats."

Asked if the statement applied to all Arabs or to the West Bank Arabs alone, implying that it

might include the recent resolution by El Fatah to increase its military operations against Israel, Carter replied, "We're talking in this case about those who live on the West Bank. But the loose designation covers everybody — those who may be tempted to live on the West Bank or whether they live there or not."

Asked whether the violence on the West Bank would upset the autonomy talks, the State Department spokesman replied, "This entire cycle of violence and deaths by assassination of settlers or maiming of others there" makes the quest for solution of the West Bank problem "more difficult."

Referring to other developments, Carter said the U.S. is "worried" about developments in south Lebanon. He referred to Israel's raid on Sidon last night and "the latest of the heavy artillery exchanges" in south Lebanon. He said he did not know whose artillery was engaged. However, he spoke of "growing tension" there and said "we're worried about these apparent trends."

#### MOISHE RUBENSTEIN DEAD AT 74

MEXICO CITY, June 5 (JTA) — Moishe Rubenstein, for many years editor of the Jewish Voice, a Yiddish newspaper, died here at the age of 74 after suffering a stroke. He was buried in Mexico City.

Rubenstein wrote a regular column for the Jewish Voice for some 40 years. Born in Gaidro, Lithuania, where he started his literary career, he came to Mexico 50 years ago. He also served as a correspondent for the Jewish Daily Forward, the New York Yiddish paper, Lezte Neies in Tel Aviv, and Die Presse in Buenos Aires. During the past two years, he served as executive director of the Ashkenazic Kehilla Nidche Israel. He published several novels in Yiddish.

#### CANADA GETS FIRST WOMAN RABBI

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, June 5 (JTA) — Joan Friedman, 27, of Marblehead, Mass. has been appointed assistant rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple here, the first woman rabbi in Canada. Rabbi Friedman was ordained June 1 in graduation ceremonies in New York City of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Richard Lorie, president of the synagogue, said Rabbi Friedman will begin her duties at Holy Blossom next month.

Rabbi Harvey J. Fields, Holy Blossom's senior rabbi, commented that women comprise about 20 percent of the rabbinical students at the HUC-JIR and about 35 percent of the students at the Reform cantorial school. He said women are "emerging into the Reform rabbinate and cantorate as competent, compassionate and knowledgeable Jewish teachers."

#### CORRECTION

The Daily News Bulletin of June 5 reported erroneously that Israeli police arrested Yossi Dayan, an aide to Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the ultra-nationalist "Kach" group. The arrest was reported by Israel Radio which later retracted the report.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — President Yitzhak Navon presented Wednesday night the Israeli Soccer Cup to Hapoel Kfar Saba after it defeated Maccabi Ramat Amidar 4-1. Kfar Saba, a town in the middle of the citrus region, celebrated until early Thursday morning.

## CONGRESSMEN APPEAL TO BREZHNEV FOR 2 JEWS FACING DEATH PENALTY

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA) — Twenty-four members of Congress sent cables yesterday to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on behalf of two Jews who may be executed this week for "economic crimes," according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

Rafael Adzhahisvili, 49, from Tbilisi, and Mamed Abasov from Baku were sentenced to death in August 1978 for the alleged stealing of factory surplus textile for resale.

The NCSJ, which is urging public officials to send off appeals immediately, has received rumors that the men may already be dead, according to a spokesperson, but these are unconfirmed. "We're going on the assumption that they're still alive," the spokesperson said.

Among those sending appeals were: Sens. Robert Dole (R., Kans.), Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.) and Carl Levin (D., Mich.), and Reps. Stephen Solarz (D., N.Y.), Edward Stack (D., Fla.), Richard Ottinger (D., N.Y.) and Henry Waxman (D., Calif.).

The sentenced men went on trial with 53 co-defendants — all but eight were Jewish. Although the prosecutor asked for sentences of 10-15 years for all of the defendants, four received death verdicts. Two of the four condemned Jews, Gabriel Seplashvili and Ilya Mikhailshvili, had their sentences commuted to 15 years in jail after appealing to the Supreme Soviet in the USSR.

## OUSTED ARAB MAYORS APPEAR AT TUMULTUOUS SESSION AT TEMPLE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA) — Under massive police protection, two Arab mayors deported from the West Bank after the terrorist ambush killing of six yeshiva students in Hebron last month, supported Palestine Liberation Organization terms for a Middle East peace at a tumultuous two-hour meeting held at Temple Sinai here last night. The mayors, Fahed Kawasme, of Hebron and Mohammed Milhim of Halhoul, are visiting the U.S. as part of their campaign to be allowed to return to their towns and a general attack on Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

Police ejected five persons from the temple after they denounced the speakers and the sponsors of the meeting. Police directed Zionist demonstrators outside the temple to lower their placards which read, "Hebron is Jewish." A smoke bomb was placed inside the temple by unknown persons. Later, the Jewish Defense League took responsibility.

Kawasme and Milhim were asked, in the course of the meeting, whether they approved of PLO terrorists killing Israeli children and civilians. When Milhim contended that 99 percent of the children are killed by Israeli bullets, the hall erupted with protests. Kawasme acknowledged in reply to other questions, that 22 Palestinians were executed while the West Bank was under Jordanian rule before 1967.

Rabbi Albert Axelrod, of Brandeis University, who was also on the speakers' platform and referred to the mayors as "my cousins," suggested that they denounce the PLO. "You could be agents of peace" in taking that position, he told them. Also on the platform was Hayim Baram, identified as an Israeli opposed to the policies of Premier Menachem Begin's government. Milton Viorst, a political writer who was a leader of the

New Outlook magazine's seminar here last October critical of Israeli government policies, chaired the proceedings. Ten men wearing Arab headdress were reportedly in the temple but took no part in the meeting.

Marcus Laster, Temple Sinai's executive director, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "Temple Sinai did not sponsor the function." He said it was sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee for Middle East Dialogue. Laster said "It is the continuing policy of the congregation to allow open discussion" at the temple. Asked if the JDL or the Gush Emunim could use its facilities for a meeting, he said that would be up to the Rabbi, Eugene Lipman, the congregation and its president, D. Stephen Mayer. Laster said that advance information on the Arab mayors' appearance was misleading in that it could have been interpreted that the meeting was sponsored by the temple.

## Groups Denounce Meeting

Meanwhile, five Jewish organizations which support Jewish settlement on the West Bank issued a statement declaring that they "denounce in strongest possible terms the use of a Jewish institution, Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of providing a forum for these sworn enemies of Israel who are dedicated to its destruction."

The statement called on "every Jew and non-Jew concerned about the future existence of the Jewish State to expose and boycott any and all activities on behalf of Arab representatives who seek to influence public opinion while supporting the modus operandi of murder and terror by the PLO whose sole purpose is the liquidation of Israel."

The organizations are the Jewish Identity Center; Committee for Israel Rights (Cfir); the Aliya Movement Dedicated to the Settlement of the Land of Israel; the Emunah Women; and the Poale Aguda Israel.

## SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNS ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 5 (JTA) — The Security Council adopted late this afternoon a resolution condemning "the assassination attempts on the lives of the mayors of Nabulus, Ramallah and El Bireh," and calling "for the immediate apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrators of these crimes." The vote was 14-0 with the United States abstaining.

The resolution also expressed concern that Israel "has failed to provide adequate protection to the civilian population in the occupied territories," and called "upon the government of Israel to provide the victims with adequate compensation for the damages suffered as a result of these crimes." The resolution called on all states not to provide Israel with any aid to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories.

The abstention by the U.S. came after Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron, earlier today asked Vice President Walter Mondale and Secretary of State Edmund Muskie for a veto. Evron made the request at a White House luncheon given by Mondale for visiting Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem.

Prior to the vote, Yehuda Blum, Israeli Ambassador to the UN, said that so long as the identity of those who committed the bombings on the West Bank is unknown it is "incumbent on the Security Council to refrain from giving rein to suspicions and from casting blame. When the criminals are apprehended, they will be put on trial to answer for their crimes."

### AJPA MEETS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK: PRESS CONFERENCE WITH CARTER, BRIEFINGS BY OTHER OFFICIALS ON 3-DAY SCHEDULE

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA) — The American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) will hold its 38th annual meeting here beginning next Wednesday, June 11, to be attended by the editors and publishers of some 75 English-language Jewish weekly, bi-weekly and monthly community newspapers published in the United States and Canada.

A highlight of the three-day gathering will be a three-hour briefing at the White House for the AJPA members, to be followed by a press conference with President Carter, Frank F. Wundohl, editor of the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia, who is president of the AJPA, announced today. He said the briefing by Administration spokesmen will cover the current status of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and progress in the Egyptian-Israeli autonomy talks.

The delegates will attend a Congressional reception on Capitol Hill Wednesday evening at which leading members of the Senate and House have been invited together with legislators from the home districts of many of the publications, Wundohl said. At the Thursday morning session, the members will be briefed by Zvi Brosh, information officer at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, Dan Paitir, press counselor to Premier Menachem Begin, Morris Amitay, executive director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee and Richard Schifter, president of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. B'nai B'rith International president Jack Spitzer will address the Thursday luncheon session.

#### Evron To Give Keynote Address

On Thursday evening, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron, will deliver the keynote address. The AJPA will present its "Golda Meir Award" to author, journalist and lecturer Robert St. John in recognition of his long support of Israel and "unceasing, unselfish and untiring efforts on behalf of the survival of the Jewish State," Wundohl said.

Friday's session will be devoted to AJPA business. But Dan Leon, head of the World Zionist Organization's press division, is expected to address the breakfast session and Dr. Howard Lenhoff, president of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, will discuss the plight of the Fatshas and rescue efforts on their behalf at the luncheon session. Yehuda Dominitz, director of the Jewish Agency's immigration department will also speak.

A panel discussion on the Middle East and other world trouble spots will follow the final dinner Friday night. Joseph Polakoff, Washington Bureau Chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, will anchor the session. Participants will include Barry Schweid, of the Associated Press, I.L. Kenen, editor emeritus of The Middle East Report, Wolf Blitzer, Washington correspondent of the Jerusalem Post and other Israeli journalists.

#### BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY MARKS 25TH YEAR

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA) — The Silver Jubilee of Bar-Ilan University in Israel was marked last night by 500 persons at a dinner and convocation in the Pierre Hotel featuring the inauguration of a Choir in The Jerusalem Talmud in honor of Prof. Saul Lieberman of New York, rector of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Dr. Emanuel Rackman, president of Bar-

Ilan, praised Lieberman as "one of the great Talmudic scholars of our age." Lieberman, 82, is a trustee of Bar-Ilan and the recipient of honorary degrees from Harvard University and from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, of which he is an alumnus. Mrs. Jane Stern of New York, president of the university's American Board of Overseers, chaired the dinner.

Mrs. Ofra Navon, the wife of Israel's President, presented Israel's Lapid Prize for Adult Education to the Brookdale Foundation for developing "an innovative program at Bar-Ilan University that is opening the gates of education to retired persons and encouraging inter-generational communication within the university environment." Mrs. Navon, herself an expert in the field of adult education, made the presentation in behalf of the Israeli National Association for Adult Education.

#### GINZBURG URGES NEED TO WIN RELEASE OF LENINGRAD 'HIJACKING' PRISONERS

By Rochelle Saidel Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., June 5 (JTA) — Former Soviet dissident Alexander Ginzburg came here this week to remind the New York State legislators that 10 years after the Leningrad hijacking trials in the Soviet Union, there are still three men imprisoned for the "crime."

"Today, the only hope for their release lies on your behalf," Ginzburg, speaking in Russian through an interpreter, told about 150 people, including some 30 legislators. He spoke at the invitation of Sen. Manfred Ohrenstein (D-Manhattan), to encourage the passage of a resolution urging Gov. Hugh Carey "to designate June 1980 'A Month of Conscience' to remember Soviet citizens denied the right to emigrate and urge our fellow citizens and legislators to call upon our President to intercede on their behalf."

Ginzburg, a human rights activist in the USSR for 20 years, was released from a Soviet labor camp on April 27, 1979, along with four other political prisoners, in exchange for two convicted Russian spies held in an American prison. He devoted most of his speaking time to the plight of other dissidents still in Soviet prisons.

Yuri Federov and Alexei Murzhenko, two of the three men still being held for the alleged attempt to hijack a plane to Israel 10 years ago, were Ginzburg's bunkmates in a Mordovian prison camp, he said. Federov, a practicing Russian Orthodox Christian, has been punished for insisting on wearing a cross in the camp. Murzhenko, also a Christian, has been in and out of prison for his political activities which culminated with the alleged hijacking effort.

The third prisoner, Iosif Mendelovich, a Jew, has persisted in strict observance of Jewish law at the camp, despite additional hardship and suffering imposed on him, according to reports.

Ginzburg also discussed human rights activist Ida Nudel, now in exile in Siberia, and imprisoned Anatoly Schcharansky and Vladimir Stepak, members of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, a citizens' organization committed to monitoring the Soviet Union's adherence to the humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Accords.

"I cannot rest until my friends are at liberty," he said. "I myself was torn out of prison by American public opinion. Today the only hope for my friends' liberation lies in your support of their behalf."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An American delegation is due in Israel at the beginning of next month to discuss details of the oil agreement between the two countries.