

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL ACCEPTS EGYPT'S EXPLANATION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF AUTONOMY TALKS

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA)** — Israeli officials have accepted at face value Egypt's explanation of why it requested a postponement of the autonomy talks until next week. The negotiations, suspended since May 8, were to have been resumed in Cairo on Thursday according to the agreement reached in Washington last week between the chief negotiators of Israel, Egypt and the U.S.

The first order of business is to be the establishment of a subcommittee on legal affairs headed by Israeli Minister of Justice Shmuel Tamir and Egyptian Minister of State Butros Ghali. But Egypt informed Israel and the U.S. over the weekend that Ghali would be unable to attend the sessions beginning July 10 for technical reasons. The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that the talks would be resumed in Cairo early next week.

Officials here took their cue from Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir who is not questioning Egypt's explanation. Nevertheless, there is a strong feeling among the Israeli negotiators that Egypt is dragging its feet in the autonomy negotiations with a view to prolonging them until the American Presidential elections next November. According to these officials, Cairo's unhurried approach is in contrast to the U.S. desire to move the talks ahead at a faster pace in order to achieve some tangible progress toward an agreement by Election Day.

Against that background, Israeli officials do not see Egypt resorting to so simple a play as postponing the resumption date of the autonomy talks by a few days when Cairo is capable of more subtle and sophisticated methods to slow down the talks.

## ANDERSON, IN ISRAEL, REITERATES HIS POSITION ON THE PLO

By Yitzhak Shargil

**TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA)** — John Anderson, the independent candidate for President of the United States, arrived in Israel today for a four-day visit, his first stop on a five-nation tour which will also take him to Egypt, France, West Germany and Britain.

The Republican Congressman from Illinois was received with the protocol reserved for a possible future head of state. He was greeted at Ben Gurion Airport by Deputy Knesset Speaker Moshe Miron and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. In a prepared statement to reporters at the airport, he said:

"I have said consistently during the course of my campaign that it would continue to be my position that until the Palestine Liberation Organization has fully accepted two very important conditions — one is a total denunciation of the use of terror as a means of achieving political gains and the other is that it recognize Israel's right to exist in secure and recognized borders — there will be no recognition or any contact by the American government with it."

Anderson also said that he would favor "as a final act of the peace process, the U.S. government, our government, recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move our Embassy there."

Anderson and his party left the airport directly for Jerusalem. On his agenda are meetings with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and other government officials as well as leaders of the opposition, including Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party. He is also scheduled to meet with former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, now an independent MK. He may visit Premier Menachem Begin in Hodassah Hospital.

He will visit an Air Force base in Sinai which Israel is to evacuate at the completion of its withdrawal from the peninsula next year. He will tour Jerusalem and visit the West Bank by air. He will leave Israel on Friday for a two-day visit to Cairo.

## ISRAEL ASKS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM WASHINGTON REGARDING MUSKIE'S REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE PLO

By David Landau (Jerusalem) and Joseph Polakoff (Washington)

**July 8 (JTA)** — The American Embassy in Tel Aviv moved quickly today to dampen a burgeoning row between Israel and the U.S., triggered by a Jewish Telegraphic Agency report yesterday of Secretary of State Edmund Muskie's reply to a question about the Palestine Liberation Organization at a meeting of the Foreign Policy Association in New York.

The Israeli government has urgently requested "clarification" from Washington on the basis of the report which quoted Muskie as stating that the U.S. would have to recognize the PLO at some point. The Embassy released the full text of Muskie's remarks at the question-and-answer session purporting to show that the Secretary did not make the statement attributed to him.

(The State Department's chief spokesman, John Trottner, said in reply to questions in Washington today that Muskie "did not mention the PLO in answer to the question.")

The question, put by Time magazine editor-in-chief Henry Grunwald, was: "Has anything changed in the (Mideast) situation since the visit of King Hussein to Washington and are we closer to recognizing, or feeling the need to recognize, the PLO?"

Muskie began his reply, according to the text released by the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, by saying, "What we must do at some point of course is to broaden the negotiating base to include representatives of the Palestinian people and the other countries in the area. For the moment, that broadening does not seem possible."

## Usual Qualification Absent

But, according to the transcript obtained by the JTA in Washington, Muskie said: "Perhaps we must do it at some point, of course, to broaden the negotiating base to include representatives of the Palestinian people in the other countries of the area. For the moment, that broadening does not seem to be possible."

The Embassy transcript did show, however, that Muskie did not offer the qualification invoked by previous Secretaries of State in response to similar questions — that the PLO must first recognize Israel's right to exist and accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

U.S. diplomats in Tel Aviv observed in that connection that had the Secretary intended to introduce a major change in U.S. policy (toward the PLO) he would hardly have done so by an act of omission in a rambling and discursive statement of this kind.

In the course of his lengthy reply, Muskie defended the Camp David process from "complaints from Arab countries, the left and right, from our European friends and others that we are not getting anywhere." He stressed that "this is the only process that has gotten anywhere."

He spoke of the tough nature of the issues being dealt with in the autonomy talks and observed that "If the parties manage to press that process to an agreement, then the challenge will be to broaden the negotiating base to bring in others." But, he added, "I think we are going to have to achieve something more by way of an agreement, especially with respect to autonomy, before we have any prospect of broadening the base."

### U.S. Sees No Broadening Now

(Commenting on that matter at the State Department today, Tattner said "For the moment" he saw no broadening. Replying to a question about including representatives of the Palestinian people in the process, he said whether it "will include people you describe would depend in large part on the attitude of the PLO on Israel's right to exist and Security Council Resolution 242."

(Asked if "representatives of the Palestinian people" was Muskie's way of saying the PLO, Tattner replied, "not necessarily." He said Muskie's response yesterday "meets the standard and criteria" of what the State Department has been saying with relation to what Muskie hopes may develop. "But at the moment it is not a possibility.")

### CONTROVERSIAL BILL ON JERUSALEM

#### WILL NOT BE RUSHED THROUGH KNESSET

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Mordechai said today that the controversial bill affirming united Jerusalem as Israel's capital will not be rushed through the Knesset unless the government declares that it is urgent. The Cabinet on Sunday did not go along with a demand by Transport Minister Haim Landau that it will support the bill.

Geula Cohen, of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction, who introduced the private member bill as an amendment to Israel's Basic Law, met with Mordechai today to urge him not to delay the legislative process. The bill was sent to the Knesset June 30 by its Legal Committee and officially reached the chamber today.

According to Cohen, Mordechai said he would do nothing to delay nor speed up the bill. He said if the government did not indicate the bill was urgent "it would take its place in the queue" for a first reading.

The government is reportedly eager to bury the bill. The only member of the governing coalition supporting it is the National Religious Party. The Knesset is due to take its summer recess at the end of the month and not return until October.

### NEW MASTER PLAN FOR JERUSALEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem District Planning Commission has approved a new

master plan for the city which includes the building of a new Jewish neighborhood in the northern part of the city made up of 11,000 dwelling units.

The master plan, the first since 1967, sets binding guidelines for planning and building in Jerusalem. City and government officials stress that the approval by the commission, the senior planning body for the capital, was not timed to coincide with the present international dispute over Jerusalem's future.

The new plan will allow the requisition of Arab-owned land for the new neighborhood, to be located between French Hill and Neve Yaacov and tentatively named "South Neve Yaacov." Up to now land in this area has been frozen because of the lack of a legal master plan. The new neighborhood will be the largest built since 1967.

The major features that have governed planning and building in Jerusalem since 1967 are maintained in the new master plan. The Old City will continue to be the focal point, not to be overshadowed by any nearby buildings higher than the wall that surrounds it. In the outlying neighborhoods, buildings will have to blend, as much as possible, with the topography. The rule in effect since the British Mandate that all buildings, except industrial buildings, must be set in Jerusalem stone will continue.

District Commissioner Rafi Levi, who is also a senior Interior Ministry official, said the new plan will benefit all Jerusalem residents -- Jews, Moslems and Christians. The master plan envisions a city of some 650,000 persons within two decades, with the present proportion of 72 percent Jews maintained. Levi stressed the plan would allow "orderly growth and enable landowners to exercise their building rights."

The master plan has already been approved by the Jerusalem municipality's Planning Authority. It will now be open to public inspection and anyone affected can appeal against relevant sections. Final approval is expected within a year, after which it will become the legal framework for all building, landscaping, roadwork and other construction in the capital.

### SUSPECTED KIDNAP KILLER IDENTIFIED

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- The suspected kidnap killer of eight-year-old Oran Yarden has been identified by police as Izvi Gur -- formerly Gurewitz -- of Netanya. He was arrested last month after part of the IL 2 million ransom money was found in his possession but his identity was withheld. Subsequently he directed police to a spot where the remains of the child were found buried in sand dunes. The kidnapping occurred on June 8.

Gur, 33, was described as coming from a good family but was himself a high school drop-out who never held a steady job. Recently he made a living as an illustrator. His elder brother is an architect and his sister and younger brother, ironically, are employed by the police as a legal advisor and photographer respectively. Gur will face a preliminary hearing in court on Sept. 1, after the summer recess.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Bantam Books, a New York publisher, has signed former Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman to a contract for a book on the political and military situation in the Middle East and its effects on Israel from 1977 to the present.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Long-term refusniks Peter Balshem of Tashkent and Lev Talionker of Moscow have received exit visas, it was reported here.

## 68 SENATORS URGE CARTER TO REJECT SAUDI REQUEST FOR IMPROVING F-15s

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- President Carter was urged today by more than two-thirds of the members of the Senate to turn down Saudi Arabia's request for increases in the range and offensive capabilities of the 60 F-15 warplanes it has purchased for delivery starting next month.

A letter signed by 68 Senators from 42 States pointed to Defense Secretary Harold Brown's assurances in writing to the Congress in 1978 when the Saudi order for the interceptors was being approved despite strong protests that Israel would be menaced by the aircraft that would upset the Arab-Israeli power balance.

At that time Brown wrote: "Saudi Arabia has not requested nor do we intend to sell any other systems or armaments that could increase range or enhance the ground attack capability of the F-15."

### Basis For Opposition

In registering their opposition to the Saudis' requested improvements, the Senators wrote the President, "We feel the sale of additional military equipment which would increase the range or otherwise enhance the capability of the F-15s sold to Saudi Arabia would not be consistent with the above (Brown's) assurances and undertakings given to the U.S. Congress. We therefore urge you to reject any such request by Saudi Arabia for the sale of additional weapons and equipment as reported in the press."

The Saudis reportedly had asked to buy special fuel tanks, airborne radar systems, aerial refueling equipment, extra bomb racks and missiles. These improvements would extend the range of the F-15s from 450 to 1000 miles, thus putting the aircraft within striking distance of any part of Israel.

Senate sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the letter of protest originated with a "dear colleague" missive started by Sens. Jacob Javits (R.N.Y.), Frank Church (D.Idaho) and Richard Stone (D.Fla.), but quickly grew to 14 signers and then to 68 members before delivery to the President. Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (R.Tenn.), who approved the sale to the Saudis in 1978, was among the 29 of 41 Republican Senators who signed the letter and spoke out against the sale in the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D.W.Va.) was not among the 39 Democrats of the 51 in the Senate who joined in the written protest. Byrd also spoke out in the Senate against the sale, but according to Senate sources, he declined to sign the letter because it did not suggest possible approval of the request could come at a later date.

The first Republican to sign the letter after Javits was Indiana Senator Richard Lugar, who like Baker, is being mentioned as a Republican Vice Presidential candidate.

### Administration Decision Pending

Meanwhile, the Carter Administration continued to indicate that it has not decided whether to send the Saudi request to Congress for approval. In light of the Senators' letter, it appeared that the request would at least be postponed until after the new Congress meets in January.

At the State Department, chief spokesman John Trattner said today the Administration views the Saudi request in its "long standing supply relationship." He said he did not believe the Saudis

have been pressing for a deadline for a decision. "Trattner said the Department 'will continue to study the request' and 'no decision is imminent.'"

The Saudis "understand," he said that "any future decision will be preceded by consultations with the Congress."

## JEWISH GROUPS RAP 'WHOLLY MOSES' AS A WHOLLY 'VICIOUS' FILM

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- Five national Orthodox Jewish organizations, representing more than 2000 Orthodox rabbis in the United States and Canada, have denounced the film, "Wholly Moses" as "the most vicious attack ever on the Jewish religion in the history of the American movie industry." This film, according to its distributors, Columbia Pictures, Inc., is now showing in more than 600 theaters throughout the United States and Canada.

Speaking for the coalition of the five organizations, Rabbi Abraham Hecht, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, declared that "this savage mockery of our God, our Bible, including the Ten Commandments, and our prophet and teacher, Moses, is comparable to events that occurred in Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. This blasphemous and sacrilegious film is also a gross offense to our Christian neighbors as the Old Testament is of course revered by them as well."

Hecht added: "By ridiculing the divine origin of the Ten Commandments, and insultingly parodying God himself, the film undermines the very foundation on which our western system of justice, morality and ethical conduct is based."

Hecht also observed that this movie has a rating which allows children of all ages to see it without restriction. He said "it is a sad commentary on the spiritual and social level of our society when these most deeply-held and treasured beliefs and feelings of the Jewish people or of any faith can be publicly blasphemed and held up to derision and ridicule."

The participating organizations are the Rabbinical Alliance of America, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, the Rabbinical Council of the Syrian and Near Eastern Sephardic Jewish community in America, the Central Rabbinical Congress, and the National Committee for the Furtherance of Jewish Education.

## CHANAN YARDEN DEAD AT 85

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held recently in Jerusalem for Chanan Yarden, a lifelong Jewish National Fund activist. He was 85 years old. Yarden was the man who convinced Albert Einstein to appear before the Jews of Philadelphia in 1936 to speak about the importance of land purchase in Palestine. Einstein's appearance then opened new horizons in fundraising for the JNF. Yarden devoted his life to fundraising in the U.S. and for development and reclamation of land in Israel by the JNF. He immigrated to Israel in 1952, and became a member of the JNF's executive, in which he served until his retirement in 1960.

ROTTERDAM (JTA) -- The Rotterdam District Court is due to hand down its verdict Wednesday in the second trial of Pieter Menten, the 80-year-old Dutch-born art dealer who served with the Nazi SS during World War II.

**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ACCUSES****MAN OF WAR CRIMES IN THE UKRAINE**

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) — Deportation could be the final step for a 71-year-old man who "actively participated in beatings and executions of unnamed Jewish civilians" in the Ukraine during World War II, according to federal authorities. The allegations were made against Michael Derkacz by the Justice Department in Federal District Court in Brooklyn as it began a civil suit to revoke his citizenship.

Derkacz, a retired window washer from Queens, NY, became a naturalized American citizen five years after he entered the United States in 1949 by having "willfully misrepresented and concealed his service" in the Ukrainian police unit, the Justice Department charged. Deportation to the Soviet Union, where Derkacz' alleged crimes occurred, is a possibility if the proceedings to strip him of his U.S. citizenship are successful.

Allan Ryan, Jr., director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigation currently investigating about 300 suspected war criminals, reported that the Derkacz case is the 10th in which this special unit has tried to revoke the citizenship of a war criminal.

When reached at his home, Derkacz called the Justice Department's allegations "an honest-to-God lie" and claimed that he "protected the people (Jews) from the Germans." Derkacz said he plans to fight the government's denaturalization proceedings. When pressed as to why he never mentioned to American consular officials in West Germany that he had served as a policeman in the Ukraine, Derkacz said, "nobody asked me."

**CANADA ASKED TO TRY TO BLOCK  
POLITIZATION OF WOMEN'S CONCLAVE**

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, July 8 (JTA) — Six major Canadian women's organizations — five of them Jewish — have urged the government to try to block the politization of the United Nations Decade for Women Conference opening in Copenhagen this month which is due to introduce the Arab-Israeli conflict on the agenda. A delegation representing the organizations met with Mark MacGuigan, the Minister of External Affairs, to apprise him of their concern.

Dorothy Reitman, vice president of the International Council of Jewish Women, who headed the delegation, expressed satisfaction afterwards with MacGuigan's "clearly sympathetic" response. Reitman, who is also an officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress, drew the Minister's attention to a 66-page document officially approved for the conference agenda which covers the "plight" of Palestinian women in Israel and the territories occupied by Israel.

The document is "a blatant attempt to skewer Israel politically," Reitman said, noting that over half of the text does not address women's issues at all. "Rather it presents a distorted historical account of the Arab-Israel conflict and never refers to Israel as other than a 'Zionist entity,'" she said.

According to Reitman, MacGuigan promised that his Ministry would be "monitoring all resolutions very closely." He said each resolution would be examined for its political implications and he spoke of his own concerns over the political orientation and extraneous discussion which seem to afflict so many United Nations-sponsored conferences, she reported.

The organizations represented by the delega-

tion were ORT, Hadassah-WIZO of Canada, National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Pioneer Women of Canada, and "Match," which is concerned with Third World needs.

**STORY OF THE HOLOCAUST TO BE  
PRESENTED BY WIESENTHAL CENTER**

LOS ANGELES, July 8 (JTA) — The Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies of Yeshiva University in Los Angeles will present a multi-media production titled "Genocide," making use of slides, film clips and sound to tell the story of the Holocaust in terms of those who perished and those who survived, it was announced today by Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Center and Yeshiva University here.

Budgeted at \$3 million and employing the most advanced audio-visual equipment and a 40 by 23 foot screen, the production is designed for presentation in theaters and other facilities throughout the country. It is scheduled to Premier on the East and West coasts in the late fall of this year, Hier said. Arnold Schwartzman, one of Britain's leading graphics designers, will produce and direct the 90-minute presentation, based on a script by Martin Gilbert, biographer of Sir Winston Churchill. Elizabeth Taylor and Orson Welles have donated their time to serve as narrators.

Taylor will narrate 13 personal stories of heroism and suffering. Welles will present the historical background of the Holocaust which took the lives of six million Jews and five million non-Jews. Wiesenthal, who heads the Nazi war crimes documentation center in Vienna, will introduce the production. Original music will be scored by Elmer Bernstein.

Hier said the material for the production was gathered by Schwartzman and his associates during 15 months of research in Eastern and Western Europe and Israel. Much of the film footage and stills have never been seen, Hier said.

**FIRST JEWISH POLICEWOMAN IN TORONTO**

TORONTO, July 8 (JTA) — The Toronto police force has its first Jewish policewoman: Ruth Mendelsohn, a native of Vegreville, Alberta and a nurse by profession, was sworn in as an officer. She joined the police department two years ago as a civilian radio dispatcher.

Mendelsohn is a nursing graduate of the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. She was on the staff of Branson Hospital in Toronto and also worked for private physicians and insurance companies. The oath was administered by Judge Philip Givens, chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Commission and national president of the Canadian Zionist Federation. (By Ben Kayfetz)

HONOLULU (JTA) — Hawaii's Jewish voters will be allowed to cast absentee ballots in the State's primary elections which will be held on September 20, Yom Kippur. Lt. Gov. Jean King said in a letter to the Hawaii Jewish Welfare Fund that she and her staff are now working on a plan for the absentee voting, the Hawaii Jewish News reported. King said the problem was brought to her attention by Barbara Fischlowitz. She said her office is drafting a special announcement which will outline the procedures to be followed by those seeking absentee ballots.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Egypt is conducting large-scale military exercises in Sinai after giving Israel advance notice, it was reported Tuesday.