

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BLUM TERMS THE UN ASSEMBLY SESSION ON THE PALESTINIANS THE 'CLIMAX OF A GROTESQUE FARCE'

By Yitzhak Rabi

**UNITED NATIONS, July 21 (JTA) --** Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum, declared today that the emergency session of the UN General Assembly which opens here tomorrow, to discuss Palestinian rights is the climax of "a grotesque farce" that has been in preparation for at least two years.

Addressing a press conference here on the eve of the session, he charged that the meeting is "illegal" and clearly "in violation of the rules of procedure of the UN" and therefore, any resolution emanating from the emergency session will be illegal as well. Israel had engaged in a vain, last-minute effort in major world capitals to forestall the session. But a majority of the member nations canvassed by the Secretary General supported it. The U.S. remained opposed.

A working paper in preparation for the upcoming debate calls on Israel "to completely withdraw its forces from all the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem" and urges that such withdrawal begin no later than Nov. 15, 1980. The working paper is a prelude to a draft resolution.

Says Session Was Planned In Havana

Blum pointed out that the "emergency" of the meeting is a "protracted emergency" that was planned in Havana last year at the meeting there of the non-aligned countries. According to the plan, the Security Council was called into session in April for the specific purpose of drawing a U.S. veto of a resolution endorsing Palestinian statehood. On that pretext, the General Assembly has been called into emergency session, Blum explained.

He emphasized that the "emergency" meeting was not called forthwith but was planned to be held almost three months after the Security Council veto. The Israeli envoy explained further that the illegality of the emergency session, from the formal point of view, is technical since the April Security Council meeting did not fulfill the essential prerequisite for an emergency as defined by the UN Charter.

He noted that the Charter says that an emergency meeting can be called only after the Security Council has debated an issue under the terms of Chapter 7 of the Charter dealing with a breach of peace and sustains a veto. The April meeting of the Security Council did not meet these conditions, Blum said, since the issue under debate was Palestinian rights, a subject not covered by Chapter 7 of the Charter. Therefore, Blum declared, there is no emergency.

He said that Israel will not attend the opening session of the debate tomorrow because of Tisha B'av, the Jewish day of mourning. It will attend the Wednesday session when Blum said he will explain to the General Assembly why its meeting is not legal.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Labor Committee (JLC) in a wire today to President Carter, asked him to "totally reject the specious and obvious

attempt by some nations to circumvent the Camp David process" at the General Assembly session. The wire, signed by JLC president Don Slaiman, called on Carter to instruct the U.S. Ambassador, Donald McHenry "to totally reject" instead of abstain on any resolution emerging from the session.

## SIX ISRAELIS KILLED WHILE TESTING EXPLOSIVES; PROBE TO BE LAUNCHED

By Yitzhak Shargil

**TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA) --** Six civilian employees of the Israel Military Industry were killed last night when explosives they were preparing to test detonated, a military spokesman announced today. The names of the victims were not immediately released.

Security sources determined that the blast was definitely accidental and that no terrorist activity was involved. Nevertheless, Yosef Mayan, Director General of the Defense Ministry, has appointed a special committee to investigate the accident, headed by Dr. Ben Zion Naveh, director of the Arms Development Authority.

The explosion occurred at an arms plant located in an isolated area of central Israel far from any population center. Police closed off the area while the investigation was underway. No other casualties or damage was reported in the vicinity.

## ISRAELIS UPSET OVER WRESTLING FEDERATION ACCEPTING PALESTINIANS TO COMPETE IN OLYMPIC GAMES

By Yitzhak Shargil

**TEL AVIV, July 21 (JTA) --** Israelis are upset by the International Amateur Wrestling Federation's acceptance of a Palestinian team -- "Falastin" -- as a non-national associate, eligible to compete in the Moscow Olympic Games. But they are divided over whether an Israeli presence in Moscow might have blocked recognition of the Palestinians.

Labor MK Orah Namir, who heads the Knesset's Sports Committee, observed today that Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat paid an official visit to the Olympic Village in Moscow yesterday only eight years after PLO terrorists massacred the Israeli team at the Munich Olympics. Charging that the world has forgotten the horrors of the Munich massacre, Namir announced that she would convene her committee to consider possible Israeli reactions to the recognition of the Palestinian wrestlers.

Some Israelis expressed the view that if Israel had not boycotted the Moscow Olympics and had its sports officials there, they may have prevented the admittance of the Palestinians to the Wrestling Federation. But Shmuel Lalkin, director general of the Israel Sports Federation, disagreed. "Even if we had been there, acceptance was inevitable. Israel could have caused some difficulties but would not have been able to prevent it," he said.

"Falastin," now a member of five international sports federations -- weightlifting, table tennis, handball and basketball, in addition to wrestling -- is eligible for membership in the International Olympic Committee although it represents neither a state nor a government.

## FORMER SYRIAN PREMIER KILLED

By Edwin Eytan

**PARIS, July 21 (JTA) --** Former Syrian Premier

Salah Bitar was killed this morning in the center of Paris. A lone gunman shot him in the back of the neck as he was entering his office. Bitar's killing took place only three days after a Palestine Liberation Organization commando tried to murder former Iranian Premier Shapur Bakhtiar, killing a French policeman and a woman neighbor in the process.

The 68-year-old Bitar was shot as he was putting his key into his Paris office a few hundred yards off the Arch of Triumph. The killer walked away and got lost in the lunchtime crowd.

Bitar founded the Syrian Baath Party together with Michel Aflak in 1942. In the late 1950s and early 1960s he served as Prime Minister or Foreign Minister in a half dozen Syrian governments. Overthrown by an army coup in 1966, he fled first to Lebanon and later to France where he started publishing last year a monthly in Arabic "The Arab Renaissance." Sentenced to death in absentia by a Syrian military court, he was pardoned by President Hafez Assad in 1970.

Bitar was one of the most important Arab politicians to have been murdered abroad in recent years. His killing, following Friday's attempt against Bakhtiar, has provoked a loud outcry throughout France against foreign and mainly Arab "hit teams" operating in Paris.

#### Arafat Gave The Orders

Police sources quoted by the French state-run television today said that the head of the five-man crew who tried to kill Bakhtiar "had been given his orders by Yasir Arafat himself." The man, Anis Naccache, was quoted as having told police that he was summoned to Beirut early last month. There he met PLO leader Yasir Arafat who told him that his mission "has been ordered by the Iranian authorities." According to Naccache he was not told who these authorities were but "obeyed like a good Fatah soldier."

A French journalist, Figaro's Beirut correspondent, reported today that he had met Naccache in Beirut some months ago and said he was a Lebanese Christian who worked for the PLO.

Though police say they have no clues as yet as to Bitar's murder, many sources here link his killing and the attempt against Bakhtiar with the PLO. The pro-Syrian branch of the PLO might have carried out the Bitar "contract" at Damascus' request.

At least 12 people were killed in France during the last two years over the Middle East inter-Arab strife. Last January, a bomb exploded at the Syrian Embassy in Paris killing one person and wounding eight. On July 31, 1978, two Palestinians attacked the Iraqi Embassy. During the ensuing shootout two people were killed, including a French policeman. A few days later, Aug. 3, gunmen killed the PLO representative in France, Ezzedine Kalfak. The two killers have since been convicted for the murder and found to have belonged to the pro-Iraqi "Abu Nidal."

Bakhtiar himself blamed the Palestinians for most of the recent killings including the attempt against himself. According to Bakhtiar, the Iranians just do not have trained men to carry out this type of operation.

#### HANS MORGENTHAU DEAD AT 76

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Hans Joachim Morgenthau, teacher, author and one of this nation's leading experts on international relations.

He died Saturday at 76.

In recent years, Morgenthau was active in the Soviet Jewry movement and in opposition to American policy in the Middle East. He was chairman of the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry where he had campaigned for the release of Anatoly Shcharansky and other Jewish activists and Soviet dissidents in the USSR.

He was also chairman and founder of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy which was founded in 1974 and which opposed what it saw as U.S. action harmful to Israel. A spokesman for the committee told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Morgenthau had written a letter scheduled to be released tomorrow expressing extreme concern "about the drift of United States policy in the Middle East." The letter, along with a booklet, "Toward a More Effective U.S. Policy in the Mideast," is being sent to members of Congress.

Born in Coburg, Germany on Feb. 17, 1904, he received degrees from the Universities of Munich and Frankfurt. He was admitted to the bar in Germany in 1927 and practiced law for three years. Morgenthau went to teach in Geneva in 1932 and when Hitler came to power in Germany the following year he decided not to return. He later became a professor of international law in Madrid before coming to the United States in 1937.

#### Influenced Many Political Scientists

Morgenthau taught at several major American universities but his influence grew during his years at the University of Chicago where he began teaching in 1943 and served as director of the Center for the Study of American Foreign and Military Policy for 17 years.

There his teachings and his most famous book, "Politics Among Nations" (1948), now in several revised editions, influenced many political scientists in the field of foreign affairs. His major argument was for a realistic approach for foreign policy, saying that the U.S. should consider its own national interest rather than concern for world public opinion.

Morgenthau became known to the general public when he became a strong opponent of the Vietnam War. He moved to New York in 1968 where he became Leonard Davis Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the City University of New York. From 1974 until recently, he taught at the New School for Social Research.

He wrote for many years for Commentary magazine, until he left in a dispute with its editor, and for many years has contributed to The New Leader. He has written numerous books, including "Scientific Man vs. Power Politics" (1946), and "A New Foreign Policy for the United States" (1969).

#### TWO MINISTRIES TO MOVE OFFICES FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Housing, Absorption and Construction announced today that their Tel Aviv offices will be moved to Jerusalem shortly. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon told the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem that the transfer of his headquarters would begin "immediately."

Finance Minister Yigal Horowitz estimated that the moves would cost the Treasury 11.1 billion, but officials of the two ministries concerned estimated a much smaller sum. Several hundred workers will have to be moved from Tel Aviv, a major expense in itself.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, the committee chairman, said that whatever the cost, the move would be effected. "This is an essential step so

that the world will know that there is only one Jerusalem which is the capital of Israel," Burg said. He noted that the decision to move the ministries coincides with the session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Palestinians beginning tomorrow.

#### **ORTHODOX GROUPS CONCERNED WITH DRAFT REGISTRATION DECISION**

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) — A coalition of Orthodox Jewish groups expressed concern today over a federal court decision declaring the draft registration law unconstitutional because it was limited to men. Although a temporary stay of the decision was issued by Supreme Court Associate Justice William Brennan, the full court will consider the question in its upcoming term, which begins in October. Meanwhile, registration for men officially began today.

According to Rabbi Herman Neuberger, coordinator of the Orthodox Jewish Coalition on Registration of Women for the Selective Service System, rulings of halachic authorities state that Jewish religious law prohibits Jewish girls from participating in the Selective Service System, whether in military or alternative service.

Should the lower court ruling be upheld by the Supreme Court and if registration is then to be reactivated, Congress will have to pass a new registration law providing for the registration of women as well as men, he noted. Since the current draft law provides for random selection for induction from the pool of registrants not exempted or deferred, the problems are obvious and ominous, Neuberger said.

The Coalition consists of Agudath Israel of America, Central Congress of Orthodox Rabbis, National Council of Young Israel, National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), National Society for Hebrew Day Schools (Torah Umesorah), Rabbinical Alliance of America, Rabbinical Council of America, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, United Lubavitch Organization and United Satmar Community.

#### **In Accord With Congressional Report**

Neuberger stressed that while the position of the Coalition is based on religion, it is in accord with the conclusions of a report of the Subcommittee on Manpower and Personnel of the U.S. House of Representatives. That report, prepared in connection with the new registration law, concluded that the judgement of military leaders and Congress was that a men-only system best serves national security.

Pointing to studies that show that women volunteer in sufficient numbers to fill the positions open to them, the report stated it was thus not necessary to draft women. The report said that since a draft would be based on a random selection from the pool of registrants, in time of national emergency when men would be needed quickly for combat, an equal number of men and women would have to be called up. Moreover, sexually integrated units would create great difficulty for military planners with respect to combat deployment, according to the report.

The report also referred to the impact registering and drafting women would have on the family unit and maintained that a decision on this question is properly within the purview of Congress.

Dennis Rapps, executive director of COLPA,

who is serving as an attorney for the Coalition, said that the Coalition would continue to work politically to avoid the registration of women. He said that the Coalition would also file a friend-of-the-court brief with the Supreme Court when it considers the issue in the fall.

#### **SQUADRON: BEGIN READY TO REACH EARLY AUTONOMY ARRANGEMENT**

NEW YORK, July 21 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin is ready to reach an autonomy arrangement with Egypt and the United States "at the earliest possible time," it was reported today by Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Squadron, who returned yesterday from the annual American Jewish Congress Israel-American Dialogue in Israel, described a 90-minute meeting in which he and Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, had with Begin late last week in the Premier's home.

During the meeting, Squadron said, "the Prime Minister repeated his deep commitment to reaching an early autonomy agreement. We also agreed on the elements that are essential to reaching such an arrangement." He said Begin was recovering physically and was "vigorous and alert in our conversation."

#### **BILL CALLS FOR DECRIMINALIZING HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) — The Cabinet will vote next week on a bill to decriminalize homosexual relations between consenting adult males. The measure was submitted at yesterday's Cabinet session by Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir but a vote was postponed because Interior Minister Yosef Burg objected.

The proposed bill would remove from the statutes, a law enacted under the Mandatory regime in Palestine which declares homosexuality a criminal offense, punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment. The law has not been invoked since the 1960s when rulings by the Supreme Court effectively nullified it. Tamir explained that his legislation was needed because there is no justification in this day and age for the State to interfere in a private activity which is solely a matter between individuals.

Tamir's bill would crack down hard on forced homosexual relations and would regard such relations with children or youths as rape, punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment.

Burg, a leader of the National Religious Party, said his objections were on moral and social rather than religious grounds. He said the existing law should remain in force, even if not invoked, as a deterrent and to uphold the social norm. He claimed that if the bill was passed "Israel would become a world center for homosexuals."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has been undergoing an economic slowdown since the beginning of the year, according to the Bank of Israel. A bank report, to be issued in a few days, says the main characteristics of the slowdown have been a drop in private consumption, a drop in real wages and an increase in unemployment. Industrial production went down 10 percent in the first three months of this year and the number of workers decreased by some 12,000. The bank warns that Israel is entering a period of stagflation — a decline in industrial production and private consumption and a growth in unemployment — but at the same time a galloping inflation.

## DIALOGUE PARTICIPANTS DEBATE ISSUE OF WHETHER CRITICISM OF ISRAELI POLICIES SHOULD BE AIRED PUBLICLY

JERUSALEM, July 21 (JTA) -- The 16th annual American-Israel Dialogue ended here last Friday with general agreement that American Jews and Israelis had not only the right but the responsibility to participate in each other's affairs as "partners in the Jewish enterprise."

But the 40 Israeli and American Jewish scholars and community activists gathered by the American Jewish Congress for four days of discussions and debate differed sharply on whether criticism and counsel should be aired in public, particularly when it came to domestic politics and military security.

Howard Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that public attacks by American Jews against Israel's West Bank policies, for example, were "unhelpful" because "they divert attention from the genuine consensus that exists within American Jewry on the essential issues." He said these were "Israel's right to recognition by its Arab neighbors, Israel's right to secure and recognized boundaries and Israel's right to Jerusalem as an undivided city and its capital."

Zalman Abramov, a Tel Aviv lawyer, thought Americans should be "prudent" in their public criticism of Israel but added that, in turn, "Israelis have a duty to be mindful of the opinions of diaspora Jewry for our own self-interest. Israel should avoid wherever possible adopting policies that American Jews cannot support," Abramov said, adding: "Obviously, we cannot subordinate our own judgments to the desires of American Jews, but we should be mindful of their views in formulating our policies."

Edward Sanders of Los Angeles, a former senior advisor on Jewish affairs to President Carter, agreed that U.S. Jews should proffer their advice cautiously "because we don't live here and because we don't know enough about Israel's problems."

### The Issue Of Aliya

The dialogue devoted considerable discussion to the importance of American aliya. Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who told the opening session that "if our partnership is to have vitality it must accept the premises of mutual criticism," gave voice to such criticism when he asserted that "the failure of American Jews to immigrate to Israel in significant numbers is the great tragedy of post-war Jewry."

Other Israeli panelists suggested that this failure had diminished the moral right of American Jews to participate actively in Israeli affairs. But Henry Siegman of New York, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, rejected "the suggestion that if you don't live in Israel you're not a full partner in the Jewish enterprise."

Aliya, he said, "must remain on the Jewish agenda, whatever the practical result, because it is an essential aspect of Jewish authenticity -- but it is not the only one."

The AJ Congress leader agreed with a statement by Dr. Eliezer Jaffe of the Hebrew University School of Social Work that "we Israelis have the right to influence you and your children to understand that Israel is not only a haven for refugees but a Jewish homeland -- and that aliya is a major individual and communal goal, worthy of

community support."

### 'Unlimited Participation' In Social Area

A number of panelists among the Israelis urged U.S. Jews to get more deeply involved in helping the Jewish State solve its problems in the area of social welfare. Eliezer Rafaeli, director general of the Jewish Agency's Project Renewal, called for "unlimited participation" by American Jews in helping Israel confront "the social and cultural conflicts in our midst" -- a position also supported by Danny Rosolio, a Labor member of Israel's Knesset.

Jaffe put it more strongly: "It is immoral and sloppy philanthropy," he said, "for American Jews not to attempt to influence the way we in Israel spend the money they raise." This involvement is necessary, he explained, "not simply because the problems Israel faces are too great to be handled by us alone but because Jewish peoplehood means that Israel is the collective responsibility of the Jewish people."

### A Summing Up

Mervin Verbit, professor of sociology at Brooklyn College, summed up the views of many dialogue participants when he declared: "All parts of Jewry are responsible for the proper functioning of all the Jewish people. Thus, living outside of Israel does not release American Jews from the obligation to demonstrate the primacy of Jewish identity and to build a Jewish community that strives to embody the highest of Jewish aspirations."

"The scandal of Jewish education in the United States is Israel's concern, as the threat of serious crime in Israel is American Jewry's," He added, "Our right to involve ourselves in each other's social issues is total."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under its musical director Zubin Mehta will tour major Latin American cities the last week of July and the beginning of August. The 106 musicians will begin their concert tour on July 29 at the Cine Censa in Montevideo. The following night through Aug. 6 it will perform at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, including one morning performance for students at the local university. Two concerts will be held in Sao Paulo and the farewell concert will be held at the Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The lights that usually brighten the city in the evening were dim Monday on the eve of Tisha B'av, the national day of mourning over the destruction of the First and Second Temples. According to the bylaws of Tel Aviv, all places of entertainment are closed. Banks were closed Monday afternoon and will be closed Tuesday. Many municipal and government offices had skeletal crews Monday.

PARIS (JTA) -- A ceremony marking the 38th anniversary of the rounding up of Jews in Paris during World War II here was held on July 17, near the spot where they were assembled before being sent to Nazi death camps. The rounding up of Jews, mostly immigrants from eastern countries who had come to France in the 1920s and 1930s, took place on July 16; and 17, 1942. Those arrested by French police, acting on orders of the Germans, were assembled in the Vel d'Hiver indoor cycling track. Some 30,000 people were detained for several days without food and water in sultry weather.