

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL SENDS ITS REPLY TO SADAT

10-Page Response Described As Polite But Firm  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Israel has completed its response to a letter from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat asking for "clarifications" which would enable the autonomy talks to resume. Premier Menachem Begin drafted a 10-page reply last night and it was approved by a special ministerial committee. Although the details of the letter were not revealed, it was described as polite but firm.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, head of the Israeli negotiating team, told reporters that the resumption of the autonomy talks depend on Egypt. Sadat postponed resumption of the talks, which were due to start Sunday, until he received a reply from Begin on his 18-page letter. In a clear reference to Israel's pique at Sadat's repeated delays of the talks, Burg said now is the proper "time and place" for the renewed negotiations.

The general feeling in Jerusalem is that although Sadat postponed the talks as a direct reaction to the adoption by the Knesset last week of the law formally making united Jerusalem Israel's capital, the Egyptian President is not interested in resuming negotiations until after the Presidential elections in the United States. The Israeli letter is believed to contain a restatement of Israel's position on Jerusalem and the territories.

Sadat's letter, while reportedly written in a courteous and friendly style, included his demands that East Jerusalem be included in the autonomy area, that Jewish settlements on the West Bank be dismantled and that the autonomous body have judicial and legislative as well as administrative authority. Sadat also blamed Israel for the difficulties in the autonomy negotiations.

## Thorn, Arafat Meet For Three Hours

Meanwhile, in a related Middle East development, reports from Beirut said that Gaston Thorn, the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg and the chairman of the European Economic Community (EEC), who is heading an EEC Mideast fact-finding mission, had a three-hour meeting today with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat in Lebanon's capital.

It was the first official meeting between a leader of the EEC and Arafat. Western diplomats in Beirut reportedly described the talks as a boost for the PLO chief's campaign for international recognition for his organization. The fact-finding mission follows a call by the EEC at its summit meeting in Venice in June for the PLO to participate in the Mideast peace talks.

Thorn, who visited Israel last week, said he and Arafat discussed the PLO's attitude toward the Venice declaration and that Arafat told him he hoped Europe would shoulder its responsibilities in any initiative it made on the Mideast. Thorn is scheduled to visit Syria and Jordan this week.

## VENEZUELA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNING AGAINST EMBASSY MOVE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish community in Venezuela is launching a widespread campaign against its government's decision

to move its embassy in Israel from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. Walter Czenstochowsky, chairman of the World Zionist Organization in Venezuela and vice president of the central committee of Jewish organizations in that country, said here today in a radio interview.

Czenstochowsky, who is visiting Israel, said Jewish leaders in Venezuela were meeting with high-ranking government officials as well as public opinion molders, pointing out that the issue of united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is above and beyond any political considerations. "Jerusalem is not only the capital of Israel but also the capital of the Jewish people," he said.

Venezuela announced last week that it was moving its embassy from Jerusalem, where it has been located for the past 22 years, in protest against "one-sided measures taken by Israel changing the status of the city." Czenstochowsky said he could not understand why Venezuela was the first Latin American country to take this step.

He said he did not believe that Venezuela gave in to Arab pressure because as a leading world oil producer it could resist such pressure. "I believe that the pressure came not from Israel's enemies, but her friends," he said. Hinting that it was the United States which initiated the step, Czenstochowsky said there were friends who wanted to take measures against Israel. "However, because of obvious reasons they could not take these measures, they wanted others to do it in their place," he said.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES JEWISH CONCERNS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The Democratic national convention which opens in Madison Square Garden next Monday promises to be as raucous and exciting an event as the sports contests and circuses that are usually on display at that arena.

President Carter, pummeled by his low standings in the public opinion polls, will be trying to hold on to the huge majority of delegates he has to ensure his renomination for a second term; Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts will be making a strong last-ditch effort to wrest the nomination away from the President; and some Democrats, particularly members of Congress who fear Carter's unpopularity will hurt their own re-election chances, are hoping for a third alternative.

The unpopularity of Carter is also rife in the Jewish community over his Administration's apparent pressures on Israel as demonstrated, in part, by the U.S. vote for the United Nations Security Council's anti-Israeli resolution March 1, which was disavowed by the President, and by subsequent abstentions in the Council by the U.S. on resolutions condemning Israel.

With the opening of the convention only days away, all of this has coalesced around the fight over whether the convention should be "open" or "closed," whether delegates should be required to vote for the candidate for whom they were elected in the primaries or whether they can have a free choice. A new rule this year allows a candidate to remove any of his delegates who might want to change his mind.

The move for an open convention has snowballed since the announcement that the President's brother, Billy Carter, has had to register as a foreign agent

for Libya and the continuing investigation into Billy Carter's activities, and the President's knowledge about them and participation in them. Carter, in a report to Congress and in a nationally televised press conference last night, denied his brother had influenced him personally or the Administration on Libya and said there was no illegality or impropriety in his dealings with his brother.

#### Lineup Of Carter And Kennedy Forces

But most political experts believe that whether the convention is open or closed Carter will be renominated. The President has 1990 delegates committed to him from the primaries, 324 more than the 1666 needed for renomination. If true, the Democratic convention, while more boisterous, would have as much a surprise ending as the Republican national convention in Detroit which nominated Ronald Reagan as the GOP Presidential candidate.

Kennedy, however, who has about 1250 delegates, believes he can defeat Carter if the convention is open, especially if the voting goes beyond one ballot.

But others who would like to deny Carter the nomination, do not believe Kennedy would be the Democratic Party's choice either. They have mentioned such alternatives as Vice President Walter Mondale, Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington. All are considered popular in the Jewish community.

Muskie appears at present to be the favorite among the three alternatives. But he, like Mondale, is in a difficult position since as a member of the Carter Administration he would be unlikely to make an open bid.

Jewish Democrats can be found on all sides of the controversy and as partisans of all the candidates. No issue of particular Jewish concern, such as Israel, divides the candidates at this point. Many Jews, however, are in the forefront of the effort for the Democratic Party to support strong measures to increase employment, help the poor and needy and provide more aid to the cities.

#### Unpopularity In The Jewish Community

At the same time, many of those seeking an open convention, particularly some of the New York delegates, have argued that among Carter's handicaps is his unpopularity in the Jewish community. Although the Carter Administration considers the Camp David agreements its major foreign policy achievement, many Jews believe the Administration, particularly National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and some officials of the State Department have tilted toward the Arabs, particularly on the issue of the Palestinians.

A fear has been expressed among some Jews that if Carter is re-elected, he would no longer have to worry about the Jewish vote in his second term and feel free to exert undue pressure on Israel. At the same time, this fear has been tempered by a belief that Congress would prevent any one-sided pressure on Israel.

In addition, nothing has angered the Jewish community so much as the U.S. vote for the March 1 UN resolution. Republican speakers at their convention continuously referred to it and it was the only specific reference to the Mideast made by Reagan in his acceptance speech in Detroit.

Because of this there is a fear that some of the traditionally Democratic Jewish vote could go to the Republican Reagan. Some of this erosion can already be seen. New York State Assemblyman Samuel Hirsch, a Democrat who represents the Baro Park section of Brooklyn, home of one of the largest concentrations of Orthodox Jews in the world, has announced his support of Reagan because of the Republican's statements backing Israel.

Support for Reagan can also be seen among a group of Jewish intellectuals who combine support of Israel with a need for a more hardline foreign policy and beefed up defense. These people, who have been identified as neo-conservative and many of whom write for Commentary magazine, are members principally of the Committee on the Present Danger and the Coalition for a Democratic Majority.

A few have come out publicly for Reagan while others have let it be known that they do not now fear him as much as they once did. Their favorite Presidential candidate would probably be Sen. Daniel Moynihan of New York.

#### Importance Of Jewish Vote

But perhaps even more worrisome to the President than an increase in the percentage of Jewish voters going to Reagan, possibly more than the 35 percent received by President Nixon against Sen. George McGovern of North Dakota in 1972, is that Jewish voters will back Rep. John Anderson (R., Ill.), the independent candidate for the Presidency. Polls have shown he scores high among Jewish voters and he has been making a major appeal for the Jewish vote.

The Jewish vote takes on great importance this year. The experts believe that for Carter to defeat Reagan he must win the major industrial states of the Northwest and Midwest. Jews make up an important part of the voters in these states, especially in New York. Anderson, if he receives a strong Jewish vote, could ensure that Reagan defeats Carter in those states, and might possibly carry the states himself.

A Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey in 1976 found Jewish voters helped contribute the deciding edge for Carter in such key states as New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Carter won 80 percent of the Jewish vote in New York. Yet in this year's primary, only three-and-a-half years later, Jewish Democrats in New York voted overwhelmingly for Kennedy over Carter. In Illinois, Carter won the Jewish vote by a 2-1 margin, but there is evidence that a great deal of the Jewish vote was cast in the Republican primary and went to Anderson.

The Carter forces are well aware of this. Evidence could be seen when the Democratic Party's platform committee hammered out the platform that will be approved at next week's convention. The Carter people rolled over the Kennedy backers on every issue. In fact, once the question of open or closed convention is out of the way, Kennedy will make the economy and what to do about it the major issues of the convention.

But on the Mideast the Carter forces were willing to compromise. They agreed to let stand the plank of the 1972 and 1976 platforms which states that the Democratic Party supports "the established status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel with free access to all its holy places provided to all faiths. As a symbol of this stand, the U.S. Embassy should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

A qualifying third sentence which the Carter forces had originally demanded be added was moved to another part of the long section on the Middle East. This read: "It is recognized that the Democratic Administration has to proceed with special care and sensitivity resulting from its deep engage-

ment in the delicate process of promoting a wider peace for Israel."

While the Mideast does not appear now to be an issue at next week's convention, the convention itself will be lively. The experts believe the renomination of Carter is a foregone conclusion, but anything can happen, especially if the delegates decide to have an open convention.

But one thing can be certain as shown by the efforts made so far by the political strategists of the Democratic and Republican Parties and the Anderson campaign. Whatever happens in Madison Square Garden next week, Jewish voters are going to be among the most courted in the United States from now until Nov. 4, Election Day.

#### WIESENTHAL RECEIVES GOLD MEDAL FROM CARTER WHICH HAD BEEN VOTED TO HIM BY THE CONGRESS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 (JTA) — Famed Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, in a moving ceremony today in the East Room of the White House, received from President Carter the special gold medal unanimously voted to him by Congress.

The more than 200 guests invited to the presentation gave Wiesenthal, now 72, three standing ovations. Among the guests were film star Elizabeth Taylor Warner, who together with Orson Welles will narrate the 90-minute television documentary film, "Genocide," which will be shown in November and in which Wiesenthal appears.

Sen. George McGovern (D., SD) and Rep. Christopher Dodd (D., Conn.), who sponsored the resolutions in the Senate and House awarding Wiesenthal the medal, also were present. Wiesenthal was an architect when he was seized by the Nazis and incarcerated in concentration camps until he was liberated by American forces on May 5, 1945 as one of 34 prisoners out of an original group of 149,000.

#### Traces Wiesenthal's Contributions

Tracing Wiesenthal's devotion to "build justice," Carter observed that Wiesenthal set up the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna where for more than three decades he has led the search for Nazi war criminals. His work is being continued at the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University in Los Angeles.

"His goal has been not just to see justice done, not just to see criminals punished," the President said. "His motive has not been to seek revenge, but to remember and to make certain that never again will such a crime against decency and civility and humanity be committed — never." Carter noted that "eleven million people were slaughtered, six million of them Jews. Even today, the survivors are not spared the savagery they escaped. They have only to close their eyes to see it."

Recalling Wiesenthal's words, "I believe in God and the world to come" and that "when each of us comes before the six million I will say I did not forget you," Carter concluded to a standing ovation "nor Simon Wiesenthal, will the world forget you."

In accepting the medal from Carter as "only" the "trustee" of the Nazi victims, Wiesenthal hugged the President and kissed him on both cheeks. He told the audience, which included

many leading American Jews, "I am not a hater and the word revenge has no meaning for me. Hitler and Stalin are alive today, but maybe not in the same countries. They are waiting for us to forget. They have not disappeared." Emphasizing the meaning of Israel to world Jewry, Wiesenthal recalled that liberated prisoners paraded in the camps with the flags of the country from which they came — Italy, Czechoslovakia, Poland — all but the Jews who had no flag and no country.

From Wiesenthal's torn white shirt and the faded blue one of another Jew "something like a blue and white flag" was made. "We were much too weak to attempt a parade like the other groups and so we just sat there in the sun, holding up and waving our makeshift flag. Jews from other blocks came over to us and cried: some of them kissed the flag, a symbol of hope amidst the dead and the dying."

Wiesenthal added, "At that moment I felt instinctively that my future life will be determined by these two flags: the American flag as a symbol of our liberation for which I will always be grateful and of the promise that we would be able to go on living as free men; the Jewish flag as a symbol of a people resurrected from the ashes of destruction. There was never a problem of double loyalty for me. On the contrary, it was a symbiosis: liberty for us and the world through the United States and dignity for the Jews as a nation through Israel. These notions have become the pillars of my own life and my work ever since."

#### MINISTERIAL POSTS RESHUFFLE SOUGHT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin was today trying to win support from the members of the Cabinet for his proposed reshuffle of ministerial posts in time for their approval by the Knesset at a special session next week. But so far, the only agreement is for Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Nissim of the Liberal Party to become Justice Minister, replacing the Democratic Movement's Shmuel Tamir, who officially resigned from the post Sunday.

But Begin still cannot get agreement to the reshuffle he proposed when Defense Minister Ezer Weizman resigned several months ago. He would still like to have Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir or Herut become Defense Minister and Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai of the Liberal Party take over the Foreign Ministry.

At a meeting with Begin today, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement, insisted that his group would not agree to Modai becoming Foreign Minister. He also said that the DM would never agree to Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon becoming Defense Minister, an appointment Sharon demanded when Weizman resigned.

Another person still mentioned for the Foreign Ministry is Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. The situation has become further complicated by Shamir's request now to remain at the Foreign Ministry.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Supreme Court has given the Defense Ministry seven days to explain why a soldier who is a conscientious objector was ordered to serve beyond Israel's "green line." An attorney for Gadi Elgozi, a member of Rakah, told the court that his client had made his conscientious objector's status clear before he enlisted and said he would be willing to serve within Israel's pre-June 1967 borders but not beyond them. Elgozi's attorney said that such requests were granted in the past in the cases of conscientious objectors but that his client was turned down.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### 'THE REALLY SCARY THING' OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

By Robert Palmer

(Editor's note: This is the first of several interviews the Jewish Telegraphic Agency conducted with leaders of American Jewish women's organizations who attended the world conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen last month.)

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) — Frieda Leemon, national president of Pioneer Women, said she "felt threatened and isolated" as a Jewish participant at the world conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen, which many Jewish groups have said became a vehicle for anti-Israel propaganda almost from the start.

For Leemon, whose 55-year-old organization supports a network of community centers and social services for Jewish refugees around the world, the conference never addressed important women's issues. It ended July 31 by voting 94-4 for a "plan of action" which listed Zionism as one of the world's main evils, along with apartheid and colonialism.

Leemon, who attended the three-week open forum at Copenhagen University which paralleled the main conference, said she expected anti-Israel propaganda to come out of the conference when she chose to go as Pioneer Women's representative. But what she never expected, Leemon said with some anger during an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was the widespread influence of the Palestine Liberation Organization borne out in the proceedings.

"What I didn't know was the amount of strength that the PLO had gained in the world," Leemon said. She added that many Jews in the forum section wanted to talk with Arab women, only to be told by a PLO representative: "To you we will talk with weapons; to the rest of the world we'll talk with words."

#### Fierce Anti-Jewish Sentiments

Third World, Communist and PLO representatives at the forum, which 8000 persons attended, expressed fierce anti-Jewish sentiment, Leemon noted. There was "a very well-organized coalition of anti-white, anti-American and anti-Israel" representatives, and she said the frequent walk-outs and anti-Jewish public statements may have been organized in advance. "Nobody wanted to listen," she said of the pro-PLO delegates. "They came there with pre-conceived notions."

There were other problems, according to Leemon, besides the constant political attack on Israel. Among them was the inordinately high cost of food, which led a number of mainly Third World women, who were poor and slept in tents nearby, to plead for funds for food. A conference newspaper, "Forum 80," reported that many of the women were barely subsisting on bread and water by the fourth day.

"I'd call it the 'Copenhagen experience' rather than a conference," she explained. "It was not an experience I would want to repeat soon." Even so, Leemon was quick to add she doesn't believe the conference's outcome will have a significant influence on the rest of the world.

But it did point up the isolation of Israel from the international community, and the expanding influence of the PLO, still bent on the destruction of the Jewish State. "That was the really

scary thing," Leemon said.

(Tomorrow: Interview with Bernice Tannenbaum, president of Hadassah.)

### THREE SOVIET JEWS END THEIR 16-DAY HUNGER STRIKE

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 5 (JTA) — A reporter for the Dutch daily, Handelsblad, who attended the Olympic Games in Moscow, reported today that three Soviet Jews ended their 16-day hunger strike last weekend. Frits Schaling, the reporter, said the three staged their hunger strike in protest against the refusal of Soviet authorities to grant them exit visas to Israel.

According to Schaling, the three hunger strikers were Dina Grossman, 25, Vladimir Brodsky, 36 and Igor Vinogradov. Grossman and Vinogradov applied for exit visas more than a year ago and Brodsky applied for a visa almost two years ago. The three never received a reply to their requests but, instead, were fired from their jobs, Schaling reported.

He said he personally saw Grossman at the end of her hunger strike and said she was extremely emaciated. During her 16-day hunger strike she lost 24 pounds. She weighed 120 pounds when she began her strike.

### HIGH COURT WANTS INTERIOR MINISTRY TO EXPLAIN ITS REASON FOR REFUSING TOURIST VISA TO LANSKY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) — The Supreme Court today gave the Interior Ministry 30 days to explain why it has refused to grant a tourist visa to Meyer Lansky. The 80-year-old Lansky appealed to the court to help him obtain a one-month visa, claiming that two months ago Interior Minister Yosef Burg had agreed to a visa but then reversed himself.

Lansky was in Israel 10 years ago but was deported after several months because of his reputed association with organized crime in the United States. His deportation followed requests by the American government. He was sought by U.S. authorities for alleged tax evasion. His appeal against the deportation was rejected and the Interior Ministry refused to allow him to return, even for a visit.

Lansky's attorney told the court today that his client "is an old Jew, suffering from cancer and other serious ailments. He has a strong Jewish conscience and would like with all his heart to visit Israel before his death." The attorney also said that it was inconceivable that a one-month visit could cause harm to the State or to the public welfare of Israel.

### NEW CHIEF OF SA JEWISH BOARD

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 5 (JTA) — At a meeting of the executive council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies last week Aleck Goldberg, the general secretary, was appointed to the top post of executive director. Goldberg was formerly a member of the teaching profession and joined the staff of the Board of Deputies in May, 1958 as secretary of the public relations committee.

He has written numerous articles for various journals, particularly on Jewish affairs, which are published by the Board of Deputies. He is also a well-known public speaker who has lectured to Jewish and non-Jewish groups throughout the country. Goldberg was educated at the University of the Witwatersrand and Ermelo High School and is fluent in both official languages, English and Afrikaans.