

# JTA daily news bulletin

Continued on page 2

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Friday, November 21, 1980

No. 223

## ISRAEL, IN THE UN, WITHDRAWS ITS RESOLUTION ON DE-NUCLEARIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. CITES LACK OF RESPONSE FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- Israel, in a surprise move today, withdrew a draft resolution it had introduced here last week for the "de-nuclearization of the Middle East," blaming lack of response from the Arab countries.

Announcing the move in the General Assembly's Political and Security Committee (First Committee) this morning, Ambassador Arie Eilan of Israel's UN Mission, said Israel withdrew its draft resolution "with great regret" and warned that "those who have rejected Israel's offer in this committee must bear a very heavy responsibility in the eyes of mankind."

Eilan cited the "adamant refusal on the part of so many Arab states to respond to Israel's calls for de-nuclearization of the Middle East" as the reason for Israel's decision to withdraw its draft resolution.

The draft called for a conference of all Middle East states aimed at reaching an agreement for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region. It was only the third time that Israel has submitted a draft resolution since it became a member of the UN in 1949. Israeli diplomats have long been calling for such a conference and such calls were included in the speeches by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his predecessor, Moshe Dayan, in their addresses to the General Assembly.

### Says Offer Still Stands

Arab rejection of the Israeli proposal was made clear in their statements in the First Committee this week. But Eilan said, "We shall, however, persevere. The task we have set ourselves is too serious to be abandoned because of the exigencies of the parliamentary situation. Our offer still stands."

Eilan accused Iraq and Libya of seeking to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. "The whole world knows that Iraq and Libya are making enormous efforts to acquire the nuclear option for the price of oil," he said. "Do the rulers of those countries ever realize that the particles that make up a nuclear fall-out know not the difference between Jew and Arab, between Moslem and Christian?" the Israeli envoy asked.

### Israel Signs Anti-Hostage Measure

In another development, Israel yesterday signed the international convention against the taking of hostages which was adopted by the UN General Assembly last year. Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum, signed the document at UN headquarters on his country's behalf. Israel had taken an active part in the working group of the General Assembly which drafted the convention.

It states that under no circumstances whatsoever should anyone taking a hostage, whatever reason he gives, be exempt from either prosecution or extradition. It also calls for cooperation between all states in fighting the taking of hostages. The convention is regarded by Israel as an important practical measure in the struggle against international terrorism.

### FOREIGN AID FOR ISRAEL MOVES AHEAD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- The foreign aid authorization bill for fiscal 1981, which contains \$1.4 billion in foreign military sales credits for Israel and an additional \$785 million in economic support funds, was approved last night by the House-Senate conference committee. The bill now has to be approved by both houses of Congress and is expected to be taken up there early next month.

The decision to try to complete action on the foreign aid bill, which seemed to be in limbo earlier this month following the sweeping election victory by Ronald Reagan, was based in part by the concern that the aid for Israel could not be added to a Congressional resolution to continue foreign aid funding at the previous year's level of about \$1 billion. The House-Senate conference took only one day to approve the bill.

In addition to aid for Israel, the bill also recommended \$550 million in military sales credits for Egypt and \$750 million in support funds. In addition, Egypt would receive \$274 million under the Public Law 480 Food Program. The only other Middle East country slated to receive a significant amount of aid is Jordan which would get \$100 million evenly divided between economic support funds and military sales credits.

### BEGIN MAY RESIGN, CALL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS IF THERE IS ANOTHER NARROW VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin would be inclined to resign and call early elections if his government is once again reduced to a slender majority of three, as happened when it barely survived a no-confidence vote in the Knesset yesterday. This was made clear by a source close to Begin following the 57-54 vote on motions of no-confidence in the government's economic policies.

The source said Begin would have resigned had the vote been tied, even though there would have been no strict necessity for him to do so. Similarly, he would consider his position untenable if a future no-confidence motion results once again in his government being saved by the tiny breakaway factions, as was the case yesterday. The government was saved, in effect, by the last-minute decision of two members of the three-member Ahva faction, a split off from the Democratic Movement for Change, not to vote against the government, and a similar move by independent Knesseter Shmuel Flatto-Sharon.

There were recriminations after the vote in coalition ranks after the vote against the failure

of the coalition whips in recent weeks to woo the Ahva members. Coalition sources said today there would be an assiduous effort to "talk to" Ahva and make certain it voted with the government in any future test of strength.

The Ahva faction comprises three distinct personalities: insurance millionaire Shlomo Eliahu, who voted against the government; Shawfiq Assad, who at the very last minute mysteriously absented himself from the Knesset chamber; and Akiva Nof, who decided at the last minute to abstain. Eliahu, Ahva's chairman, said today he had no explanation for Assad's behavior, after the three faction members decided unanimously to vote against the government.

If former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman is ousted from Herut as a result of his vote against the government yesterday, one more Knesset vote will have to be counted against the coalition whenever the chance arises to force its resignation and trigger early elections.

The Herut Secretariate, meeting in Tel Aviv today, decided to give Weizman a hearing before taking action. He will appear before it next week. Sentiment at the meeting was overwhelmingly against Weizman and it appears that his days are numbered as a member of Herut. But anything can happen, observers pointed out.

#### Labor Party Seeking to Topple Begin

Meanwhile, the Labor Party opposition is preparing to topple Begin's government. Shimon Peres, the party's leader, said today that it is urgent to bring Israel "back under proper economic management." He stated that "we intend to introduce a planned economy, an economy where work is as profitable as speculation." Peres added that, for his own part, he will do everything in his power to build on yesterday's relative success by harassing the government with no-confidence motions at every opportunity.

Some observers believe that next month's inflation figures, expected to be as high as this month's because the oil price hike will make itself felt, would present an appropriate basis for the opposition to try again.

#### Dayan Warns Against Loss of Options

During yesterday's debate in the Knesset, former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who is now an independent MK, said "I will vote no confidence because one cannot vote confidence in 200 percent inflation." This was a reference to unofficial forecasts that the inflation rate for the final quarter of 1980 is expected to be around 200 percent.

Dayan said that as long as the economic situation is not improved there is no point in discussing the "autonomy option" or the "Jordanian option" in the West Bank autonomy settlement because "we will not have an option for any option. We will have to do what others tell us to do."

Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz, who has been under severe attack by the Labor opposition, members of his own Likud Knesset faction and Cabinet ministers for failing to stem inflation, said during the debate, "I have only one formula: that we live with what we

have, and that we consume only that which we can produce." He blamed Israel's economic woes on Labor's "overblown unproductive services."

#### TENSION CONTINUES ON THE WEST BANK By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA) — Tension continued to run high on the West Bank today as local Arab leaders protested the wounding of 10 Arab youths by Israeli soldiers earlier this week while Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eitan defended the troops' action as necessary to maintain public order. Violence flared briefly in Nablus yesterday where Israeli forces fired into the air to disperse student demonstrators near the high school.

There were no repetitions of the rock-throwing incidents that occurred in Ramallah and El Bireh Monday and Tuesday when Israeli patrols opened fire wounding 10 youngsters, three of them women. The Military Government said the sporadic nature of the incidents and the fact that they have subsided confirmed its assumption that the unrest was of local origin and not provoked from outside the territory.

In Washington yesterday, the State Department expressed deep regret over the use of live ammunition by the Israeli troops. Department spokesman John Trattner said "The use of potentially lethal force to disperse unarmed demonstrators can lead to grave and far-reaching consequences."

#### Eitan Says Soldiers Acted Correctly

Eitan, speaking on the Voice of Israel radio yesterday, said the sole purpose of the army was to maintain public order and if this is kept "no soldiers will be seen on the streets" in West Bank towns. Otherwise, he warned, the necessary precautions will be taken. "This has been our policy and it has not changed," he said. He said the soldiers who fired live ammunition — rather than rubber bullets sometimes used to disperse rioters — were acting according to regulations and defending themselves. Most of the wounded were shot in the legs.

But Acting Mayor Auda Rantissi of Ramallah, where nine youths were wounded, charged that the soldiers "shot to kill." The mayors of other West Bank towns, the chairmen of local chambers of commerce and the National Committee of Arab Students in Israel condemned the soldiers' actions.

The clashes between Arab youths and Israeli troops were precipitated by the Military Government's order shutting down Bir Zeit University for seven days in order to enforce a ban on "Palestine Week", an annual campus event. The Israeli authorities contended that "Palestine Week" is a political manifestation aimed at provoking Palestinian nationalist and anti-Israel sentiments.

A statement by the student council and faculty association yesterday insisted it was "a purely cultural event." The statement said "It is political, if at all, only in the inevitable but harmless sense that it is Palestinian rather than voodoo or Buddhist or Jewish." It was to include exhibitions of painting, drawings, folklore, dancing and lectures on Palestinian life, the statement said.

Bir Zeit remained closed today on orders of the Military Government. Bethlehem University was shut down by its administration in an act of solidarity and protest.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated Nov. 27 due to Thanksgiving, a postal holiday.

## LINOWITZ SAYS ISRAEL, EGYPT HAVE BEGUN TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES ON CRITICAL AND COMPLEX ISSUES

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (JTA) — Special Ambassador Sol Linowitz, reporting on the status of the autonomy talks, said here yesterday that "Through their serious and constructive efforts over the past months, Israel and Egypt have begun to bridge their differences on even the most critical, complex and emotional issues" that separate them.

Linowitz made his report to the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the general progress of negotiations for autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Unfortunately," he said, "the negotiating process has been made even more difficult in recent months by a host of external and tangential disturbances and distractions which have diverted attention from the central issues under discussion."

### Cites Some Distractions

In that connection he mentioned "violence on the West Bank, the seemingly endless stream of UN resolutions and the various actions and statements bearing on the status of Jerusalem." He said these "have interfered with and even interrupted our efforts to focus on the complex and critical substantive issues."

Linowitz added, however, "Despite frustrations and disappointments, considerable progress in the autonomy talks has been made during the past year." He said that in the past three months "We have been able to help the parties make significant progress on several of the fundamental issues; specifically Israel and Egypt have narrowed their differences on the key issues of land and water. In addition," he said, "our work during the past three months indicates that the parties are far closer on the issue of security than many had thought."

Linowitz said, "We have also begun, I believe, to narrow differences on the nature of the powers that the self-governing authority should appropriately exercise in the transition period."

### U.S. Committed to Work for Peace

The envoy stressed the U.S. commitment to work for peace in the Middle East. "Such a U.S. role in pursuit of peace advances our strategic interests while furthering our moral commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes throughout the world," he said. "I know that President-elect Reagan joins President Carter in recognizing the importance of maintaining the continuum of our foreign policy and the vital role the U.S. must play in the search for peace in the Middle East," Linowitz said.

Meanwhile, Carter and Reagan met at the White House for 1-1/2 hours today. On emerging, Reagan declined to say specifically what they had discussed. Asked if they had talked about Iran and the Middle East, he replied, "I had the kind of briefing that will be helpful to me."

## CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM WOMEN'S LEADER URGES THAT VALUES AND PRIORITIES BE RE-CHANNELLED

By Rochelle Saidel Walk

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 20 (JTA) — As she accepted the presidency for a second two-year term, Mrs. Goldie Kweller charged the 200 delegates at the national convention of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism last night with the task of "re-channeling our values and priorities and changing them from self-satisfied 'me-ism' to community 'we-ism'."

Mrs. Kweller of Kew Garden Hills, N.Y. heads the largest women's synagogue organization in the world, with 210,000 members in 810 Conservative sisterhoods in North America and women's groups in Latin America and Israel.

"We are also charged with the task of turning the tide of family fragmentation, creating in its place a family restoration," she said. "In the words of the late Dr. Solomon Schechter, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 'leaders become influential among their contemporaries only by teaching and living an exemplary life.' We must become a Judaically knowledgeable laity, rather than Jews whose ties are only cultural and social."

Speaking of problems within Jewish families, Mrs. Kweller, at an earlier session suggested a return to "strong family life, the high standards of family and personal morality which have been our strength and support, and have helped us survive." She also remarked that "particularly in an era of feminism, we must make ourselves role models, by our actions demonstrating our conviction that the Jewish tradition, which has always had a strong family life, has to be our top priority."

Referring to the role of Conservative Judaism in Israel, Mrs. Kweller said that "the steady growth in the number of our congregations in Israel, despite the roadblocks set up by the chief rabbinate, is heartening." In the past two years, ties between Women's League and women in Israel congregations have led to formal organization of a Conservative women's group, Neshama, in Israel.

### Resolutions Adopted by Conclave

Resolutions were adopted alerting members to anti-Semitism and speak out against manifestations of all injustice and bigotry. The delegates approved another resolution which urged on-going communications with leaders of Black and Hispanic minority groups.

The delegates urged the United States government "to give high priority to seeking out and prosecuting Nazi war criminals residing in the United States." The delegates also urged the United States government to recognize united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. They also urged the Israel government to recognize the validity of Conservative Judaism.

PARIS (JTA) — The Representative Council of French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) has asked the French delegation to the Madrid conference reviewing the Helsinki accords to raise the question of Soviet Jewry and press the Soviet government to respect its international pledges. CRIF launched this appeal Wednesday at a mass meeting of solidarity with Soviet Jewry. Daniel Mayer, President of the International Federation of the Rights of Man, said the situation of Soviet Jews has further deteriorated in recent months.

## GROWTH OF NUMBER OF WOMEN RABBIS CONTINUES THIS YEAR

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Nov. 20 (JTA) — A record total of 82 women are studying for the rabbinate in Reform and Reconstructionist seminaries during the current academic year, according to an annual Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey. Four of the seven women who were ordained as Reform rabbis last June have been placed in pulpits. Two were placed in non-pulpit posts and one is seeking a position, the JTA was told.

Ordination of the seven women as Reform rabbis brought to 29 the total of Reform and Reconstructionist women rabbis ordained since 1972 when Sally Preisand was named by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) as the first woman rabbi in America.

Five of the seven new women Reform rabbis were graduated in New York and two in the HUC-JIR school in Cincinnati, Ohio. The five ordained in New York are: Cathy Felix of Highland Park, Ill.; Jean Friedman of Marblehead, Mass.; Debra Hochen of Cleveland Heights, Ohio; Judith Lewis of Rochester, N.Y.; and Mindy Partnoy of New Haven, Conn. The two ordained in Cincinnati are Aliza Wallin Berk of Encino, Calif., and Ellen Jay Lewis of Westfield, N.J.

Three of the new Reform women rabbis were named assistant rabbis — Friedman at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto; Rabbi Judith Lewis at Temple Sinai in Roslyn Heights, N.Y.; and Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas. Hochen was named rabbi of Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westboro, Mass.

Felix was named assistant chaplain at Brown University. Partnoy was named B'nai B'rith Hillel director at the American University in Washington. Berk is seeking a position in San Jose, Calif., where her husband, Michael Berk, a fellow ordinee, is assistant rabbi of a congregation.

A belated appointment was disclosed to the JTA by Rabbi A. Stanley Dreifuss concerning his daughter, Rabbi Ellen Dreifuss of Chicago, who was ordained in June, 1979. She could not be placed during 1979 because she had married and become pregnant. She was placed during the past summer as the first Jewish chaplain at Doctors Hospital in New York City.

### Candidates in Their Final Year

An HUC-JIR spokesman told the JTA that 13 Reform women candidates are in their final year and, barring unexpected complications, will become Reform rabbis in June, 1981. The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College has four women in their final year of study who are expected to be named Reconstructionist rabbis next June.

If all women rabbinical candidates in their final year are graduated and ordained next June, the total ordained since 1972, under Reform and Reconstructionist auspices, will be 46.

The HUC-JIR spokesman reported that a total of 67 women are studying for the Reform rabbinate this academic year. A

Reconstructionist spokesman reported that 15 women are studying for the rabbinate this year.

In the 1978-79 year, a record total of 75 women was enrolled in rabbinical studies: 62 Reform and 13 Reconstructionist. In the 1979-80 year, the total dropped slightly to 74: 62 Reform and 12 Reconstructionist. The record 82 women candidates studying this year comprises 67 Reform and 15 Reconstructionist students.

## U.S. JEWS ON JERUSALEM PILGRIMAGE URGED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA) — Some 1000 American Jews walked from downtown Jerusalem to the Western Wall in an expression of solidarity with Israel's proclamation that united Jerusalem is its capital. The event, known as the Great Jerusalem Pilgrimage, was organized several months ago at the height of the criticism of Israel for passing the Jerusalem Law. The pilgrimage was organized in the U.S. under the auspices of the American Zionist Federation and in Israel by the World Zionist Organization.

Mayor Teddy Kollek spoke to the group at the Western Wall and told the members that he appreciated this symbolic American Jewish support for united Jerusalem. However, he added, "you should go a step further. Some of you at least must come here (on aliya). One member of every family." Alternatively, he suggested that some should come here for an extended period of time "to study for a year or two or to provide some national service."

The event which took place Tuesday, was almost marred by a religious controversy. Although the group gathered some 100 yards from the Western Wall, the local rabbis insisted on separating the women from the men. After a heated exchange the group agreed to the arrangement, but not before Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, declared angrily that if he had known that the women and men would be separated the group would have gone elsewhere.

### One Million Signature Drive

One of the participants in the Jerusalem solidarity march, Rabbi Seymour Baumrind of Lake Success, N.Y., spiritual leader of a Conservative congregation there, announced that a united Christian-Jewish campaign to collect one million signatures on a petition supporting united Jerusalem has reached its half-way mark.

Baumrind said the petition campaign which began in his synagogue during the Rosh Hashanah holiday, has turned into a campaign to give Israel political support as the new Reagan Administration comes into office. The petition, the rabbi said, will be presented to Premier Menachem Begin and will also be sent to President-elect Reagan and to new members of the U.S. Congress.

According to Baumrind, evangelical Christian churches have reacted enthusiastically to the petition drive. He said that about 50 percent of the signers are Jewish and the rest are Christians.

PARIS (JTA) — Alain Pöher, President of the French Senate, will lead an international campaign for Syrian Jewry to mark Human Rights Day Dec. 10. Pöher, also the president of the Council for Jews in Arab Countries, informed Syria's President Hafez Assad of the campaign.