

# JTA daily news bulletin

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No. 1

## NEW CABINET CRISIS LOOMING

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- A new Cabinet crisis that may force Premier Menachem Begin to reshuffle his coalition government loomed this week after Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz threatened to resign over the issue of higher pay for teachers. Hurwitz said that if the recommended pay hikes are adopted, they would trigger similar demands from other professional groups, leading to the collapse of his efforts to restrain inflation.

As a result of these developments, Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party, may postpone his trip to the U.S. next week. Peres was invited to speak for the United Jewish Appeal and the Israel Bond Organization but he was also scheduled to meet with members of the outgoing Carter Administration and President-elect Reagan's transition team. Peres met with Begin yesterday at the latter's invitation, their first meeting in some time.

Details of their talk were not disclosed but aides of Peres and Begin said Peres' forthcoming visit to the U.S. was not discussed. The government is reportedly upset by the prospect that Peres would meet with officials of the new American Administration before Begin or his representatives have a chance to do so.

### Possible Shift Indicated

The departure of Hurwitz and the two other members of his Rafi faction in Likud is not likely to topple the Cabinet at this time. Begin is expected to replace them by co-opting Shlomo Eliyahu, head of the Ahva faction which broke away from the Democratic Movement some time ago, to the Cabinet. Eliyahu has expressed willingness to serve, but not if Hurwitz's economic policies are implemented.

The teachers' pay hikes are strongly supported by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party. He has hinted that he would resign if they are not implemented. The teachers' union has threatened a general strike. The matter is expected to be resolved one way or another at Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF FIRED IN THE ABU-HATZEIRA CASE

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court said today that it would consider next Wednesday an appeal by two police officers to overturn the dismissal of Inspector General of Police Herzl Shafir by Interior Minister Yosef Burg yesterday. Burg gave no official reason for firing Shafir who took office exactly one year ago as head of Israel's Police Department. But the officer was quoted as telling aides that he had "fallen victim to political pressure."

Burg acted after consultation with Premier Menachem Begin. On Tuesday, Shafir admitted before the Knesset's Interior Committee that a police spokesman, Arye Arad, had deliberately leaked false information to the press in the case of Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira

who was indicted a month ago on three counts of bribe-taking.

Yesterday, however, the police issued an official communique--apparently authorized by Shafir--stating that the information was in fact correct and that there was nothing illegal about feeding information to the press if it served the purpose of an investigation. The information concerned the number of witnesses the prosecution has against Abu-Hatzeira.

### Police Brass Angry Over Firing

Burg met with senior police officers today to explain why he fired Shafir. But the police brass is in ferment over Burg's swift action and a number of other officers, including Shafir himself, may join the appeal to reverse Burg's order. Several Knesset members have filed urgent agenda motions on the matter.

Shafir, a former army Deputy Chief of Staff, was generally held in high regard for his efforts to reorganize the police force. Police Inspector Arye Invitzan, commander of the southern district, is expected to be named next week to succeed Shafir.

## NEW CHRISTIAN RIGHT POSES SERIOUS DILEMMA FOR U.S. JEWS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- Participants in a panel discussion on "The New Christian Right and the Jews" in America agreed that the vehement support of Israel on the part of right-wing Christian fundamentalists on the one hand and their reactionary, anti-liberal political and social views on the other hand, pose a serious dilemma for American Jews. But the panelists disagreed on how this dilemma should be approached.

The panel was part of the 1980 National Editors Conference of the Jewish Student Press Service held at American Jewish Congress headquarters here this week. The participants were Annette Daum, Inter-religious Affairs Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), and Kenneth Jacobson, Middle East Affairs Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Henry Feingold, professor of American Jewish history at City University of New York.

According to Jacobson, the fundamentalist Christian right and especially the Moral Majority movement headed by Rev. Jerry Falwell demonstrates an "extremely strong pro-Zionist position" that American Jewry should cultivate and encourage.

But at the same time, he noted, the Jewish community should be aware that the motive of the Moral Majority in supporting Israel "is not so pure from our point of view" because, he said, they see the ingathering of all the Jews in Israel as a precondition for the second coming of the Messiah.

### Cites Need For Close Examination

Jacobson said that although this pro-Zionist stand should be cultivated, it poses a dilemma for American Jews because of the social policies of the new Christian right. He noted that these policies alienate supporters of Israel from other segments of society. As a case in point, he recalled that that outgoing Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho), a staunch supporter

of Israel, refused to accept the Jabotinsky Award from Premier Menachem Begin last Nov. because Begin also bestowed it on Folwell.

Jacobson maintained that the need to cultivate the relationship between American Jewry and the fundamentalists is important in view of the little measure of support Israel enjoys in the rest of the world. He added, however, "American Jews have to examine on a multiplicity of levels their relations with the Moral Majority and not on the issue of support of Israel alone." He said Jews should consider the impact the views of the Moral Majority will have on Jewish life in America in years to come.

#### Warns of Inherent Danger

A different approach was advocated by Daum who called on American Jews to come out "in the open" against the Moral Majority despite their support of Israel. She warned that if the opinions and views of the Moral Majority are translated into political power, America will face "a new repressive era" which, she warned, would be "dangerous to the Jews."

Daum said, "We should appreciate the support (of the Moral Majority for Israel) but yet we should not give them awards. We are going to end with egg on our faces. We have to fight them in the open." She added that the American Jewish community is against the agenda of the Moral Majority on social, educational and economic issues.

Feingold said the fundamentalist Christians are "wonderfully Zionist" but they have a different approach to power than the Jews who believe in complete separation of church and state.

#### U.S. DEPLORES BUT DOES NOT DENOUNCE ISRAEL'S AIRSTRIKE AGAINST TERRORIST BASES

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli-Syrian air battle over south Lebanon yesterday was deplored by the State Department because it "adds significantly to rising tensions in the area." But the Department specifically refused to denounce Israeli deployment of aircraft across its border.

(Israeli planes shot down two Syrian aircraft which tried to intercept an Israeli airstrike on Palestinian terrorist bases in south Lebanon, according to an Israeli army spokesman. The Israeli strike was on terrorist training bases and staging posts in the Tyre and Nabatiya areas from which attacks were launched on targets in Israel, the spokesman said. During the attack, two Syrian aircraft approached from the northwest of the upper Galilee area and a dog-fight ensued between the Syrian and Israeli aircraft. The two Syrian aircraft were downed about five miles from Metullah. The last time Syrian planes were downed in a clash with Israeli planes was last Aug. 24.)

A State Department spokesman, Jack Cannon, said yesterday's airstrike by Israel was "in conjunction with the Israel preemptive bombing raids on Palestinian positions in the area of Tyre and Nabatiya. The last 10 days have been a tense period in Lebanon. We deplore this latest development which adds significantly to stirring tensions. It is imperative that all parties involved exercise maximum restraint and avoid further armed action."

When he was asked whether he was deploring Israel's deployment in south Lebanon, Cannon replied: "No, I am deploring the situation that resulted in the military action that took place."

#### KOCH: WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS NEEDED FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- Mayor Edward Koch of New York said here today he was ending his nine-day visit to Israel, which followed a week in Egypt, with amended views about Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

"I came here with mixed emotions on the issue. I welcomed the chance to see the situation myself ... The Chinese have a saying: One picture is worth a thousand words. I say that seeing for yourself is worth a thousand pictures," he told a press conference before preparing to return home.

"I am now convinced that the present thrust of Israel's policy is right, that a careful strategy of settlements on the West Bank is necessary for Israel's future security," he said.

Koch said he agreed that it would be impossible for Israel to hand back high areas on the West Bank from which Arabs have in the past, and might again in the future if war were to break out, commanded regions in which 60 percent of Israel's population lives.

The New York mayor said he thought the world had not been made sufficiently aware of the price Israel was ready to pay for peace. "One of the problems is that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is a very personable and articulate person who makes a great impression. But Premier Menachem Begin is a righteous prophet in the Biblical sense, and historically nobody has ever liked a prophet -- look at Jeremiah," Koch said. "Begin knows he is right but does not put it across so well," he said.

#### MORTON WALDMAN DEAD AT 39

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the Jackson Heights Jewish Center for Rabbi Morton Waldman, the Conservative synagogue's spiritual leader, who died of a heart attack Tuesday night at the age of 39.

He had been rabbi of the Jewish Center since 1972 and had been serving at the time of his death as dean of the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Waldman had been a co-founder of the Jackson Heights Kehilla, representing a majority of synagogues and secular organizations in Jackson Heights. Among other functions, the Kehilla has been helping Soviet Jewish newcomers to become part of the community.

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TEL AVIV, (JTA) -- Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin was reported Thursday to be resting comfortably in Hodassah Hospital in Jerusalem and may be sent home by Friday, doctors said. Yadin was admitted to the hospital Wednesday when he complained of chest pains while dining in a Jerusalem restaurant. He was rushed to the hospital where examinations were carried out in the intensive care unit. But doctors ruled out any suspicion of a heart attack, describing his ailment as a passing indisposition.

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JERUSALEM, (JTA) -- A hand grenade was thrown into a crowded Jewish-owned restaurant in the Old City Thursday night but it failed to explode, police reported.

## **SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH ARLEN SPECTER, FIRST JEWISH SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

(Editor's Note: When the 97th Congress convenes this month, Philadelphia Arlen Specter will take his seat as the first Jewish Senator elected from Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Republican joined Jewish Exponent editors in a "meet the press" session at the newspaper's editorial offices before leaving for Washington. He will serve on the Senate Judiciary and Appropriations Committee, and will be chairman of the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee and a member of the Criminal Law Subcommittee, both of the Judiciary Committee.)

(Specter answered questions for Jewish Exponent Editor Frank Wundohl, Managing Editor Al Erlick and News Editor David Gross. Specter and his wife Joan, a City Councilwoman, will take part in the Federation Allied Jewish Appeals Super Sunday Phone-a-Thon, Jan. 18. They were long-time members of Congregation Mikveh Israel and are currently congregants at Society Hill Synagogue.)

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1 (JTA) -- Senator-elect Arlen Specter was questioned about a host of foreign and domestic issues that would have an impact both on his own state and city and also on American Jews. What follows are excerpts from the interview which appears in full in the Jan. 2 edition of the Jewish Exponent.

SPECTER: I have a keen interest in the Judiciary Committee, in the issues that it has jurisdiction over. One of them is the issue of immigration and refugees, which is very important on the Soviet Jewry matter ... The question of Soviet Jewry is a very personal one to me because my father was a Soviet refugee; in 1911 he came to Philadelphia. My mother came as a child of five from an area which was then Poland but which was shifted back and forth between Poland and Russia on many occasions. So there is a very deep personal interest on my part.

WUNDOHL: I read a background piece about you and Bob Dole. You mentioned that your father came here in 1911. Just briefly, how did he wind up in Wichita?

SPECTER: He worked in Philadelphia in a tailor shop -- he called it a sweatshop -- for three years, saved up enough money to buy a Model-T Ford, and then drove west selling blankets in the winter to farmers. He would tell me stories about how amazed the farmers were in the Midwest that he was Jewish without horns. I found that hard to believe when he told me that as a youngster in the '30s, but in 1915-16-17 that was an expectation that people in the Midwest had.

He met my mother when he was in St. Joseph, Mo., and then went to fight in World War I with the American Expeditionary Force. He came back to Missouri, where he was married. My brother was born in 1920 in St. Joseph. They moved back to Philadelphia and my sister was born here in 1921. I cannot tell you how many times they moved back and forth, but they did move back again when I started school here in 1935. They moved back to Kansas in 1936, always trying to earn a living, and then moved back to Philadelphia in 1948. It was his ambition to retire in Philadelphia, and he did.

### The Issue of Israel

GROSS: In the recent election, Israel lost many of its long-standing friends in the Senate

and even worse, I guess you could say that some of those friends were replaced by people far less friendly. How do you see this as affecting Middle East legislation and Israeli matters in the Senate? What do you see as your role in counteracting these anti-Israeli forces?

SPECTER: I think it is true that Israel lost good friends or that good friends were not reelected. I do not think that we yet know that those who were elected in their place will not be favorably disposed toward Israel. I think that remains to be seen. I am very optimistic about President-elect Reagan, for example, as the focal point of American foreign policy. If the Secretary of State is Gen. (Alexander) Haig, I am very optimistic about that. I have a great deal of respect for Gen. Haig.

Then we have to see what the policies are of the men who come into the Senate replacing the good friends. I think there is a real need for people who understand the problems of Israel, and I think that I would have special insights to that for a lot of obvious reasons. I have been to Israel. I gave you chronology of my father's travels to Philadelphia in 1948, but my father had a lifelong ambition to live in Israel. He made a trip and died in Israel and is buried there.

I have a sister who has established a permanent residence in Israel. I have nephew and family living there. I very much believe that American foreign policy should strengthen the Israeli nation. I believe that because it is in the strategic interest of the United States to have a strong Israel as the only democracy in the Middle East and the strongest ally historically of the United States, and also because of the importance to the Jewish people to have a homeland which should be secure.

### Begin Pursued Responsible Policy

WUNDOHL: While we're on the subject of Israel, what are your feelings -- where do you stand on the current policy of the Begin government, particularly with regard to settlements and the effort to resolve the autonomy question of the Palestinians?

SPECTER: I think that Prime Minister Begin has pursued a responsible policy. I think the Camp David accords were a very significant step forward, providing a structure which has real potential, and I have been disappointed that they have not been implemented on further negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

With respect to the issue of a separate government on the West Bank, I agree with the position of the Begin government that that is intolerable for Israel, that autonomy does not mean a separate PLO state on the West Bank. I think that would be very dangerous for Israel, and I do not think that that is what was contemplated by the Camp David accords. I think Prime Minister Begin and the Israeli government are on a very sound ground in opposing that and should continue to oppose it, and that the United States should not seek to impose that sort of a situation on Israel.

WUNDOHL: In that case, do you still believe that there is life left in the Camp David peace accord approach or will the new Administration be faced with finding a new modus operandi in the peace process to bring further progress?

SPECTER: I think there is vitality in the Camp David accords. There will have to be a development to see what can be done as the next step, but the Camp David accords are in existence and are a very important starting point, a very important structure. The issue then remains to be seen as to where we go next, whether we implement the Camp David accords or whether there can be steps taken which are agreeable to all the parties. But I think it's

something that has to be negotiated in a free context, with nothing being rammed down the throats of the Israeli government.

### View of the New Right

**WUNDOHL:** The New Right or Moral Majority, as it has variously been labeled, has already warned Vice President-elect George Bush that unless he becomes a bit more conservative in his attitudes he might join a new "hit" list ... Does this kind of a threat concern you, and how could this affect the ways in which you might vote on various measures in the Senate?

**SPECTER:** I think that we're going to have to see how the situation unfolds with respect to specific issues which are taken by people on all sides of the political spectrum. I personally believe that the labels of "moderate" or "conservative" or "liberal" conceal a lot more than they reveal, that they are just not realistically descriptive of what goes on ... I personally intend to vote my conscience on the matters as they come up. I was very concerned about the abortion issue in the last campaign. That was a very difficult political issue, and I am on record as opposing a constitutional amendment; that has made some people unhappy ...

### Focus On Domestic Issues

**ERLICK:** You mentioned the abortion issue specifically. Right now the Congress and the President are wrestling over the anti-busing provisions in the appropriations bill. We have indications that one of the pieces of the conservative agenda is a school prayer amendment. Where are you on these issues?

**SPECTER:** I think it is inappropriate through an appropriations measure to limit the executive branch on enforcement of the constitutional requirements for desegregation. I personally think that busing poses a lot of problems, and neither the blacks nor the white like busing. I think there is consensus that the answer is decent neighborhood schools so that children don't have to be bused ...

With respect to the issue of school prayer, I come to that issue without a clear-cut position. I know that when I was a child in school, prayers were uttered and these were not non-sectarian prayers. I recall as a youngster being concerned about what others were praying to and that I was expected to join in, and I chose just instinctively as a child of five or six or seven not to say the words because I was Jewish -- the only Jewish student in a lot of the classes. I grew up in Kansas. I don't think the availability of prayers for others was detrimental to my development ...

I am for the Equal Rights Amendment, for example. The Equal Rights Amendment is an amendment to the Constitution. It is somewhat different from an amendment on abortion because the Equal Rights Amendment does not arise in a context of a specific Supreme Court decision the other way ...

### The Meaning Of Being Jewish

**SPECTER:** It is a tradition which identifies my roots and gives structure to religious beliefs and ethical beliefs and family background. Being Jewish to me means that life has a lot of struggle to it; that my father came from Russia, where he was oppressed, where there were pogroms and people were fearful about the Cossacks riding down the streets of Russia, and he came to the United States.

My parents kept kosher while we lived in Wichita, but could not when we moved to the small town of Russell, which was a town of 5,000. I have two very Orthodox sisters who have followed that line from our family training. There is a very deep sense of the need to provide opportunities for Jews worldwide, again in a very personal sense from the problems that my father and mother had -- the great opportunities which my brother and sisters and I have had as a result of what my parents did.

There is a great spirit of philanthropy which comes with being Jewish. To say that my father was not wealthy is inaccurate. We were very poor in the '30s. But he was always a generous man. There was always room at the table for somebody else to share what little we had. And he was impeccably honest. At a time when it was hard to maintain integrity, he maintained integrity. Those are very important values.

### YOUNG SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST WHO SOUGHT MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THE WEST DIES IN THE USSR

**NEW YORK, Jan 1 (JTA) --** The death of Alexander Landsman, the 17-year old Soviet Jewish boy whose parents had requested permission for him to emigrate from the Soviet Union in order to seek treatment of leukemia in the West, was announced by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. The Conference was the primary sponsor of the family's request for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Landsman died in Tallinn last Sunday, a Conference spokesperson said. The Landsman family was refused permission to emigrate when they first applied in September 1976, but they renewed their appeal to Soviet officials on humanitarian grounds earlier last year, when their son developed cancer. The spokesperson said that the parents had taken Alexander to Tallinn from their home in Moscow in a final attempt to seek treatment of the leukemia.

The boy's aunt, Bella Belostazki, was granted permission to leave the Soviet Union four years ago and at present lives with her husband and mother in northern New Jersey. Mrs. Belostazki has been active in seeking her nephew's release from the Soviet Union and has contacted medical experts around the world to intervene on her nephew's behalf.

"The tragedy of Alexander Landsman is one more example of the Soviet Union's inhumane treatment of its Jewish citizens," the Conference spokesman said. "The Landsmans sought nothing more than the right to have their son treated by doctors of their choice." The spokesperson called on the Soviet government to grant permission to the Landsman family to leave the Soviet Union immediately.

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**BONN, (JTA) --** President Karl Carstens of West Germany has warned in a newspaper interview that West Germany's image as a free and democratic state is suffering under politically motivated neo-Nazi violence. Increased neo-Nazi activities, Carstens pointed out, could trigger feelings of insecurity among the Jewish population in West Germany. The President also warned against leftwing extremism, which, according to him, is trying "to penetrate into state institutions" in order to take over gradually. Carstens said that both right and leftwing extremists should be barred from jobs in the public administration.

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**TEL AVIV, (JTA) --** Higher wages offered by the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon are attracting south Lebanese away from work in Israel, according to a Labor Ministry spokesman.