

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## LEAKED REPORT OF TALKS BETWEEN SADAT, BEN-ELISSAR CAUSES FUROR

Sadat Reportedly Opposed To EEC Initiative  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- A leaked report of lengthy conversations between President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar in Cairo last week, in which the Egyptian leader reaffirmed his support of the Camp David peace process and indicated opposition to the European Middle East initiative, touched off a political furor here today with ramifications for the coming election campaign.

The report, contained in classified cables from Ben-Elissar to his superiors in Jerusalem, was broadcast by Kol Israel Radio last night and on television. Some portions of the cables were read verbatim. Ben-Elissar was said to be furious and is demanding an investigation, according to press reports from Cairo this morning. Egyptian officials also were reportedly angered and embarrassed by the leak which they fear might damage Sadat's visit to Europe this week.

Sadat will address the Parliament of Europe in Luxembourg tomorrow, the first Arab head of state invited to speak before that body. According to the leaked cables, he told Ben-Elissar that the initiative undertaken by the European Economic Community (EEC) "could certainly not replace, supersede or undermine" the Camp David process, and the preeminent American peacemaking effort in the Middle East.

Sadat also said, according to the cables, that he suspected some European statesmen were seeking to "drive a wedge" between Israel and Egypt.

### Probing Origin Of The Leak

David Kimche, Director General of the Prime Ministers Office, was said to be distraught over the leak and was conducting energetic inquiries to ascertain that it did not originate from his bureau. But the prevailing opinion among political observers is that the Prime Minister's Office did in fact leak the cables for election campaign reasons because they reflected well on the Likud government's relations with Egypt.

Ben-Elissar's reports seemed to show that normalization between Israel and Egypt is progressing well despite periodic problems and that there were prospects for resuming the West Bank/Gaza autonomy talks, suspended by Egypt last May.

The Israeli envoy reported in his cables that Sadat showed interest in the idea of agricultural cooperation with Israel and suggested a major irrigation project in Egypt based on Israel's know-how and experience. Sadat also disclosed that he had asked Osman Ahmed Osman, head of the major Arab contractors firm, to study the prospects of setting up kibbutz type agricultural communities in Egypt.

Ben-Elissar reported that he raised the issue of resuming the autonomy talks and that while Sadat's initial reaction was that "it is not practical," he eventually conceded that perhaps the Israeli envoy was right and that there was a chance to resume the talks. Sadat also reiterated his be-

lief that there was no viable "Jordanian option" at this time and that the Palestine Liberation Organization could not be a partner in negotiations with Israel.

According to the leaked report, Sadat maintained that there were sufficient Arab leaders on the West Bank and Gaza Strip to adequately represent the Palestinians in the peace process. Ben-Elissar's cables minutely detailed his meeting with the Egyptian leader.

At one point, the Israeli envoy noted, the President's wife, Jihan Sadat, entered the room where the two men were talking and apologized to Ben-Elissar for not visiting the Israeli pavilion at the international book fair in Cairo last week and for not shaking his hand when she officially opened the fair 10 days ago. She said she was preoccupied with the many duties incumbent on her during the ceremonial opening.

Sadat himself told the Ambassador that he had given orders to permit Israel's participation in the book fair despite vigorous opposition from some political quarters in Cairo.

### Potent Factor In The Election Campaign

The leak, if it was indeed politically motivated, indicated how potent a factor the Israeli-Egyptian relationship will be in the election campaign. According to all opinion polls to date, the Labor Party will defeat Likud by a substantial margin. Premier Menachem Begin is expected to stress to the electorate the role he and his government played in achieving the historic peace treaty and in developing the peace process with Egypt since then.

The opposition Labor Party was understandably angered by the leak and with one of its own leaders, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, who said in a radio interview Saturday that in the short-term, Sadat preferred Begin to Labor Party chairman Simon Peres as his negotiating partner. Labor has been promoting the "Jordanian option" and negotiations with King Hussein which Sadat opposes. But, according to Rabin, the Egyptians feel Labor may be a more flexible negotiator in the long term.

### 'An Event Of Historic Import' POPE MEETS CHIEF RABBI OF ROME FIRST TIME IN 2000 YEARS THAT SUCH A MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II and the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Elio Toaff, met today in what the Jewish community officially termed "an event of historical import" and which most observers saw as a calculated effort by the Vatican to enhance its relations with the Jewish community which, generally, have been good.

The encounter took place in a building adjacent to the Church of San Carlo Ai Cattinari on the Piazza Cairoli, in the heart of the Roman ghetto, the oldest in Europe. The Pontiff was accompanied by Cardinal Ugo Poletti and Msgr. Jorge Mejia, Secretary of The Vatican Secretariate for Religious Relations with the Jews. Toaff had with him Assistant Chief Rabbi Alberto Piattelli and a small delegation representing Rome's Jewish community.

It was the first time in the 2000 years of variegated relations between the Church of Rome and the Jewish community that a chief rabbi of the city has accepted an invitation to meet with a Pope. Although Rome's Jews never suffered pogroms or similar persecutions, they have been, in past centuries, subjected to many levels of humiliation, including forced attendance at sermons aimed at their conversion in the very church compound that was the scene of today's meeting.

Just two months ago, the Pope's second Encyclical dealing with distortions of justice in the modern world, drew a sharp reaction from Jewish circles because of its reference to the Biblical injunction, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," as "the form of distortion of justice" at the time of Jesus.

The Pope's decision to meet with the Chief Rabbi of Rome and the simultaneous publication today in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano of an editorial entitled "Dives In Misericordia: An Encyclical for Christians and Jews" indicated in an oblique way a desire to assuage the feelings of Jews who felt offended by the earlier Encyclical which, by the very nature of an Encyclical, cannot be re-written. As observers with experience in Vatican diplomacy know, the Church leaves nothing to pure coincidence.

Toaff told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency later that "This was a first contact. To evaluate its impact, we will have to wait for future developments." That cautious appraisal was shared by others in the Jewish community who had hoped the Pope would make some specific apologetic reference to past relations between the Church and the Jewish community.

#### Pope's Comments Are Generalities

The Pope, however, limited his comments to generalities. He said in effect that it was good for mutual relations to emphasize the present and above all the future. He presented Toaff with a silver Vatican medal and the other members with copper medals. He spoke of the Holocaust, the great sufferings of the Jews, the common religious heritage that unites Catholics and Jews and on themes touched by the rabbi in his speech which stressed the issues on which Catholics and Jews are united.

"There are manifold elements we hold in common in the struggle we are forced to conduct in the world surrounding us," Toaff said, "a struggle for the affirmation of the dignity of man, intended as a mirror of the Divine image, a struggle for the right to life from its very first conception, recognizing the right to give or take it away only to God."

That reference by Toaff to the common position taken by Catholics and Jews, at least the Orthodox, against abortion was evidently appreciated by the Pope, especially as the right of choice in this matter has become a heated political issue in Italy.

Toaff also spoke of a common "struggle for the affirmation of the values of the family, its unity and its morality, a struggle against the plague of drugs which kill the weak and rootless, and a struggle for the realization of a society that is more just, where all can share those goods that God has conceded to man. . . . And finally, the struggle for the rights of man and his religious liberty."

A statement issued after the meeting by the Rome Jewish Community declared: "In the mon-

ent in which a Roman Pontiff meets the Chief Rabbi of Rome and representatives of the Roman Jewish Community near the area which for over 2000 years witnessed infinite pain and both ancient and recent mourning, the Jews of Rome recognize this encounter as an event of historical import and the real point of departure for a new chapter in the relations of the great monotheistic religions."

#### HAMMER DUE TO VISIT EGYPT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- Education Minister Zevulun Hammer is likely to visit Egypt soon as guest of President Anwar Sadat. Hammer will lead a delegation of educators and sports officials and will discuss prospects for cultural and recreational exchanges between the two countries.

The visit grew out of an invitation from Egypt's Minister of Sports, relayed through Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar, to his Israeli counterpart to bring a sports delegation to Cairo.

Hammer was uncomfortable at this arrangement, since sports are only a small part of his education and culture domain. Ben-Elissar tactfully mentioned the matters during his meeting with Sadat last week and the Egyptian leader immediately responded by asserting that Hammer must come as his (Sadat's) personal guest.

#### CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S FINAL REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABROAD GIVES ISRAEL SOME HIGH MARKS

By Joseph Polakoff

(Part One Of A Two-Part Series)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- In the general pattern of its findings in previous years, the Carter Administration's final report to Congress on human rights practices abroad declares Israel is a "parliamentary democracy with high standards of justice and human rights" that are "applied fully inside Israel" but that "sharply different politico-social environments" prevail in the "Arab territories Israel has occupied since the 1967 war."

The 1140-page report on 153 nations for 1980, prepared by the State Department, includes sections on anti-Semitism in Argentina and the Soviet Union. It was made public today by the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees and is required under the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act.

A comparison of the findings on Israel's governance in the administrative areas and government policy in neighboring countries toward their own people indicates that the inhabitants under Israel's military authority apparently have much greater individual freedom and rights normally associated with democratic political philosophy than people in the Arab countries.

Such comparisons, however, are not attempted in the State Department reports. Israel has been frequently and strongly denounced by the State Department over the past several years on its administrative practices in the occupied areas while seldom making severe criticism of its neighbors on their treatment of their own nationals.

In its 19-page report on Israel and the territories, which is longer than for any other country -- the Soviet Union is allocated 15 pages, including the Afghanistan situation -- the Department observed that "the absence of peace treaties between Israel and its neighbors, with the exception of Egypt, makes security a dominant concern and affects many facets of Israel's national life."

As of Oct. 1, 1980, the report said, about 2,190 "non-Israeli citizen Arabs" were in prison for security offenses in Israel or the territories.

While noting that under the Fourth Geneva Convention, administrative detention is not permissible beyond one year, "from the general close of military operations," the report said Israel maintains that "administrative detention is occasionally necessary to prevent terrorist operations when a court proceeding would jeopardize sensitive security information." The report also said "residents of the occupied territories accused of non-security offenses receive fair public trials by local civilian courts."

Without referring to the Palestine Liberation Organization, the report said responsibility for terrorist acts "is usually claimed by Palestinian organizations located outside Israel and the territories." It noted "at least" 32 bombs were placed in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the first 10 months of 1980.

#### View Of Settlement Activity

"Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories has adversely affected the livelihood of some Arab residents, particularly as the result of taking land for settlements," the report said. It said that "in contravention of the generally accepted interpretation of the Fourth Geneva Convention Article 49, Israel has established more than 120 non-military settlements in the occupied territories with a total population of about 22,000 people, excluding East Jerusalem."

The report noted "compensation for expropriated land is sometimes offered but is rarely accepted by Arab residents because acceptance might compromise any future claim for the land and because Jordanian law treats such transactions as a capital crime."

#### Issue Of West Bank Water Resources

In a passage on West Bank water resources, the report said that use of water for the settlements have had "detrimental effects on Arab agriculture and livestock and on the rural population," but the Israelis maintain that their "exploitation of West Bank water has been limited" to water sources discovered and developed by Israeli technology and they cite "substantial gains in Arab agricultural production -- particularly in crops that are relatively heavy water users -- as proof that the strict Israeli conservation measures have not been detrimental."

Israel "meets the basic education needs of students in the occupied territories," the report said. "Freedom of religion" is "generally unqualified" with Israel having "scrupulously protected Moslem and Christian holy places and has assured full freedom of access thereto."

While "freedom of expression is restricted on security grounds," the report noted that "the East Jerusalem press is subject to censorship but generally is allowed to operate freely and is frequently outspoken of Israeli policies."

#### Situation In Syria

In its eight-page report on Syria, the State Department spoke of "numerous credible reports" that Syria used torture "on a wide scale" against dissidents and summarily executed persons Syrian security forces considered to be terrorists -- actions far from the Israeli handling of West Bank oppositionists who at worst were merely expelled from the area without physical harm.

Although the Syrian government "regularly participated in United Nations conferences on human rights" it "arrested some officers of its own Syrian League for the Defense of Human Rights," the report stated.

Mentioning Syrian Jews, the report said "a formal ban on emigration exists on certain categories of citizens" and "members of the Jewish community." It said "those Jews who attempt to emigrate from Syria illegally are subject to fines and detention."

In contrast to Israel's practices in all areas under its control, the report shows Saudi Arabia has "no political parties and no elected assemblies." While "there is no evidence that physical torture is carried out" in Saudi Arabia, the Department said "there is a heavy stress on obtaining confessions." There were 10 beheadings for premeditated murder in 1980 besides the 63 beheaded for attacking the Grand Mosque in Mecca. "A defendant in court is not represented by counsel," the report said.

#### Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt Assessed

In a 10-page study of Jordan, the Department said that since 1970 "Jordan has remained under a military rule which is justified by pointing out the political instability of its neighbors and the generally tense situation of the region." It noted Jordan "continues to receive large transfer payments from the Arab oil states." Among the "rising number of foreign workers in Jordan" are 70,000 mostly unskilled Egyptian agricultural and construction workers.

In Lebanon, the report said, the de facto political and military authorities in place -- whether Syrians, Palestinian or Lebanese militia -- have the last word on the administration of justice. It noted that "Lebanese civilians also have lost lives and property as a result of Israeli military raids against Palestinian/terrorist forces located in southern Lebanon."

In its eight-page report on Egypt that it generally treated with moderation, the Department said the country has "a strong presidency and a recently established multi-party political structure."

It noted that "although the government does not directly control the print media -- as it does the radio and television -- it exercises major influence on the press. The government appoints and can dismiss all editors on government-owned publications which includes all the daily newspapers."

In its concluding passage, the report said "there are several Egyptian human rights groups but their focus is directed on human rights problems outside Egypt."

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

#### CABINET APPROVES 1981-82 BUDGET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA) -- The Cabinet yesterday approved a 206 billion Shekel budget for fiscal year 1981-2. There was only a brief discussion, and only Interior Minister Yosef Burg voted against the budget on the grounds that the local authorities were inadequately provided for. The budget was the first presented by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. Basically the work on it was done under his predecessor Yigal Hurwitz, but Aridor did introduce some changes -- such as a slight increase in defense spending.

Aridor said the budget was based on predictions of 120 percent inflation in the 1981 calendar year and a 98 percent inflation in fiscal 1981-2 -- a steady drop in inflation so as to hit the double-digit line by the end of the calendar year.

The 206 billion Shekel figure breaks down as follows: 60.9 billion for debt service; 63 billion for defense; 37.9 billion for subsidies, national insurance payments; 20.6 billion for civilian consumption; and 23.4 billion for investment. The Cabinet also approved an 8.6 billion Shekel supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, the third budget of the year.

## DETROIT SCHOOLS TO CORRECT ARAB GUIDE

By Alan Hitsky

DETROIT, Feb. 9 (JTA) — A Jewish teacher's objections to omissions and inaccuracies about Jews in an Arab ethnic guide produced by the Detroit public schools had led to an official recommendation that the guide be withdrawn and corrected.

Doris Yehiel, a teacher at the Grayling School, objected to a map of the Arab world in the guide which identified Israel as "Arab land occupied by Israel." She also objected to the listing of Jerusalem as a city on the West Bank of Jordan rather than as Israel's capital and the identifying of costumes as coming from Syria and Palestine rather than of Syria and Palestinian Arabs.

Judaism was included among the three major religions in the area but Jewish holidays were not listed with the Christian and Islamic holidays.

According to an article in the Jan. 26 issue of the Detroit Federation of Teachers newspaper, Ms. Yehiel first raised her objections with the administration of the Detroit Public Schools Region 6.

### Recommends Guide Be Withdrawn

Based on her complaint and those of other Jewish teachers, region superintendent Seymour Gretchko had the guide withdrawn. Ms. Yehiel then took the issue to Detroit's central administration. After a review of the guide and the objections, Dr. Marvin Greene, assistant superintendent for curriculum, and other administrators recommended that the guide be withdrawn.

"In its place," Greene told the Detroit teachers' newspaper, "we are recommending that a writing team, independent of special interest groups, utilizing the services of consultants, develop a guide that will include the cultural and historical development of the various ethnic groups in the Middle East."

"We are aware that at the middle and senior high level the course might have to be taught in the context of controversial issues. We would hope that our students would be well informed and yet not captives of any single disputed point of view."

Greene was not immediately available for comment and his office could not say whether the guide had already been withdrawn from Detroit schools. Ms. Yehiel was quoted by the Detroit teachers' newspaper as saying that the guide provided valuable information for students learning about peoples from Arab lands. But she said it was insensitive in its approach to Israel and the Jewish people.

### Arab Community Upset

The Detroit News reported that the author of the guide and the leaders of Detroit's Arab community were upset by the controversy.

Haifa Fakhouri, executive director of the Arab-Chaldean Social Services Council, wrote the guide and said she was shocked that she had not been notified of the objection or given a chance to discuss possible corrections. Arab leaders here were outspoken about the recommendation to remove the guide and called for letter-writing campaigns and bringing the issue to the attention of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Washington.

(Editor's note: Alan Hitsky is the News Editor of The Jewish News.)

## EX-NAZI GOES ON TRIAL

CLEVELAND, Feb. 9 (JTA) — A trial, expected to last as long as seven weeks, to determine whether John Demjanjuk, a 60-year old naturalized citizen of Ukrainian origin lied about his participation in Nazi war crimes when he applied for citizenship in 1958, will open in U.S. District Court here tomorrow before federal Judge Frank Battisti.

Demjanjuk, a Ford assembly line worker since 1952, has been charged by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with supplying false information about his activities in World War II. If the charges are proven, he could be stripped of citizenship and face deportation proceedings.

The INS contended that Demjanjuk served as a guard in the Nazi extermination camps at Treblinka and Sobibor in Poland in 1942-1943, that he tortured countless inmates and herded Jews into the gas chambers. Demjanjuk insists that he was a prisoner of war at that time.

U.S. Attorneys Norman Moscowitz and John Horrigan are expected to fly in nine survivors from Germany, Israel and Uruguay to testify against Demjanjuk. The INS began its investigation into his background five years ago on the basis of affidavits from death camp survivors detailing atrocities allegedly committed by Demjanjuk who they referred to as "Ivan the Terrible." His first name at the time was Iwan.

### MINNIE OXENBURG DEAD AT 94

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (JTA) — Minnie Oxenburgh, whose activities and interests in local and national Jewish affairs spanned some 60 years, has died at the age of 94. She was a former member of the National Council of Christians and Jews and the National Council of Jewish Women.

She was also one of the organizers of the Washington B'nai B'rith's Women's Chapter, a former president of Hadassah of Greater Washington and a former chairman of Hadassah's Constitution Committee. Mrs. Oxenburgh served as president of the auxiliary of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington from 1927-30 and was elected in 1932 to the Board of the Jewish Communal Center of Washington and was an honorary life member of the Center's Board of Directors.

She served on the board of education of the Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington and was honored in 1968 for her work for its library and the Jewish community in general. She and her late husband, Henry Oxenburgh who died in 1970, were members of Congregation Adas Israel where Mrs. Oxenburgh, a former concert singer, was a member of the choir.

### JOSHUA URBAS DEAD AT 61

TORONTO, Feb. 9 (JTA) — Joshua Urbas, a Yiddish author and one of the few foreign authors to be published in "Sovetish Heimland," the Soviet Yiddish literary monthly, has died here at the age of 61.

Born in Ostrowce near Kielce in Poland, he escaped to the Soviet Union during World War II, resided briefly in Kirghistan and served in the Red Army. In 1946 Urbas immigrated to France, then went to Israel and later settled in Toronto where he worked as a tailor. He was the author of "Der Onhajib" (The Beginning), a collection of short stories published in 1970.

Despite his links with the Soviet Union, Urbas was a regular worshipper at Shaarei Shomayim, an Orthodox synagogue here.