

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

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

THE KATZ LIBRARY

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

H.U.C.-J.I.R. CINCINNATI  
Tuesday, February 17, 1981

No. 32

## ARAB EMBASSY BOMBED BY GROUP 19 1981 CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE VICTIMS OF RUE COPERNIC SYNAGOGUE BOMBING

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 16 (JTA) — Two powerful rockets were fired early this morning at the South Yemen Embassy in Paris by a group claiming to represent "The victims of the Rue Copernic Synagogue blast" which killed four people and wounded 33 last Oct. 3.

The rockets, which police said seemed to have been manned by experts, caused serious damage to the building but no casualties. The attack took place shortly before 4 a.m. local time and police say the attackers presumably did not plan to kill anyone.

An inscription found on the wall of a courtyard from which the rockets were fired said "Remember Copernic." Pamphlets found on the site also indicated that the attackers were seeking revenge for the bomb attack against the Paris Reform synagogue. Later, an anonymous telephone caller told the Agence France Presse (AFP), "This attack was committed in the name of the Rue Copernic victims."

At the time of the Copernic blast, police believed it was carried out by anti-Semitic elements. Later, they assumed that Arab extremists, presumably Libyan inspired, planted the bomb which killed four passers-by, including an Israeli woman tourist. South Yemen, a Marxist country, has been accused of providing training facilities for European and Palestinian terrorists.

### Incidents Preceding The Bombing

Since the Rue Copernic bombing, several incidents believed to involve Jewish activist groups have been reported: an 84-year-old man, who happened to bear a name similar to that of a former Nazi collaborator, had acid thrown in his face; a 26-year-old student, believed to be a member of the now outlawed neo-Nazi organization, Federation of European Nationalist Action (FANE), was attacked in a similar way earlier this month. In both instances, Jewish groups seem to have been involved.

Shots have been fired at the homes of suspected neo-Nazi sympathizers and FANE's self-appointed leader, Marc Fredriksen, and several of his followers were badly beaten by groups claiming to represent various Jewish activist organizations.

Today's attack was far more sophisticated. The rockets were fired by delayed action mechanisms and the message to the AFP was relayed over a recording device in an apparent effort to prevent voice identification.

## BEGIN: BURG REJECT SADAT'S PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin and Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Israel's chief autonomy negotiator, today flatly rejected a proposal by President Anwar Sadat for the creation of a Palestinian government-in-exile. Begin claimed it would lead to a Soviet-dominated

Palestinian state and Burg called the proposal "an absolute contrast and contradiction" to the Camp David agreements.

Sadat made the suggestion in Cairo last night after a meeting with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria who was in Egypt over the weekend on the first leg of a Middle East tour that does not include Israel.

Kreisky said before leaving Vienna that he would not go to Israel because he did not want to interfere in the election campaign there. On leaving Egypt he will visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria. He was invited to Iraq but did not accept, Austrian sources said.

Kreisky's trip is viewed as the opening gun in a new Middle East initiative by the Austrian leader who has undertaken such missions in the past. In a recent television interview he said that several countries and even some groups in Israel had asked him to use his contacts to improve the political climate in the Middle East.

### Similar Proposal Rejected In The Past

The reactions of Begin and Burg to Sadat's proposal came as Israel's autonomy negotiating team met here this morning to consider how the stalled talks might be resumed. Begin said Sadat had made the same proposal in the past and that Israel turned it down because it would mean a Palestinian state in the making. According to Begin, Sadat's idea would also be opposed by the Reagan Administration because "A Palestinian government would be run by the Palestine Liberation Organization which works hand-in-hand with Moscow."

Burg noted that "In Camp David we talked about autonomy by a self-governing authority for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District. This should apply for the next five years. Talks about the final status of the West Bank should start only after three years of autonomy. If someone wants to talk today about the constitution of an exile government, it is an absolute contrast and contradiction to the agreement."

Burg reiterated that the Camp David signatories obligated themselves to conduct the autonomy negotiations continuously and "in good faith." Asked about reports that Sadat wanted to freeze the talks until after Israel's elections next June 30, Burg said that, too, was a contradiction of Camp David. He said Israel might send a formal protest to Cairo over Sadat's government-in-exile proposal.

## ISRAEL TO MOUNT INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF POC IOSIF MENDELEVICH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) — The Cabinet has decided that Israel will mount a world-wide campaign utilizing public opinion to ascertain the whereabouts of Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Iosif Mendelevich, the last of the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial defendants still incarcerated in the Soviet Union. Israel will also try to secure his release.

Premier Menachem Begin raised the matter at yesterday's Cabinet session after Mendelevich's

sister, Rivka Dori, a resident of Gush Etzion, reported him missing from Perm Labor Camp 36 in the Urals where he was held incommunicado for the past year. She recently received word from friends in Moscow that their inquiries about Mendelevich's condition had elicited a terse telegram from the camp commander stating "The prisoner you inquired about is no longer in this camp."

Mendelevich had been on a hunger strike since last November to protest his continued detention and mistreatment. He was denied visitors and mail. His sister fears he may be seriously ill and transferred to a hospital or may have died. His apparent disappearance came up at the 19th annual convention of the Israel Communist Party, attended by a delegation from the Soviet Union, which closed in Haifa Saturday night.

The Israeli organizers of the convention refused to accept a letter from Ilana Friedman, sister of imprisoned Ida Nudel, asking Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to free her. But one of the Soviet delegates, Prof. Genricas Osherovitz, a member of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, accepted the letter. He said he knew nothing of either Nudel or Mendelevich.

The Communist Party gathering was devoted almost entirely to denunciations of Israel and its policies. The only delegate to voice even mild criticism of a country other than Israel was Ryszard Wojna of Poland who referred to the "justified protest of the (Polish) working class against the distortion of Leninist norms in the (Polish Communist) Party and the errors of the former (Polish) administration who are responsible for the mistakes and distortions."

#### SHAMIR OUTLINES PRIORITY MATTERS HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS WITH HAIG

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Cabinet yesterday formally approved Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington this week and heard the Foreign Minister outline the priority matters he intends to discuss with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other U.S. officials. Shamir's trip will mark the first direct contact between a ranking Israeli minister and the new American Administration.

Shamir said he would stress Israel's readiness to resume the autonomy talks and negotiate an agreement for the West Bank and Gaza without Egyptian pre-conditions. He said he would make clear Israel's opposition to any European initiative in the Middle East.

Shamir said he would also reaffirm Israel's insistence that the U.S. create a multi-national peacekeeping force for Sinai, as provided for in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, before Israel completes its withdrawal from the peninsula by April, 1982. Israel will continue to oppose the sale of American military equipment to Saudi Arabia, specifically additional fuel tanks and bomb racks to enhance the combat capabilities of the Saudis' 60 F-15 jet fighters, Shamir said.

#### Low Key Campaign On U.S. Arms To Saudis

It is understood, however, that Israel will keep this effort in a low key and not launch a massive public campaign against the proposed sale as it had done during the Carter Administration. Apparently the government is anxious to avoid a confrontation at the outset of its relations with the Reagan Administration, especially on so delicate an issue as American support for Saudi Arabia.

Shamir's visit to the U.S. is viewed here as a possible prelude to a meeting between Premier Menachem Begin and President Reagan. So far, no invitation has been forthcoming from Washington. The Cabinet also approved visits by Shamir to Mexico and Colombia.

#### FRESHMAN N.Y. CONGRESSMAN PLEDGES TO BE STRONG PRO-ISRAEL ADVOCATE

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Rep. John LeBoutillier (R-C, NY) pledged here this weekend that as a new member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee "I'll be the strongest pro-Israel advocate in the whole Congress."

Appearing on nationally syndicated columnist Victor Riesel's weekly interview show on WEVD radio, LeBoutillier, who at 27 is the youngest member of the House, said that as a non-Jew "my position will be more credible than if coming from someone who is Jewish."

The freshman Congressman, who represents the Sixth District in Queens and Nassau County, said that what he most fears "is a subtle bit of pressure put on our new President to move him away from the really pro-Israel stance that he had during the campaign ... to what they call one of those 'even-handed' approaches -- which is not even-handed at all, which will be the first step toward the possible destruction of Israel."

LeBoutillier said the United States cannot negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization. "We can't talk or deal with them in any way," he stressed.

But, LeBoutillier added, members of his own party on the Foreign Affairs Committee, such as Rep. Paul Findley (R. Ill.) do not share these views. He said Findley advocates recognition of the PLO, calling it "one of the most moderate forces in the Middle East." Findley, LeBoutillier declared, "is obviously grossly ignorant of the facts if he calls the murdering of babies and peoples in schools and airports, moderate. I'd hate to see what he calls hardline. So I'm glad I am on the committee. At least I'll cancel him out."

#### CONCERN EXPRESSED THAT MANY ISRAELIS WOULD FORGO DEMOCRACY IN FAVOR OF A 'STRONGMAN'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres and other party leaders have expressed serious concern that a substantial number of Israelis may have lost faith in the democratic process because of the severe economic and social problems besetting the country.

Their concern is shared by many intellectuals and commentators as a result of a recent public opinion poll which indicated that about 40 percent of the population would be ready to forgo democracy and hand over control to a "strongman," if only temporarily. The poll was published in the current issue of Montifi, a monthly magazine.

Forty percent of the respondents replied in the affirmative when asked if a "strongman" was needed to pull the country out of its difficulties, even if that meant a temporary suspension of democratic rule. It also indicated that 55 percent of the populace favored curbs on the communications media.

Peres told a meeting of Labor affiliated educators that the poll results gave cause for worry because many citizens no longer trust the democratic process.

#### REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING JORDAN'S REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration has disclosed that it is discussing with

pertinent members of Congress the request of Jordan to buy 24 Cobra helicopters. State Department spokesman William Dyess said the discussions with Congress are informal and he declined to say what Jordan's specific reason is for acquiring the equipment, except that Jordan wanted them for defense.

The proposed sale to Jordan is the third under consideration to an Arab power since the Reagan Administration took office on Jan. 20. It is considering the sale of additional refueling tanks and bomb racks to enhance the capabilities of 60 F-15s owned by Saudi Arabia and also the sale of C-130 aircraft to Algeria that can be used as troop carriers.

"Jordan has had a long-standing defense relationship with the United States and we consider Jordan to be a friend," Dyess said, last Friday. "They want these helicopters and we are prepared to sell them." He made the statement in reply to a question as to the justification the United States would have to sell them when there is a possibility that Syrian and Jordanian forces may engage in warfare.

Dyess said, in relation to the possibility of a Jordanian-Syrian war, that he would not relate the sale "to any specific problems except that Jordan feels it needs them for self-defense." He said that the sale of the helicopters has been discussed with the Jordanian government through the Joint Military Commission that was established in 1974.

Dyess said "in these discussions we have repeatedly expressed our willingness in principle to sell Cobras" to Jordan. Asked whether Jordan has made a commitment of reciprocity to U.S. interests, such as willingness to join the Camp David peace process, Dyess replied that he had "no indication that such quid pro quo was required." (By Joseph Polakoff)

#### COURT RULES ON ELECTRIC COMPANY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court ruled today that the government has the right to purchase the East Jerusalem Electric Corp., but only that part of the Arab-owned utility located within the confines of Jerusalem. The appeal by the corporation against any change in its status was upheld with respect to its operations in the occupied territories.

The unexpected decision posed dilemmas for the government, which must decide if it wants only part of the utility or none, and for the partially successful appellants because their power plant is in Jerusalem. Both sides were claiming victory today. Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai went into immediate consultations with his senior advisors to seek a solution to the problem.

The corporation let it be known that it would challenge that part of the ruling that favored the government if the latter moved to take over the power plant. The appeal was filed with the high court after the government announced a year ago that it planned to exercise its right of purchase under the corporation's original franchise and merge the East Jerusalem utility into the Israel Electric Corp. The franchise was granted during the British Mandate in Palestine.

The East Jerusalem Electric Corp. serves both Arab and Jewish customers, the latter since the Six-Day war when Jewish settlements began to appear on the West Bank and to proliferate in recent years. The appeal contended that the take-over bid had political motivations. The

Supreme Court agreed, though it saw nothing wrong with political consideration per se. But it ruled against a change in the company's status on the West Bank because of the temporary character of the Israeli presence there.

The court, however, ordered the entire matter returned to the Minister of Energy for reconsideration and urged that before he makes a final decision he allow representatives of the corporation to present their argument. The court also called on all parties to maintain "good will and a moderate approach," indicating that it hoped the government would make an effort to resolve the issue by mutual agreement with the owners.

An Energy Ministry spokesman claimed, however, that the ruling meant that the government can take over the corporation because its generators are in East Jerusalem. In that case, the spokesman said, a body would be set up to handle power connections for consumers in the occupied territory and collect bills.

#### ISRAELI JEWS AND ARABS URGED TO COOPERATE TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Former President Ephraim Katzir has urged Israeli Jews and Arabs to work together to develop the country since the fate of both groups is linked to the fate of the nation. Katzir spoke to some 500 Jews and Arabs at a Mapam-organized convention last Saturday here aimed at improving Jewish-Arab relations in Israel.

Victor Shemtov, Secretary General of Mapam, said the meeting was called in response to "warning signals" of mounting tensions between the groups. He cited as examples expressions of racial hatred, an anti-Arab report prepared by a senior Interior Ministry official, and a statement attributed to Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt telling Arabs who were unhappy in Israel to "take a taxi across the bridge to Jordan."

The meeting ended with the establishment of an Arab-Jewish Public Council and the scheduling of a larger convention this spring.

#### UN SHUFFLES COMMANDS OF ITS FORCES IN THE MIDEAST

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The United Nations shuffled the commands of its peace-keeping and truce supervisory forces in the Middle East at ceremonies at the Ras el Nakura crossing point on the Israel-Lebanese border last weekend.

Gen. William Callaghan, 60, of Ireland, took over command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from Gen. Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana who had headed it since its formation three years ago. Erskine has been named commander of the UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO), which is headquartered in Jerusalem. He will also serve as the personal representative of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Erskine replaced Gen. Erkki Kaira of Finland who now takes command of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) which was established in 1973 to implement the disengagement agreements entered into by Israel with Egypt and Syria in Sinai and on the Golan Heights, respectively.

Even as the change-over ceremonies were underway, Dutch UNIFIL troops intercepted and disarmed a group of eight Palestinian terrorists apparently making their way toward the Israeli border. They were sent back to their base at Sidon. If UNIFIL practice continues as in the past, their arms will be returned.

Meanwhile, Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of Christian forces in south Lebanon, said he would wait and see how effective the new commander is in preventing the infiltration of Palestinians.

## YALE GETS \$1.6 MILLION IN GIFTS FOR ITS NEW JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Yale University has received \$1.6 million in special gifts to support its new Judaic studies program, which is designed to cover the broad spectrum of Jewish history and culture, it was announced by the university. The gifts initiate a major campaign by a national development committee to raise more than \$6 million for Judaic studies as an interdisciplinary program in the undergraduate College and the Graduate School.

Co-chairmen of the committee appointed by President A. Bartlett Giamatti are Geoffrey Hartman, Karl Young Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Yale, and William Horowitz, former chairman of the Connecticut State Board of Education and a retired Fellow of the Yale Corporation (University Board of Trustees).

The committee is composed of educators, clergy, business and professional leaders. The funds raised will provide endowment for faculty appointments on junior and senior levels, fellowships and other student support, strengthening of Yale's Judaica collection, considered to be one of the finest in America, and for enhancing the Judaica series of scholarly publications of the Yale University Press, a university spokesman said.

An associated project is the establishment in the university library of an historical archive covering the 1933-1945 period in Europe in cooperation with the Holocaust Survivors Film, Inc., a New Haven community group which plans to deposit videotaped testimonies of Holocaust survivors in the archive.

### Components of the \$1.6 Million Received

According to the university, three gifts constitute the bulk of the \$1.6 million received thus far: \$1 million from an anonymous donor to endow a Professorship in the History of Judaism; \$300,000 from Robert Weis to fund a teaching position in Biblical Studies. Weis, a graduate of Yale in 1941, is vice president, treasurer and director of Weis Markets, Inc., of Sunbury, Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the National Development Committee; \$200,000 in a bequest from Mrs. Leo Links to support scholarships in Judaic Studies. The late Leo Links came to New Haven from Austria and attended Yale with scholarship aid, graduating in 1907.

Planning for the new program began in 1978 and the Judaic studies major for undergraduates officially began this past fall with a ceremony at which Elie Wiesel, the noted novelist and scholar, delivered the inaugural lecture.

The new program builds on considerable University resources: Scholars on the faculty; a rare and extensive Judaica collection; and some 40 courses related to Jewish culture and history available in various departments and the Divinity School. Having coordinated these resources, the new program is now moving ahead to an expanded teaching and research agenda, the university spokesman said.

### ANNA RAGINSKY DEAD AT 90

MONTREAL, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Anna Raginsky, a legendary figure in the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO movement, has died here at the age of 90.

Her involvement in Zionism began in 1908 and in 1911 she was elected first vice president of the Toronto Zionist Council. In 1917, Mrs. Raginsky helped organize the first chapter of Canadian Hadassah and was elected its vice president in 1921.

From 1941 to 1947 she served as national president and remained active throughout her life as honorary president. One of the outstanding projects in which she was involved was encouraging Jewish families to open their homes to the Jewish war orphans of Europe.

In addition to her leadership in Hadassah-WIZO, Mrs. Raginsky was active in the Zionist Organization of Canada and was a strong supporter of Young Judaea and the hechalutz movements. She held leading positions in the Montreal Council of Women, National Council of Women, Canadian Jewish Congress, Jewish General Hospital and the Joint Distribution Committee. She was also honorary president of the Jewish National Fund of Canada.

In her honor, Hadassah-WIZO established a women's club in Ashkelon, Israel and a building in the Hasidic youth village in Israel, both of which bear her name.

\*\*\*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai cautioned Israelis not to get their hopes up over first indications that oil may be found at a new drill site at Ga'ash, north of Tel Aviv near the main highway to Haifa. It is the first time that region has been explored for oil. Mordechai said on a radio interview that "The indications of oil at Ga'ash are hopeful but do not necessarily indicate that large quantities, justifying exploitation, are to be found there." Meanwhile, a new source of natural gas found at a drilling site at Sdot south of Ashkelon was linked to other producing areas last Thursday. The field is now yielding 30 million cubic feet of gas a day.

\*\*\*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Deputy Mayor Yisrael Gottlieb of B'nei Brak, a key prosecution witness in the bribery trial of Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, was attacked and severely injured in his office in the town hall Sunday morning. Police said he was struck on the head by a blunt instrument wielded by a man in "the usual black garb of an ultra-Orthodox Jew." Gottlieb was hospitalized for treatment of lacerations and later went to the police station where he identified his assailant as a diamond polisher employed by Shmuel Daskal, one of Abu-Hatzeira's co-defendants. The suspect was picked up by the police shortly after the assault.

\*\*\*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Yisrael Goralnik, Director General of the Ministry of Social Betterment, disclosed Sunday that 75,000 Israelis are presently unemployed, representing 5.2 percent of the country's work force, compared to 39,000 or 2.9 percent of the work force in 1979. The doubling of the unemployment rate in the past two years may force the government to initiate large-scale work projects, including the construction of public buildings cancelled for budgetary reasons, he said, unless the situation improves in the near future. According to Goralnik, unemployment is worst in the northern townships such as Aful, Migdal Haemek, Upper Nazareth, Tiberias, Safad, Kiryat Shmona, Karmiel and Acre.