

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## U.S. WARNS NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES OF 'GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES' IF THEY TRY TO DEPRIVE ISRAEL OF ITS CREDENTIALS IN THE UN ASSEMBLY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- The position taken by the "Non-Aligned Movement" to deprive Israel of its credentials in the United Nations General Assembly met with a sharp rebuff and a warning from the U.S. today that such action would have "the gravest consequences" for the "future of the United Nations itself."

The "Non-Aligned Movement," in a communique from New Delhi on Feb. 13, urged member states to vote against accepting the credentials of Israeli delegations at the next meeting of the UN and its specialized agencies. That action was similar to the declaration at the Islamic summit conference held in Saudi Arabia last month. The non-aligned countries form a majority in the UN. If member-states accepted the New Delhi communique, Israel could be deprived of its vote in the UN.

### U.S. Cites 'Absurd Formulations'

Responding to questions about the communique, State Department spokesman William Dyess said today in a prepared statement: "It is our view that the Mideast part of the communique contains a number of absurd formulations. I will not take them up point by point but I will note, so that there will be no misunderstanding on the part of anyone, that any challenge to Israel's credentials in the UN General Assembly would be illegal and a violation of the UN Charter. As you know, membership questions are dealt with not by the General Assembly but by the Security Council."

The U.S. "would oppose any such challenge in the firmest and most vigorous way," Dyess said. "Such action, if it is pressed, would have the gravest consequences for U.S. participation in the General Assembly and for the future of the UN itself. Our strong hope is that reason will prevail. If not, those who support this course will have to live with the consequences of their actions. In other words, we will oppose any move from any quarter to expel Israel from any international body and, most explicitly, from the UN."

Dyess declined to spell out the "grave consequences" he mentioned or to outline U.S. views beyond what was contained in his statement.

### BEGIN DOBRYNIN TO LOOK INTO WHEREABOUTS OF MENDELEVICH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, has promised to make inquiries into the whereabouts of Isosif Mendelevich whose apparent disappearance from a prison labor camp in the Soviet Union has caused anxiety among his relatives here.

This was disclosed by Premier Menachem Begin to Mendelevich's sister, Rivka Dori of Gush Etzion, who met with Begin yesterday. He told her the Russian diplomat offered his assistance last week-

Earlier, Dori and her mother took part in a rally outside the Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv which represents Soviet interest in Israel, to protest the lack of information about Mendelevich. He is the last of the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial defendants still incarcerated in the Soviet Union. About a year ago he was moved to the Perm 36 labor camp in the Urals where he was reportedly mistreated because of his religious practices and denied visitors and mail. He went on a hunger strike last November.

Recently, his sister received word from friends in Moscow that their inquiries about Mendelevich's condition brought a reply from the labor camp commander that he was no longer there. The lack of information as to his whereabouts has given rise to fear that he may be seriously ill or have died. The Cabinet decided last Sunday that Israel would mount a worldwide public opinion campaign to find out where Mendelevich is, and secure his release.

### POSSIBLE AUSTRIA-EGYPT ARMS DEAL

VIENNA, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Speculation is rife here about a possible large-scale arms deal between Austria and Egypt. This has been triggered by the fact that Chancellor Bruno Kreisky was accompanied on his official visit to Egypt by the managing director of an Austrian arms firm.

For a few months, more than 100 Kuerassier tanks have been waiting for a buyer, after a planned deal with Chile was prevented by protests of Socialist and Christian organizations in Austria. So far, these tanks have been sold to Tunisia, Morocco, Argentina and Bolivia. Saudi Arabia has also expressed interest in buying the tanks.

Meanwhile, news reports from Cairo said that President Anwar Sadat told a news conference today marking the end of Kreisky's visit to Egypt that the Austrian leader proposed inviting Egyptian Defense Minister Ahmed Badawi to Vienna to inspect military hardware, particularly advanced light tanks. Sadat said Badawi will visit Austria as soon as he receives a formal invitation.

### PLO OFFICIAL CONFIRMS USSR HAS TRAINED HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIANS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Hundred of Palestinians have graduated from Soviet military academies, according to an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Scores and hundreds of Palestinian officers eligible to command major sectors such as brigades have graduated from Soviet military academies," Brigadier Mohammed Ibrahim al-Shaier, head of the PLO's Moscow office, revealed in a lecture last night in Beirut and published in Beirut newspapers today. He said there are also some 2000 Palestinians studying in Soviet schools and the PLO received 300 scholarships a year, mostly for scientific and technical studies.

During PLO chief Yasir Arafat's visit to Moscow last year agreement had been reached on Soviet-Palestinian coordination "in all matters of joint interest," Shaier said. There have been recurring reports that the USSR has been training Palestinians.

### 300 CLERICS DEMAND MEETING WITH REAGAN TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Two hundred additional religious leaders have joined in a human rights appeal to President Reagan and have joined with the 100 original signers in demanding a meeting with the President to express their concern over the U.S. policy on human rights.

The initial appeal sent last Dec. 17 was answered by Richard Allen, who is now the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs, with a brief note thanking the group for keeping the then President-elect informed of their concerns.

But Sister Blaise Lupo, a Maryknoll nun and co-director of Clergy and Laity Concerned which is coordinating the effort, said Allen's reply "was tantamount to a dismissal of the moral concerns of religious leaders who represent the broadest range of political persuasion in the religious community. It further ignores the significant constituency whose concerns the signers represent. I don't know of any other issue on which such leadership has been so united."

The signers of the letter to Reagan include the president's chief executive officer of nearly every major religious body in the United States, according to the coordinators. Among the 200 new signers are Dr. Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Rabbi Jerome Malina, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

#### Oppose Violations Wherever They Occur

The letter, in which the group requested a meeting with Reagan noted that since the open letter was sent in December, "many more violations of human rights have occurred, especially in El Salvador. Many of these might have been averted had you spoken out as the signers requested."

The religious leaders told Reagan that "we oppose human rights violations wherever they occur, whether in Communist, capitalist, socialist or mixed-economy countries. We are strongly concerned about human rights in Afghanistan and Cambodia, and about religious liberty in the Soviet Union. In this statement, however, we are particularly concerned about nations where the United States has extensive economic, political and military involvement. This gives us influence whether we want it or not, and therefore, a greater responsibility. They are also nations where your (Reagan) own position in human rights is already being assessed with great interest."

#### Reagan Urged To Withdraw Lefever's Name

Meanwhile, the Workmen's Circle, the national Jewish labor fraternal organization, has urged Reagan to withdraw the name of Ernest Lefever as Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. In a letter to the President, Israel Kluger, Workmen's Circle president, and Nathan Peskin, its executive director, noted that Lefever has opposed American human rights policies.

"To caricature American foreign policy by installing a person who sneers at our concern for human rights is hardly demonstrating that our

anti-totalitarian concerns are genuine," they said. "We cannot, on one hand, rightfully condemn Soviet abuses and, on the other, cover up similar abuses in other nations no matter how strategically friendly."

The Workmen's Circle leaders added: "Haven't we learned the lessons of Auschwitz, Dachau, the Soviet Gulags, the Latin American dungeons and of all of the infamous tortures totalitarians design to crush democratic opposition?" They said "this is no moment in history to permit the luxury of waiting" for Lefever to learn this lesson.

#### BUSS SCHEDULE FOR SHAMIR

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived here this morning and will remain in New York until Thursday when he goes to Washington. An Israeli spokesman said that in addition to scheduled meetings with Secretary of State Alexander Haig, members of the Senate and the House, and Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger, Shamir will "probably" pay a courtesy call on President Reagan.

While in New York, Shamir will hold consultations with Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron, and with Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations. No other meetings are scheduled here before he leaves for Washington.

Shamir will return to New York next Sunday and will meet on Monday with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He will also make several appearances on local television programs, the spokesman said but did not indicate which they were. The Foreign Minister will conclude his U.S. visit Tuesday morning when he departs for visits to Mexico and Colombia.

#### POLL SHOWS ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF ISRAELIS FAVOR CONTINUED JEWISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- A public opinion poll just taken shows that about 70 percent of Israelis favor continued Jewish settlements on the West Bank in one form or another and extension of Israeli rule over the Golan Heights.

The poll taken by the Modi'in Ezrachi Applied Research Center for the Jerusalem Post, said 40.9 percent of those polled favor Jewish settlements in all parts of the West Bank under certain conditions; 26.7 percent in all parts of the largely Arab area; and only 2.4 percent outside the populated centers. It said 26.3 percent opposed Jewish settlements in the West Bank under any condition.

Asked about Israeli rule on the Golan Heights, 68.3 percent reported being in favor and 26.6 percent against. Asked if a tough line in the occupied territories advanced the cause of peace, 25.7 percent thought it did, 38.4 percent thought it had no influence and 30 percent thought a tough policy impaired the peace prospects.

#### REAGAN TO PUSH CAMP DAVID PROCESS, FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR SAYS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- An advisor to President Reagan on foreign policy matters assured the B'nai B'rith International Board of Governors here that the President is inherently sympathetic to Israel and realizes the Camp David process is the only viable path to peace in the Middle East.

Dr. Amos Perlmutter, counsellor to the National Security Council and professor of politics and government at American University, told Jewish leaders from around the world at their annual winter meeting that Reagan is "dedicated" to Israel. However, he added

Egypt will be the United States' focal point in any defense of the Middle East and Saudi Arabia will "continue as an ally par excellence."

Perlmutter, the author of nine books on the Middle East and politics, said the Administration doesn't particularly like the idea being promoted by America's European allies for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

Describing the meeting last June of the European Economic Community in Venice as "the Munich of 1981," Perlmutter said that both the British and French are working particularly hard in an attempt to "deterrorize" the Palestinian Liberation Organization and "give the Arabs what they want" in return for oil.

The Board of Governors approved three resolutions related to the Middle East. The board urged the Reagan Administration "not only to reject PLO participation" in the peace process, but "to persuade those governments which have given the PLO recognition to repudiate such recognition and to sever all contact" with the PLO.

The Board called for support for Israel "in its search for peace with all of its neighbors" and stated that the United States "must not" reward the PLO "and the other Arab rejectionist forces."

The United States, the Board added, "must rally" its Western allies and others "genuinely interested in peace" to reject the call of the recent Islamic Conference in Saudi Arabia for a holy war against Israel.

The B'nai B'rith leaders also accused the United Nations of maintaining a double standard and selective morality in the areas of peace-keeping and human rights. They recommended "the use of every legitimate and appropriate means, including financial" to terminate the PLO-directed Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Special Unit on Palestinian Rights.

At a symposium on the Moral Majority, Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, and Meyer Eisenberg, national chairman of the Laws Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and president-elect of District Five, were critical of some of the aims and methods of the Moral Majority. But they suggested that the Jewish community would benefit by conducting dialogues with the leaders of that movement in order to educate them on issues of Jewish concern and win their support on those issues.

#### JAVITS SAYS ARABS IN U.S. RESORT TO SUBTERFUGE FOR ANTI-SEMITISM

PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Former U.S. Senator Jacob Javits of New York warned that Arab propagandists in the United States are resorting to "a very clever subterfuge for anti-Semitism" by insinuating that the American Jewish community dictates the policies of Israel.

In an address to leaders of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Javits said that Arab countries had learned "how to use lawyers and public relations experts; how to send speakers around to college campuses and other places where public opinion is made."

These techniques, he said, are now being employed to suggest that "whatever Israel does that the U.S. doesn't like has been fomented by the American Jewish community. It's a very subtle and very dangerous thesis with no element of truth whatever."

Javits made his remarks at the four-day meeting of ADL's National Executive Committee. The speech followed presentation to him of the ADL's Haym Salomon Award in honor of "his contributions to America's democratic society," by Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress.

In an earlier part of the program, Maxwell Greenberg, ADL's national chairman, discussed the problem of contemporary anti-Semitism and cited a sharp increase in anti-Jewish episodes reported by ADL last year. He suggested that these are symptoms of a "sickness in our society," in which Jews, as in the past, are "the victims of scapegoating when the majority feels insecure."

He singled out the United Nations for creating an atmosphere which "makes it fair play to go after Jews wherever and whenever the occasion fits." He equated "anti-Zionist" pronouncements in the United Nations with "anti-Semitism."

"The Jordanian Ambassador to the United Nations made that painfully obvious," Greenberg said, "when on the floor of the UN, he launched into the familiar anti-Semitic diatribe about international Jewish bankers and international Jewish economic power."

Greenberg was referring to Ambassador Hazan Nuseibeh's statement Dec. 8, during a debate on the Mideast in the General Assembly, that there is a Jewish cabal "which controls, manipulates and exploits the rest of humanity by controlling the money and wealth of the world."

#### JEWISH ARTIST HONORED

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- The memory of Charlotte Salomon, a German-Jewish artist who died at Auschwitz while still in her twenties, is being honored in Holland with an exhibition of her water colors, painted when she lived in the south of France between 1940-1942, shortly before her deportation.

The exhibit was opened at the Jewish Historical Museum here last Friday. At the same time, a book has been published containing reproductions of nearly 800 of her paintings and a West German film on her life will have its premier in Amsterdam next week. The film was produced by Franz Weiss from a script by Dutch Jewish writer, Judith Herzberg.

Salomon never lived in Holland although her father and stepmother came to Amsterdam in 1939 as refugees from Berlin. The young artist, then 22, went to live with her maternal grandmother in the south of France. Her grandmother committed suicide a year later and it was then that she learned that her mother, who died when she was eight, was also a suicide. At that point she began to paint, as she said at the time, to keep her sanity.

In 1943, she married an Austrian Jewish refugee and shortly afterwards both were deported to Auschwitz. Her paintings were saved and given to her parents after the war. Salomon's father, a professor of surgery at Berlin University, died some years ago. Her stepmother, Paula Lindbergh, a well known concert singer in her time and singing teacher, still lives in Amsterdam.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Egypt on Monday returned to Israel eight cars stolen from Israel and hidden away in the Sinai desert. The vehicles, all large cars and mainly Mercedes which had been used in Israel as taxis and are in strong demand in Egypt, were returned at the Neot Sinai checkpoint. In the months before Israel withdrew from the western part of the Sinai, many cars were stolen and driven to Sinai where they were buried under sand dunes awaiting the arrival of the Egyptians. Most were then uncovered and taken to Cairo where they were sold.

**JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS CHALLENGE****SBA DECISION TO BAR AID TO HASIDIC BUSINESSMEN'S GROUP**

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Six national Orthodox Jewish organizations have challenged a decision of the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) barring aid to a Hasidic businessmen's group.

In rejecting the Hasidic group's application, the SBA declared that approval would have meant designating "a religious group for special treatment" in probable violation of the First Amendment, according to Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA).

Zuckerman said that last April 9, the SBA rejected the application from the Hasidic group, organized as an Opportunity Development Association (ODA), even though the SBA agreed that the ODA met fully SBA requirements for recognition as a "socially disadvantaged" group eligible for such aid.

**Threat To Religious Freedom Cited**

In challenging the SBA ruling, the Orthodox groups protested that the SBA's position "presents a clear threat to religious freedom and relegates religion to an unprecedented and wholly unwarranted pariah-like status in this country."

Zuckerman said Section 8 (a) of the Small Business Act authorizes the SBA to give special help in getting financing for small business concerns "owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals."

The occasion for the Orthodox challenge was the publication in the Federal Register last Dec. 1 of proposed changes designed by the SBA to more clearly define social disadvantage in Section 8 (a).

As required by federal law, the SBA solicited comments on the proposed changes from the general public. The comments of the Orthodox organizations were prepared by Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director, with the assistance of Ivan Tillem, a staff associate.

The protesting national Jewish organizations are Agudath Israel of America; National Council of Young Israel; Rabbinical Council of America; Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools; the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; and COLPA. A local agency in Brooklyn, the Council of Jewish Organizations of Boro Park, joined in the protest to the SBA.

**Two Categories Of Aid Applicants**

Zuckerman said that SBA rules establish two categories of such aid applicants. The first consists of individuals who can demonstrate that they personally have suffered social disadvantages. The second category consists of members of "designated groups," who, "in the absence of evidence to the contrary, are presumed" by the SBA "to be socially disadvantaged."

The SBA defines as socially disadvantaged "those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities."

In rejecting the ODA bid, the SBA found that, while the Hasidim as a group met all the objective criteria for designation as being socially disadvantaged, the SBA nevertheless denied the ODA that designation because "their cultural

distinctiveness derives from religious beliefs." "The bias they suffer in the marketplace as a result of that cultural distinctiveness," the SBA held, "stems from adherence to religious doctrine. The Hasidim are not just another group arguably comprised of members who are social disadvantaged; they are a religious group. Their application in effect asks the SBA to designate a religious group for special treatment."

Under SBA rules, persons falling into the first category must establish the fact of their social disadvantage on the basis of "clear and convincing evidence" submitted to and accepted by the SBA. Zuckerman asserted that, as a practical matter, the "clear and convincing" yardstick would work to exclude practically all persons in the first category from getting SBA benefits.

**Claims Arbitrary Exclusion**

The Orthodox comments held that, by refusing to designate Hasidim as a socially disadvantaged group on grounds of religion and the First Amendment, the SBA in effect had irrelevantly defined the Hasidim as primarily a religious group and that, therefore, individual Hasidim were not entitled to the benefits of SBA group designation.

Zuckerman said it was this application of constitutional law and the arbitrariness of the exclusion of Hasidim from the benefits of SBA disadvantaged group designation that were being challenged by the seven organizations. The Orthodox comments said that the organizations declared they shared with many Americans "a sense of uneasiness over group designations, as a matter of general principle."

But, they added, "if such designations are to be employed, then they should be applied to all who are similarly situated." The Orthodox groups disputed the SBA position that the First Amendment restrictions compelled the SBA to deny such designation of the Hasidim as a socially disadvantaged group, assuming they would otherwise qualify, "simply because their disadvantage arises out of religious belief."

Quoting from a U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Jewish organizations declared that the purpose of the First Amendment establishment clause was to prevent the occurrence of "the three main evils" of entanglement with religion -- "sponsorship, financial support, and active involvement of the sovereign in religious activity."

The organizations declared that designating the Hasidim as socially disadvantaged was "such a far cry from these three main evils" that it showed that the SBA "has lost the forest for the trees."

The Jewish groups contended that the minority group designation was not established by Congress in the Small Business Act to give benefits to individuals to which they would not otherwise be entitled. The Congress established the disadvantaged group categories "in recognition that providing individual entitlement would be extremely difficult on a case-by-case basis" to such a degree "that an appropriate shorthand approach would be consistent with the Congressional purpose," Zuckerman declared.

Thus, the groups asserted, a Black American, as a member of a designated group, is not given access to the SBA program "simply because he is a Black American, but rather because of the historical discrimination practiced in this country against Black Americans, he is presumed to have personally suffered from discrimination."

The Jewish organizations asked that the SBA correct "the injustice" to Hasidim and to end its "mistaken application of important First Amendment principles."