

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## U.S. WILLING TO HAVE AUTONOMY TALKS RESUME BUT FIRST CONCERN IS THE DETERIORATING POSITION OF THE WEST IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration today made it clear that while it is willing to have the West Bank-Gaza Strip autonomy talks resume, its first concern is the "deteriorating position of the West" in the Middle East.

The matter arose when the State Department was asked about a press report that senior State Department officials see no value in having the talks now among Egypt, Israel and the United States on the autonomy issues. The talks have been stalled since last May and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat indicated last week that resumption of the autonomy negotiations should be postponed until after the Israeli elections June 30.

In response to the question on the present U.S. view on resumption of the talks, Department spokesman William Dyess made the following statement:

"We remain fully committed for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We are ready to participate for further discussions in the context of the Camp David framework at a time mutually agreeable to Egypt and Israel. We remain hopeful that participation in these discussions can be broadened at an appropriate time with the agreement of our partners. We are convinced, however, that the highest priority of the United States in that region should be to arrest the deteriorating position of the West vis a vis the Soviet Union. Achievement of that goal will itself provide a beneficial context for the future of the peace process."

### Can Proceed On Both Tracks

Asked whether this meant that the resumption of the autonomy talks would be placed behind the security issue and that he was suggesting a delay in reconvening the autonomy talks, Dyess replied "not necessarily. You can proceed on both tracks."

Dyess also said that the United States is "consulting with governments in the area" regarding what he called the West's deterioration. He pointed to Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the Iraq-Iran war and the holding of American hostages for 444 days in Teheran as evidence of this deterioration.

On other matters, Dyess said that he was "aware" that an Israeli "incursion" took place in Lebanon last night against Palestine Liberation Organization installations. "As I noted before," he said, "this is a matter of concern. It adds to tension in the area. There is nothing more specific that I have to say." (See related story.)

He said he had no information that Secretary of State Alexander Haig will make a trip to the Middle East shortly, as reported yesterday by Israel television. Dyess also said that Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Serner will visit Egypt and Israel to discuss creation of the

multinational force that is to police the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal in April 1982.

## ISRAELIS HIT TERRORIST TARGET IN SOUTH LEBANON; KILL 10 TERRORISTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) — An Israeli army raiding party killed about 10 Arab terrorists in a strike into south Lebanon last night and returned safely to its base. An army spokesman said the target was a two-story building in El-Kfour village about eight miles inside Lebanon. It had served as the forward base for the Iraqi-backed Arab Liberation Front terrorists who killed three Israelis and wounded 16 persons in an attack on Misgav Am last April.

Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan said after the raid that it had brought matters "full-circle. Our account with those who raided Misgav Am is now closed." Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said last night's attack was part of Israel's on-going policy of preventive strikes against terrorists to keep them off balance. He promised that this policy would continue.

The army has pointed out that since the system of pre-emptive strikes was instituted after the Misgav Am tragedy, no Israelis had been killed inside Israel by terrorists coming from Lebanon. It noted that President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon complained to the Islamic summit conference in Saudi Arabia last month that the continued Palestinian presence in his country was a cause of friction since Lebanon was the only Arab country from which terrorists attacked Israel.

## U.S. DOCUMENTS IRAQI, PLO SUPPORT TO GUERRILLA MOVEMENT IN SALVADOR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (JTA) — Documentation was made public at the State Department today that Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organization have supported the guerrilla movement in El Salvador.

According to the documentation, the guerrilla leaders received \$500,000 in cash from Iraq and selected Salvadorans received training from the PLO. The State Department said it assumed weapons had been provided by the PLO to the guerrillas.

The documentation on "Communist interference in El Salvador" was presented to buttress the Reagan Administration's contention that there is military support from the outside against the government of El Salvador which is backed by the United States.

A summary said that the Unified Revolutionary Directorate (DUR), representative met with PLO head Yasir Arafat in Managua, Nicaragua on July 22, 1980. "Arafat promised military equipment, including arms and aircraft," the summary said. It also said "A Salvadoran guerrilla leader met with Fatah leaders in Beirut in August and November and the PLO has trained selected Salvadorans in the Near East and in Nicaragua."

Regarding Iraq, the documentation said that last Sept. 24, Salvadoran guerrillas received and distributed \$500,000 in a "logistic donation" from

Iraq. It said that those funds were distributed to the Nicaraguan revolutionary movement and "within El Salvador."

Reporters were briefed on the documentation by John Bushnell, acting Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs, and Jon Glassman, a U. S. foreign service officer, who had previously served at the American embassies in Mexico City, Moscow and Havana.

#### PROPOSAL MADE TO CHANGE THE FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY BOARD AND EXECUTIVE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- A series of reforms in the structure and functions of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors and the Jewish Agency Executive were proposed during the Board's retreat in Caesaria last week. They included limiting Board members' tenure to two terms and changes that would give diaspora members a greater voice in the Executive's decision-making process.

A summary of some of the items discussed at Caesaria was made public yesterday by Raymond Epstein of Chicago, a member of the Board of Governors and a former president of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF). "Almost every discussion group recommended a limitation on the length of service" of Board members, he said. "In almost every case, the suggestion was two consecutive (four-year) terms ... and this would apply to officers as well."

Similarly, the discussion groups felt that the Jewish Agency Assembly, a much larger body that meets annually, should restrict its delegates to a "a formal term ... of two or three years, not only to improve their status but perhaps to bring about a healthy turnover," Epstein said.

#### An Anomalous Situation

He was critical of "the composition and functioning of the Jewish Agency Executive," noting that the Israeli members attend meetings far more frequently than diaspora members and the latter therefore are not equally involved in decision-making.

"Furthermore, there is, to many, an anomalous situation in having the operative heads of the (Jewish Agency) departments sit on the policy-making body. It was felt there should be a sharp separation of management from active operations," Epstein said.

"To put it bluntly, there is a general feeling that the affairs of the Jewish Agency are being run by the Executive, and more often than not by half the Executive and not by the Board of Governors," Epstein said. "Not only is the Board not making the important decisions, it is not even being kept fully aware of the decisions made by the Executive. This situation calls for a change and we should return to the original agreement which placed the real authority and responsibility upon the Board of Governors," he said.

Epstein said the Board members believed the authority of the chairman of the Executive should be strengthened. They also called for "greater cooperation and coordination between the departments and elimination of duplication in their activities and to strengthen the chairman would be one step in bringing this about," he said.

He said the Board of Governors felt that the compromise between purely professional qualifications and political affiliations in selecting department heads "could be lived with." But below the rank of department head, "we made no compromise with our call for a civil service that would ensure the best man for the job in the offices of director general and all those who work under them. The functional management of the Agency must be of the highest calibre," Epstein said.

#### JEWISH COALITION FOR REAGAN SPARKS REPUBLICAN PARTY CHANGE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Clearly pleased with the results of the Jewish Republicans' efforts in the last presidential election campaign, the Republican National Committee (RNC) is forming an umbrella organization for "special groups" and has named the party's West Coast Jewish campaign chief as its head.

Richard Richards of Ogden, Utah, the RNC's new chairman, said that "we have great potential with many of our ethnic communities -- Blacks, Hispanics, Jewish and Heritage Councils -- to really show an improvement in recruiting more Republicans. We have decided to unite these various liaison committees into one broad-based operation."

The RNC's move is in line with the Reagan White House policy that has discarded the system of liaison officials who met with leaders of special groups and advised the President about their concerns. Edwin Meese, President Reagan's counselor, disclosed shortly after he took office that there would be no separate "conduits" for special groups as in the Carter White House but that their views would be received.

#### New Arrangements Outlined

Echoing Meese's views, Richards said that in its new program the RNC will continue to have Blacks and Hispanics and "ethnics" on its 260-member staff. "There will be no longer a Black division, but there will be Blacks there," the told political reporters last week. Party contacts with groups such as the NAACP, he said, will be conducted by its political division instead of any special liaison office. "We'll have Blacks talking to whites and whites talking to Blacks," Richards stated.

This arrangement was seen in some quarters as creating difficulties since direct contacts would no longer be available for the "special groups" with RNC officials of their own race, faith or background with personal sympathy and knowledge about their concerns. Richards said the party has allocated \$500,000 on activities next year directed at the Blacks, Hispanics, ethnic and Jewish voters.

Dr. Alfred Balitzer, on leave of absence as a professor of political science at the Claremont Colleges in California since 1971, is heading the party's new outreach program, the party's statement said. During last year's national campaign, Balitzer was western states director of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush of which the honorary co-chairmen were Theodore Cummings of Los Angeles and Max Fisher of Detroit. The RNC's statement on the problem identifies the coalition as "a Jewish organization."

Balitzer also worked with the California Black Advisory Council and the California Hispanic Organization. "For the past decade he has advised Republicans on the role of ethnic communities in American politics," the RNC said.

While statistics on voting patterns among Jews last Nov. 4 vary, the Jewish vote for President Reagan and Vice President George Bush was far above the proportions to number of Jews registered as Republican while the normally heavy Jewish vote for Democratic candidates was the lowest since the New Deal era began. In New York State, at least, the Jewish vote enabled the Reagan-Bush ticket to win.

Richards said former RNC chairman Bill Brock was unsuccessful in trying to get Blacks and Hispanics to vote the Republican ticket but he indicated the Jewish effort was successful by the appointment of Baltizer and the retention of David Weinstein, director of the party's outreach program that sought Jewish support for the Republican candidates, on his staff. Weinstein formerly served the United Jewish Appeal and the United Jewish Federation in Stamford, Conn.

The Outreach Program has been an integral part of the RNC since 1979 and thus "institutionalized." Units for Blacks, Hispanics and other ethnic groups such as the Poles, Hungarians, Ukrainians and Italians were separate units attached to the main committee.

### JEWISH LEADERS MEET WITH HAIG

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Three American Jewish leaders had a cordial half-hour meeting today with Secretary of State Alexander Haig at the State Department to discuss a wide range of questions relating to Israeli-American relations.

Meeting with Haig, at his invitation, were Max Fisher, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, who was honorary chairman of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush in last year's Presidential election campaign; Howard Squadron, chairman of the Congress of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and Yehuda Hellman, executive vice chairman of the President Conference. Also present was David Korn, special assistant to Haig.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed later that Squadron would report in full on the conversation with Haig to a meeting of the Presidents Conference in New York later in the day. It was indicated that the meeting with the Secretary of State symbolized the unity of the American Jewish community on problems affecting Israel.

There had been reports of concern, since the Presidential elections, that accessibility to top officials of the Reagan Administration would not include representatives of major organizational segments of the American Jewish community.

Future meetings with Haig by American Jewish leaders was among the topics discussed at this morning's meeting. Also discussed was Saudi Arabia's request for equipment to enhance the combat capability of the 60 F-15 warplanes it has purchased from the U.S. The JTA learned that no decisions have been made yet on the Saudi request or, specifically, on the amount of foreign aid the Administration will recommend to Congress for Israel and Egypt in the next fiscal year.

### GOP SENATOR OPPOSED TO U.S. SELLING SAUDIS ADVANCED EQUIPMENT

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Sen. Arlen Specter (R. Pa.) declared here last night that he was "very much opposed" to the United States selling Saudi Arabia bomb racks, extra fuel tanks and air-to-air missiles for the 60 American-made

jets it has ordered because it would be contrary to the Carter Administration promise in 1978 not to increase the offensive capacity of the planes.

In a speech to the National Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America at the Warwick Hotel, the freshman Senator asked what would America's allies think if the U.S. broke in 1981 a commitment made in 1978.

Joining Specter in criticizing the proposed sale of additional material to the Saudis, ZOA president Ivan Novick warned that "Israel would be harmed by arming the Saudis. There has been no change in Saudi Arabia's rigid anti-Israel policy."

Specter told the 200 ZOA leaders that he felt that the Reagan Administration would support Israel and that despite the cuts being made in foreign aid, the Administration would retain the \$2.2 billion aid appropriation to Israel in the 1982 budget, the same as this year.

Novick also warned that the European officials who are now coming to Washington to meet with Reagan "will try to influence" the President "to change the course of the Camp David agreements and to force the U.S. to recognize the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization," he said.

"President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig have expressed the American position that international terrorism is morally repugnant and politically unacceptable. Instead of pursuing the road of defeatism, inferiority and capitulation the European nations should take inspiration from the courageous and realistic position taken by the new American Administration."

Continuing, Novick said: "I ask the leaders of the European nations if their acceptance of the PLO will genuinely serve the cause of Middle East peace. By legitimizing the PLO, are we serving the best interest of the Palestinian people? Do not the European leaders have a moral responsibility to convince the Palestinian people that their answer for a decent life requires their rejection of the PLO covenant."

### ISRAELI AND MEXICAN BANK ESTABLISH A JOINT FUND

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Bank Hapoalim, one of Israel's leading banks, and Nacional Financiera S. A. (NAFINSA) Mexico's official industrial development bank, recently signed an agreement establishing a joint investment fund it was announced here. The new fund will promote joint ventures between the two countries for industrial projects in selected fields.

The two-bank-fund is an outcome of the Mexican government's policy of introducing high technology industries which can contribute to the rapid development of the Mexican economy. Within this context the Mexican government is seeking to encourage Israeli firms who can provide machinery and know-how in high technology fields.

NAFINSA has established similar funds with nine other banks representing countries with advanced technological potential. The new fund established with Bank Hapoalim is the tenth such project. Several joint projects, in the fields of food technology, chemicals and solar energy are already in advanced stages and will be able to benefit from assistance of the fund. In addition to financial assistance, the fund will provide information to firms of both countries interested in taking part in joint projects. Bank Hapoalim, which has branches in financial centers around the world, intends to open a representative office in Mexico shortly.

## SPECIAL INTERVIEW 50 YEARS OF BRIT IVRIT OLAMIT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The Brit Ivrit Olamit (World Hebrew Union) is a venerable body in Zionist public life, with 50 years of propagating Hebrew culture to its credit since it was founded by Chaim Nahman Bialik, the national bard, in Berlin in 1931.

In the last decade or more, however, says its recently-appointed chairman, Avraham Shenker, "This distinguished organization had fallen upon sad days." The creation of the State of Israel meant that the Hebrew language was suddenly transformed from a slowly reawakening conveyance of Jewish culture to the workaday medium of a thriving sovereign state.

The focus in the diaspora, moreover, steadily shifted towards school education where "Ivrit" was taught as part of the classroom curriculum. The Hebrew-speaking circles and other adult-culture activities of the union seemed to hark back to the pre-state period of Zionism. Now, though, says Shenker, the Brit Ivrit Olamit (BIO) is taking on a new lease on life.

### Launches 'Friends of B.I.O.'

In part the rejuvenation effort is linked to that inescapable aspect of Jewish public life; fund-raising. No longer will it depend for its resources solely on the largess of the Israel Ministry of Education and the World Zionist Organization's Education and Culture Department.

Shenker, a man with a wealth of experience in public life and Zionist affairs, has launched a "Friends of the BIO" organization with Israeli industrialist Haim Pollack of Polgat Industries as its president.

Shenker says his "basic criticism" of the WZO's Education and Culture Department is "that it focuses almost entirely on education and hardly at all on culture." The "Friends of BIO," he explains, will enable it to broaden and deepen its activities in the fields of Hebrew language and culture throughout the diaspora.

### Several Projects Outlined

The ongoing and envisaged projects which Shenker proudly outlines include a prize for "Hebrew creativity in the diaspora" which will serve as a meaningful encouragement to Hebrew-language authors and poets living outside of Israel. It dovetails into the effort to increase the number of contributions by non-American Hebrew writers in the BIO's prestigious quarterly, *Bitzaron*, published in New York City.

Another project is the establishment of more BIO clubs around the world, particularly in smaller communities, where Hebrew is the focus of study and communication and adults of all ages can come regularly to deepen their knowledge and interest in Hebrew culture. Shenker notes that 18 such clubs already exist in 18 countries. The most recent additions were in Stockholm and Uppsala in Sweden. He hopes more will open soon. In Jerusalem the BIO is working on new adult educational material for programs in these clubs.

The BIO is also active in supplying Hebrew cultural material to Jewish communities in Soviet bloc countries. In addition — and this is perhaps the most publicized aspect of BIO activities in recent years — its Hebrew Language academic seminar at Warsaw University last year proved a notable success. Just one upshot

of that unique gathering of Jewish and Gentile Hebrew scholars was the plan by Prof. Tlisch of Warsaw University to bring 10 of his doctoral (Hebrew) students to Israel next summer for courses at Hebrew University.

Another outcome is a Hebrew department opening at the University of Sarajevo in Yugoslavia, at the initiative of Prof. Moshe Werber, a Sarajevo scholar, who attended the Warsaw conference. The conference was one in a series of biennial Hebrew study symposia held by the BIO in conjunction with European university Hebrew faculties. The next is planned at the Sorbonne in Paris.

According to Shenker, "These scientific congresses, bringing together scholars from West and East Europe, have meant among other things a legitimization of the Hebrew Language in many Eastern European countries." He noted that at the Warsaw meeting the Polish and Czech delegations were solidly gentile.

### International Association Planned

BIO is now planning to form an international Association of Hebrew language Professors to maintain ties between Hebrew scholars around the world on an ongoing basis.

In the realm of publication, the BIO's most recent contribution has been a one-volume anthology of Hebrew literature produced in Moslem countries over the past century or so. This work comes as a companion to the earlier and highly regarded BIO anthologies of Hebrew writing in the Soviet Union (two volumes) and Hebrew writing in America (three volumes.)

### DATE TO BE SET FOR THIRD BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) — A date and site for the third Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry will be selected by the Conference Presidium at a meeting this spring, according to Leon Dulzín, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives. Dulzín reported this on a Kol Israel Radio interview from Madrid today where a Committee of Ten is discussing the next Brussels Conference.

The committee was appointed at the World Jewish Congress convention in Jerusalem last month. It is conducting its deliberations in Madrid where the international conference on compliance with the Helsinki human rights accords, which began last year, has resumed its sessions. The committee also has in mind the Communist Party Congress just opened in Moscow. It sent a cable to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on that occasion expressing concern over the condition of Jews in the USSR.

Dulzín said the committee members will hold a series of meetings with the ambassadors of various countries who are in Madrid for the human rights conference.

### ARAB SABOTAGE INCIDENTS DECLINE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) — Arab sabotage incidents inside the pre-1967 borders of Israel (the "Green Line") during 1980 were half those in the previous year, according to Civil Guard commander Police Inspector Shaul Givoli.

He said that during the year 70 explosive charges were laid by terrorists within Israel proper but most of them were discovered by alert citizens and neutralized by police engineers before they did any damage. One death from terrorist activities was reported during the year and 57 injuries. His report did not cover terrorist activities against Jews in the West Bank or Gaza Strip, where a number of Israelis were killed.