

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## SHAMIR TO MEET WITH THE POPE

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir will meet with Pope John Paul II next Friday. It was officially announced today by Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor. It will be the first visit to the Vatican by a senior Israeli government official since the late Premier Golda Meir met with Pope Paul VI in 1973.

Shamir was in Washington last week where he met with President Reagan, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other top Administration officials. He also visited Colombia where he met President Julio Ayala. Acting Foreign Minister Moshe Nissim, who briefed the Cabinet, described Shamir's visits as "successful and very important."

Sternstein And Sadat Meet:

## AZE LEADER SAYS SADAT TOLD HIM HIS 'PRIMARY CONCERN' IS THE COMPLETION OF CAMP DAVID PROCESS

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, says he was assured by President Anwar Sadat in Cairo last week that the Egyptian leader's "primary concern" is completion of the Camp David process and "to eliminate the threat of war in the Middle East."

Rabbi Sternstein told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Sadat gave him those assurances in the course of a 90-minute private meeting at the Presidential Palace last Thursday. Sternstein, who visited Cairo after attending a meeting of the World Zionist Organization Executive in Jerusalem, said he believed the meeting was the first Sadat ever had with an American Zionist leader as such.

"I put to him two major concerns," Sternstein said. "First, our feeling that the encouragement of the European initiative would in the long run serve only to bring the Russians into the picture. To this he assured me that he would make every effort to keep Russia out of involvement in a Middle East solution," Sternstein said.

"Second, I put to him our puzzlement as to his proposal for a Palestinian government-in-exile. To this, he said that this will come 'down the road.' It is not his primary target which is completion of the Camp David process. In addition, he stressed that he was interested in including responsible Palestinian Arab leaders in order to avoid irresponsible acts of violence." Sadat did not say who he had in mind, however, Sternstein said.

He noted that the meeting coincided almost to the day with the first anniversary of the presentation of credentials by the Israeli Ambassador to Egypt, Eliahu Ben-Ellisar. Sadat "made the point that he feels one of his greatest accomplishments is the mutual determination (of Egypt and Israel) to eliminate the threat of war in the Middle East," Sternstein said. "To that end he said he is 'consecrated and dedicated' and he repeated the phrase, 'under no conditions will we go to war ever again.'"

## REPORTS OF IMMINENT FREEDING OF SHCHARANSKY IN SPY SWAP IS DISCOUNTED BY HIS WIFE By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Avital Shcharansky, wife of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, said today that she placed little credence in press reports from South Africa that her husband is to be freed shortly in exchange for an alleged Soviet spy, Alexei Kozlov, captured in South Africa last year.

She said rumors of his release had been frequent but he was still in a Soviet labor camp serving the fourth year of a 13-year term on charges of treason, spying and anti-Soviet subversion. She said she hoped for his speedy release and arrival in Israel but added that no advance information is usually given out.

She noted that the first news of Yosef Mendelevich's release was when he was already on the plane on his way to Vienna. Mendelevich, the last Jewish imprisoned 1970 Leningrad hijack defendant, arrived in Vienna Feb. 18 after his unexpected release from a prison camp in the Soviet Union and arrived several hours later in Israel where he was united with his mother and sisters. He had served 11 years of a 12-year sentence.

## Report Shcharansky Imprisoned In Labor Camp

Meanwhile, Avital has received the first information in weeks about her husband from his mother, Ida Milgram. In a telephone call from Moscow where Mrs. Milgram resides, she told Avital that Anatoly stated in a letter to his brother Leonid that he could not have any visits from either his mother or brother for the remainder of 1981 since all meetings scheduled for this year have been cancelled.

Mrs. Milgram said Anatoly had been placed in prison in the labor camp in the Urals where he is serving his term, that his food allotment has been cut in half and that his correspondence has been limited. She said Anatoly had been imprisoned in the camp at least a month ago, but Mendelevich and other recently freed Prisoners of Conscience who had served in the same labor camp did not know why Shcharansky was imprisoned and for how long.

## CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE FAVORS STRENGTHENING SAUDI ARABIA'S FLEET OF U.S. F-15s

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA) -- Sen. John Tower (R. Tex.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is in favor of the Reagan Administration's recommendations to strengthen Saudi Arabia's fleet of 62 American F-15s. He made his views known after meeting with President Reagan at the White House last Friday where he reported on his 10-nation Middle East trip.

However, other key members of the Senate and the House, mostly Democrats but also some Republicans, have expressed reservations over the Administra-

tion's plan to supply additional elements to the Saudi Air Force and compensating Israel with 10 more F-15s. At the same time, Israeli sources continued to oppose the Administration's proposals, contending that this would develop an arms race in the Middle East.

After reporting to Reagan, Tower said that support for Saudi Arabia and Israel was necessary because it helps American friends in the Middle East to face the "threat" of the Soviet Union or "Soviet surrogates." Tower said he supported Israel's "requirements" to help offset the increased Saudi air strength.

Regarding a U.S. military presence in the Middle East, Tower said he favored pre-positioning of U.S. equipment and use of facilities but he opposed stationing American forces "permanently" in the area because "creating a high American profile would cause political problems." Tower's remarks to reporters, after his White House visit, followed conflicting reports on what the Reagan Administration actually is prepared to carry out for Saudi Arabia.

### Elements In U.S. Deal For Saudis

James Buckley, Undersecretary of State for International Security Affairs, was reported to have told the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees last Thursday behind closed doors that the Saudis would get refueling equipment and advanced air-to-air missiles but the bomb racks would not be included immediately.

Bomb racks would be withheld pending a Pentagon study that might not be completed until next year, Buckley reportedly told the committees. However, the United States would provide 10 additional F-15s to Israel with a loan of \$600 million. The loan would be at 12-1/2 percent interest over 30 years, with a 10-year grace period before repayment would begin.

### Disturbing Aspects Of The Package

"I don't like the package at all," said Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal, (D. NY). "What we are doing is increasing the scale and balance of military terror in the area. It is a very bad arrangement. Almost every member (of the House Foreign Affairs Committee) expressed deep reservations -- if not outright opposition -- towards this."

Rosenthal, a veteran member of the committee, said the deal would include "Sidewinders (air-to-air missiles), bomb racks, fuel tanks -- the whole show." Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY) said "the most disturbing aspect of the presentation was the extent to which the sale was justified on the basis of the threat to Saudi Arabia from the Soviet Union."

A question arose whether the Reagan Administration has actually completed its decision. "I think they have pretty well made up their minds," said Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.), the Senate Committee's ranking Democratic member. "But in the discussions (Thursday) there has been some lack of enthusiasm which should enter into their thinking before a final package is developed."

Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said "no final decision has been made and will not be made until such time as the Executive Branch takes into full account the consultations they have had with the Senate."

An Israeli source said Israel has made it "abundantly clear -- we don't like it we don't

want it. It is an introduction to an arms race." He said Israel must acquire particular equipment to negate, to balance, this stuff to Saudi Arabia." He said "it brings an additional economic burden on Israel when Israel is trying to reduce that burden." He said Israel is being obliged to enter an arms race. "If Saudi Arabia receives the equipment it is asking, Israel will have to take counter-measures," he said.

### ALL CREW MEMBERS OF SUBMARINE DAKAR OFFICIALLY DECLARED DEAD; CHIEF RABBI SAYS WIVES OF CREW MEMBERS NOW FREE TO MARRY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- In January, 1968, the Israeli submarine Dakar, on its delivery voyage from England where it had been purchased, disappeared somewhere in the eastern Mediterranean.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, who was chief military chaplain at the time, has now accepted a naval board of inquiry's finding that the vessel foundered and all hands perished. In his official report, to be published in a religious journal, he has decreed that the wives of 16 of the crew members are now free to remarry under Jewish law.

Because of the mysterious circumstances surrounding the Dakar's disappearance doubts lingered as to whether all of the crew were dead. Feeding those doubts was a series of brief wireless messages from the submarine after she had refueled at Gibraltar saying "All is well." Evidence brought out at the inquiry indicated that the messages may not have come from the Dakar.

Several theories were advanced as to the cause of her loss. These included collision, enemy action or the overpowering of the vessel and crew by an "enemy or outside power." If the latter occurred, it was reasoned that the crew may have been captured and held prisoner either by Egypt or the Soviet Union whose Mediterranean fleet was in the area at the time. Goren instituted an investigation aimed at removing the uncertainty for the benefit of the crewmen's wives.

A year later, a radio marker buoy believed to be from the Dakar was found indicating that the submarine had been off course and in shallow waters not far from the Egyptian coast. A second naval inquiry followed investigations conducted over a period of many years. It was finally determined that the Dakar is lying on the seabed between Alexandria and Port Said at a depth of 900-1200 feet. In accepting that finding, Goren ended what is believed to have been the longest and most exhaustive effort to determine the status of putative widows.

### DULZIN REVEALS BREZHNEV WAS READY TO ALLOW JEWS TO EMIGRATE DIRECTLY FROM THE USSR TO ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev was ready to allow Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union to fly directly from Moscow to Israel but was dissuaded by one of his aides, it was disclosed this weekend in a radio interview with Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive.

He said that at the request of Premier Menachem Begin, a "prominent Jewish personality with contacts with Brezhnev" discussed the matter of Jewish emigration with him and proposed that Jews be allowed to fly direct from the USSR to Israel, without an intermediate stop in Vienna.

According to Dulzin, Brezhnev replied, "Why not?" But a senior Soviet official sitting with him intervened and the proposal and favorable response has never been implemented. Dulzin declined to

name the "Jewish personality" or the Russian who had intervened. He said it was difficult to persuade those Jews who got as far as Vienna to come to Israel instead of going on to America. "We are up against fierce and unfair competition from some American Jews" Dulzin charged. "While we agree with freedom of choice for those who can get out of Russia, those American Jews help emigrants in Vienna and Rome financially, housing and feeding them and paying for their tickets to New York and helping them obtain American visas," he said.

#### SPECIAL TO THE JTA PUBLIC SALE OF ISRAEL BONDS TO BEGIN IN BRITAIN FOR FIRST TIME

By Maurice Samuelson

**LONGON, March 1 (JTA) —** The open sale of State of Israel Government Bonds will begin in Britain later this year for the first time. They will be sold by a newly established company under the presidency of Sir Isaac Wolfson, the Jewish millionaire philanthropist known for his strong support for Israel.

The bonds are sold by the government of Israel to help in its economic development. However, although they have been available all over the world for the past 30 years, they have never been sold in Britain. But the way has been cleared following the British government's abolition of foreign currency controls.

They will be sold in dollars by the newly formed Israel Development Company (UK) headed by Sir Isaac as president and Stanley Berwin, as chairman. Berwin, a lawyer, has been involved in negotiations with the British government and Bank of England for a long time on behalf of the Bonds Organization.

The development company has applied for a license to the British Department of Trade and it expects to receive one in about three months. Until then the bonds can only be sold indirectly by brokers in the City of London. But even then it will initially sell only to financial institutions rather than to individuals and according to Yigal Meerovich, the Bond Organization's manager in Britain, "We will keep a low profile."

This is to avoid competing with the well established Joint Israel Appeal which has recently been raising about 10 million Pounds Sterling a year. Much of the Joint Israel Appeal money is spent on communal Zionist activity in Britain rather than exclusively in Israel.

#### Previous Attempts Opposed

The first public statement about the launching of bonds here is expected this week at a reception to be attended by Sam Rothberg, the general chairman of the Israel Bonds Organization in the United States. Since Israel bonds first went on sale in the U.S. 30 years ago, they have netted \$5.1 billion, of which just under half has been redeemed. They have a life of 50 years and attract annual interest of four percent.

Long before the lifting of exchange controls in Britain, there had been attempts to sell Israel government bonds here. But the British Treasury and Bank of England said they were opposed to any foreign government raising money here in this way.

One plan put to them in recent years had been for the sale of bonds in Sterling on the understanding that the cash would be spent in Britain. With the ending of currency controls, how-

ever, it has become possible for British investors and supporters of Israel to buy the development bonds in U.S. dollars.

It is probably only a matter of time, too, before the bonds go on sale publicly as they are in America and other Western countries with substantial Jewish communities.

#### BEGIN VISITS ELON MOREH. OTHER WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE LIKUD WON ELECTIONS

By Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) —** Premier Menachem Begin visited Elon Moreh and three other settlements in the Samaria district last Friday in an apparent election campaign move to remind his constituents how Jewish settlements on the West Bank have expanded under the Likud government. It was his first visit to the site since May, 1977 when, in the wake of Likud's upset victory over the Labor Party, he pledged that "many more Elon Morehs will be established."

Begin was accompanied by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon who heads the Ministerial Settlement Committee and is the most outspoken advocate of massive Jewish settlement in the occupied territories; Interior Minister Yosef Burg; and Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. In addition to Elon Moreh, they stopped at Karnei Shomron, Kedumim and Ariel.

At each settlement the visitors were greeted with the traditional bread and salt. But many residents complained that the government was not settling the territories fast enough. Begin pointed out that the Jewish population on the West Bank has increased from 5000 in 30 settlement to 24,000 in 85 settlements and towns during his term in office and that in the past four months the Military government seized some 5000 acres to expand existing settlements.

Sharon spoke of the security value of the settlements and the importance of a new highway that bisects the Samaria district, connecting Israel's coastal plain with the Jordan Valley. Begin declined to make any comments to the unusually large press entourage that accompanied him on his visit, including six foreign and local television crews.

#### 'BIBLELAND PARK' IN HAIFA PENDING

**TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) —** Christian and Jewish sponsors of a "Bibleland Park" in Haifa are awaiting the go-ahead from the Haifa municipality to complete an economic and architectural survey for the \$250 million project.

The local sponsor, George Taussig, who is president of an Israeli tourist company, says an aerial survey of the site south of Haifa has resulted in "positive indications" of its suitability and mayor Arye Gurel has announced his support in principle.

The American investors are the Christian Broadcasting Network which also sponsors the Voice of Hope Christian Lebanese radio station in south Lebanon which is to begin television broadcasts shortly.

A Jewish group headed by Leonard Shrelitz, a former national United Jewish Appeal chairman, has undertaken to match any commitment made by the Christian group. The Bibleland Park, planned as a tourist attraction, will be established on the lines of Disneyland but with the Bible as its theme.

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**JERUSALEM (JTA) —** Premier Menachem Begin said Israel will intensify efforts on behalf of Syrian Jewry.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES FERMENT AMONG ISRAELI ARABS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- A large group of Israeli Arabs, organized along religious lines for action against Israel, has been uncovered. Security officials have not disclosed any details about this group, other than a brief announcement last week that it has been uncovered. However, on the basis of what is known but so far barred from publication, officials are seriously concerned by the scope and structure of the gang and the large quantities of arms, mainly stolen from the army, found in its possession.

Four minor members of the gang, believed to number several dozen, have already been tried by a military court in Lod and sentenced to prison terms of 12 - 20 months. They were charged with membership in the group. Other members will be brought to trial shortly. All hearings are being held behind closed doors.

The gang is believed to have obtained its arms, including pistols, grenades, Uzzi sub-machineguns and explosives, mainly through what has become known as the "Jaffa Bombers Group" -- Jews and Arabs in Jaffa who have bombed a number of cars in the area recently. They are described as an underworld "hit group" and many are now on trial.

### Turn From Drug Addiction To Religion

A number of the young Israeli Arabs from villages in the "Little triangle" on the pre-1967 border not far from Tel Aviv have criminal records. They are former drug addicts who repented and turned to religion, possibly under the influence of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran. They were guided by religious leaders, including members of the outlawed Moslem Brotherhood who use religion as a weapon in their fight against any Western influence, including Zionism.

Sheikh Farid Wajdi Tabari, the Kadi (religious judge) of Jaffa and Jerusalem who is an outspoken proponent of Jewish-Moslem cooperation, says that the Moslem religious leadership has confined itself almost entirely to legal religious matters in the courts and that a social religious leadership almost does not exist. Consequently, certain religious leaders have misused religion to serve certain political aims among young Arabs who have been neglected, he said.

He said in a radio interview: "We have heard a lot lately about the confiscation of Arab land, about the lack of possibilities for young Arabs to take part in government affairs, and about under-representation in the Knesset. According to our numbers, we should have at least 15 Arabs in the Knesset (as against only three or four). We should have at least one Arab on the Supreme Court and our education system has come in for severe criticism."

### Differing Reactions Among Israeli Arabs

Binyamin Gur-Arye, Premier Menachem Begin's Arab affairs advisor, responded by saying that a disproportionate share of the educational budget went to the Arab sector. But he added that much needs to be done to raise the Arab community from the dismally low educational level of 1948 to approach that of the Jewish sector. He said he was aware for the past two years of the "Moslem fundamentalist revival" but it was difficult to take measures under a democracy.

Villagers in the Israeli Arab villages of Umm El-Fakham and Baka Al-Garbiya, where most of the arrests were made, are split in their reactions. Some of them welcome the return of their prodigal sons from crime to religion and to an ultra-strict form of puritanical religious life at that. They deny that it has been misused for political purposes.

Others say that the lack of opportunities for young Arabs to progress at the rate of their Jewish fellow-Israelis makes it almost inevitable that they will turn either to the Israel Communist Party, made up mainly of Arabs, though largely led by Jews, or to religious fundamentalism with its dangers of developing into an anti-Israeli movement -- especially in view of the spread of Khomeinism in the Arab and Moslem world.

### GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR JEWISH VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany announced that organizations which provide shelter to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution may apply for grants from a Hardship Fund established with German federal government appropriations.

According to the guidelines issued by the German government, "Up to five percent of the available funds can also be used as subventions for the maintenance of institutions which provide shelter to the persecuted" on the basis of the Federal Indemnification Law.

In 1981, the Claims Conference will have at its disposal for allocations the sum of 2.5 million DM, which is approximately \$1.2 million, according to a Conference spokesman. He said that interested organizations may file applications with the Conference by April 30. Applications should be addressed in 10 copies to:

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. 15 East 26th Street, New York, NY 10010.

### SETTLERS IN AREAS TO BE RETURNED TO EGYPT STAGE ONE-DAY STRIKE

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- Residents of Yamit and other settlements near the old Israel-Egypt border to be returned to Egypt next year blocked the main road to Egypt today to protest what they charged was the government's disregard of agreements to compensate them.

The government recently suggested that the settlers pay income tax on the millions of Shekels they are to receive for the homes and farms they will have to abandon. The settlers parked vehicles across the main road and burned an old car and a tire to create flames and smoke for television cameramen. But traffic to and from Egypt continued more or less normally as drivers detoured around the demonstration, using dirt tracks and side roads.

A similar day-long strike was observed at Ophira, Israel's southernmost settlement at Sharm El-Sheikh which will also be abandoned in a year's time.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- New immigrants living in absorption centers near Haifa observed a one-day strike Sunday. They were protesting the almost doubling of the rent they pay the Jewish Agency for their rooms, from the equivalent of about \$18 a month to about \$36. They said that while the government was reducing prices of TV sets and cars by reducing purchase tax, they were being asked to pay more for services they got during their first months in Israel.