

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN RAPS EUROPEANS FOR SECRET DOCUMENT THAT ONE DAY WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO WIPE OUT ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin sharply attacked today what he called a secret West European document reportedly calling for Israel's complete return to the pre-1967 borders in exchange for normal ties with the Arab states.

"This is a plan of making it possible one day to wipe out Israel, to change our national security situation completely, to bring the greatest damage to our country," he told a group of French former paratroopers.

Begin condemned the Venice Declaration by the European Economic Community adopted last June calling for the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. He then turned to the secret document in which the Europeans reportedly call for Israel's complete withdrawal within two years and promise foreign security guarantees to Israel.

"I speak about it more in regret than in anger," Begin said, "that Europe, in which we lived for more than a thousand years, in which we suffered so much -- France, which we have loved so much -- should contemplate such a possibility that we should again become, as we were in the Middle Ages, protected Jews." But, Begin declared, "No, We shall never ask any foreign soldiers to fight for us."

### Urges Reversal Of European Policy

The existence of a secret EEC plan for the Arab-Israeli conflict was denied this week in Amsterdam by Dutch Foreign Minister Christopher van der Klaauw, chairman of the EEC's Council of Ministers, in a meeting with representatives of Jewish groups from the 10 EEC countries. But foreign press reports received here claim that the EEC governments have been presented with a secret working paper containing the proposal for Israeli withdrawal.

Begin told the French paratroopers that the Jewish people had recently been forced to change their view of France upon which they had looked with admiration for generations. "In deep pain, I must say that lately the official policy toward Israel of several European countries, including France, to our great regret, is absolutely negative, and sometimes incomprehensible," the Premier said. He urged the French visitors to seek a reversal of this trend when they returned home.

### KNESSET APPEALS TO WORLD OPINION TO HELP RESCUE SYRIAN JEWS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA) -- The Knesset renewed its appeal to world opinion to help rescue Syrian Jews after the government conceded that representations made so far to statesmen, parliaments and world figures have been to no avail.

The government is doing "everything openly and quietly," on behalf of Syrian Jews, Justice

Minister Moshe Nissim said yesterday in reply to an agenda motion. He said that the 5000 Jews living in Syria were deprived of their spiritual freedom and their freedom of movement, including the right to emigrate and faced physical danger because of the deteriorating internal situation in Syria. But while their plight has been brought to the attention of many governments and parliaments, the situation remains unchanged, he said.

The matter was raised by Likud MK Yitzhak Yitzhaki who cited recent reports that hundreds of Jewish young women in Syria were unable to find husbands because of the shortage of Jewish men of marriageable age in that country and, in many cases, converted to Islam and married Moslem men in order to raise families. Yitzhaki suggested that Pope John Paul II head an international council to work for the release of Syrian Jews.

He asked a Moslem MK, Walid Haj Yihya of the Sheli faction, to try to get influential Israeli Arabs to persuade the Syrian regime to allow Jews to emigrate. Yehuda Ben Meir, of the National Religious Party, made a similar suggestion in the form of a motion.

The outcome was a unanimous call by the Knesset to the Pope, Moslem leaders, the United Nations, parliamentary democracies and other governments throughout the world to bring pressure to bear on the Damascus government.

### NEW ISRAEL-FRANCE CONTROVERSY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 4 (JTA) -- A new controversy broke out between France and Israel over remarks made by Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet to a group of Israeli journalists Monday. Receiving the journalists at Quai d'Orsay, the minister said he thought that certain aspects of Israel's policy were "suicidal." The remark, reported in the Israeli press, drew an angry reaction from French Foreign Ministry officials who claimed that Poncet's words had been distorted by the Israeli media.

A Ministry spokesman said the word "suicidal" has been taken out of context and that the Minister had spoken to the journalist off the record, meaning that he made no official comment. The spokesman stressed that France's position on the Middle East problem is well-known and that it has been in no way modified. France, while defending the existence of Israel and its right to secure, recognized borders, has been calling for the creation of a Palestinian state.

### NEO-NAZIS, WAR CRIMINALS ON TRIAL IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 4 (JTA) -- Four separate trials of neo-Nazis have opened in Frankfurt. They come at a time when four cases of Nazi war criminals are also being tried in Frankfurt courts.

Part of the charges against the neo-Nazis are that they have spread the false claim that the Nazi death camps did not exist. The defendants in the war criminal trials, however, do not deny the existence of the gas chambers and mass shootings, but only that they personally were not involved in the

extermination of Jews and others. The two contradictory statements are often heard in adjoining courts.

One trial of neo-Nazis involves a father and his two sons who are charged with flying flags with swastikas from public buildings in Frankfurt and the surrounding towns. Another case is that of Erwing Schoenborn, who publishes anti-Jewish material and has been jailed several times for his writings. Among neo-Nazis he is considered an intellectual activist whose job it is to broaden the ideological base of the movement.

The other two neo-Nazi trials involve members of an extreme rightwing organization, the People's Socialist Movement of Germany, who are accused of violence against pedestrians in the center of Frankfurt. The organization operates in several West German federal states and has close contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The group received quite a bit of publicity when one of its leaders, Frank Shubert, committed suicide on the Swiss border several months ago after being stopped by the police.

#### Long Duration Of War Criminals' Trials

The four trials of war criminals have been going on for years as a result of indecision by the authorities and delaying tactics of the defense lawyers. The trial of Walter Fasold, 76, has been going on for four-and-a-half years. Fasold was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1949 on a charge of complicity in the murder of 180 inmates in a factory in occupied Poland. German courts ordered a new trial and the defense has been calling as many witnesses as possible in order to complicate the situation.

A second trial involves the case of Hubert Gomerski, who was convicted in 1950 and again in 1977 for war crimes. But a new trial was ordered on the grounds that there were "contradictions in the statements of witnesses." Fridrich Paulus, another accused war criminal on trial in Frankfurt, also had an earlier trial but the proceedings were stopped without a verdict.

The fourth trial is that of former SS officers Hors Czerwinski and Josef Schmidt, who were officials at Auschwitz, and whose trial has been going on for four years. Czerwinski has not appeared in court for several weeks because of ill health. Schmidt, meanwhile, was sentenced last week to eight years in jail from which the seven years he spent in prison in Poland will be deducted.

#### PROBE RESUMES INTO EX-NAZIS PAST

VIENNA, March 4 (JTA) -- The office of the District Attorney in Innsbruck has reopened the investigation into the Nazi past of Mayor Franz Hausberger of Mayrhofen, the famous skiing resort in the Tyrol. Hausberger was a member of the infamous First SS Infantry Brigade. The resumption of the investigation was triggered by the Austrian Resistance Movement which mailed a leaflet to all households in the region around Mayrhofen headlined: "From the Murder Brigade to the Mayor's Office." The leaflet stated: "Our region is being discredited by the past of Franz Hausberger."

#### ISRAELI ASSURED OF MEXICAN OIL

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today he had been assured by President Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico that Mexico would continue to supply

Israel with oil and would not be bound by an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decisions in this respect.

Shamir, who was interviewed by telephone from Mexico City by Israel Radio, said the Mexican leader had volunteered the assurance without his having raised the subject himself. Shamir said Lopez Portillo said Mexico's "only link with OPEC was purely economic." The Israeli Foreign Minister, who is due to leave Mexico today to return home, said he foresaw a great expansion in Israel's economic and cultural relations with Latin American countries. (See related story from Bogota.)

#### COLOMBIA, ISRAEL AGREE ON CULTURAL, TECHNOLOGICAL TIES

By Simeon Baker

BOGOTA, March 4 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said here that he was "satisfied" with the results of his visit to Colombia and his meetings with President Julio Ayala and Foreign Minister Diego Vargas. He said agreement was reached to expand the cultural and technological ties between Israel and this South American nation.

The Israeli diplomat, who was in Washington last week for meetings with President Reagan, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other officials, spoke at a banquet given in his honor by the 500-member Jewish community in the Colombian capital. He was accompanied by his wife, Shulamit. Shamir was also honored at a reception given by Vargas and was warmly received by the Colombian Parliament. "The relations between Colombia and Israel are friendly," Shamir said before leaving for Mexico City Sunday.

#### UN MEETING ON LEBANON DUE

By Mark Smith

UNITED NATIONS, March 4 (JTA) -- A United Nations spokesman said today that it is "possible to expect" a Security Council Meeting tomorrow to discuss a Lebanese complaint against Israeli attacks on in south Lebanon. Lebanon requested yesterday a meeting of the Security Council in a letter from Lebanese Charge d'Affaires Fakhr Saghiyyah to this month's president of the Council, Ambassador Peter Florin of East Germany. The spokesman said that private consultations between Security Council members have been taking place since yesterday in order to determine a date for an official Security Council meeting.

#### DUTCH LABOR PARTY REJECTS RECOGNITION OF PLO BUT SUPPORTS CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, March 4 (JTA) -- The Dutch Labor Party (PVDA), one of the two largest in the country, adopted a resolution at its pre-election Congress rejecting recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization for the time being. At the same time, however, it supported the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967.

Martin van Traa, who would become The Netherlands Foreign Minister if Labor wins the May 25 parliamentary elections, called for a "balanced" approach to the Arab-Israeli dispute and suggested that the PVDA relate itself in particular to the Israeli Labor Party. He said his party might be able to influence the Israeli Laborites and help it toward victory in Israel's parliamentary elections next June 30.

Immediate recognition of the PLO would only help Premier Menachem Begin's Likud government in the election campaign, van Traa said. The resolu-

tion, considered a victory for moderate elements of the PVDA, did not rule out political contacts with the PLO and called for mutual recognition by the PLO and Israel. It also supported secure and recognized borders for Israel.

The PVDA presently holds 53 seats out of 150 in the lower house of the Dutch Parliament. It contains a strong pro-Palestinian lobby which has campaigned in recent years for recognition of the PLO and far-reaching concessions by Israel.

#### BELZER REBBE UNDER HEAVY SECURITY GUARD DUE TO THREATS ON HIS LIFE

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA) — Rabbi Yisachur Dov Rokeach, the Belzer rebbe, arrived here from Israel yesterday under heavy security guard because of reported threats to his life. But a violent street confrontation between his followers and members of the rival Satmar Hasidic sect did not materialize during the reception held for the rebbe last night in a public school auditorium in the heavily Orthodox Boro Park section of Brooklyn.

Rokeach, 33, the only surviving descendant of the founder of the movement in Belz, Russia, 200 years ago, will spend two weeks here visiting schools, synagogues and social agencies run by his followers. In a statement read to reporters by an aide, he said his visit, the first in eight years, was occasioned by the 30th anniversary of Belz institutions in the U.S.

"My prayers are to the Almighty that this convention will result in the uniting of all groups of Torah Orthodox Judaism," he said.

The threats against Rokeach, allegedly from members of the Satmar movement, were responsible for the most extensive security precautions taken for any foreign visitor in recent years. The rebbe and his entourage were met at Kennedy Airport by bullet-proof limousines assigned by Mayor Edward Koch to whisk them to Boro Park with a police motorcycle escort.

As early as yesterday morning, police barriers were already in place in streets near the private home where the rebbe is staying and the city's blue-and-white police cars were conspicuous all over the neighborhood.

#### Difference Between The Belzer, Satmar

Last night, more than 300 police surrounded the public school where the rebbe appeared. Earlier, the building had been searched by the bomb squad. The reason was the extreme bitterness between the Belzer and Satmar Hasidim who differ not only on points of theology but in their attitude toward Israel.

The Belzer support the Israeli government and receive subventions from it for their institutions in Israel. They are Zionists but insist that Israel must become a "religious state." The Satmar also have a community in Israel but refuse to recognize the government or accept support from it. They are anti-Zionist and contend that there can be no legitimate Jewish state until the advent of the Messiah.

Last Sunday night, some 600 Satmar followers surrounded a Belzer synagogue in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn for three hours, pelting it with rocks, bottles and curses until police forced them to disperse and extricated some 75 Belzer worshippers inside. There were no injuries or arrests.

Anonymous telephone calls to the Jewish Telegraphic Association and other news media over

the weekend claimed that the Belzer rebbe might be "hit" by criminal elements allegedly engaged by the Satmar. Hebrew and Yiddish graffiti heaping scorn on the Belzer rebbe appeared on walls and pavements in Williamsburg. Leaflets denouncing the rebbe were distributed in the diamond trade district in midtown Manhattan where many Hasidim are employed.

The City Administration took the threats seriously. Security arrangements were planned last week at the behest of the Belzer community leaders who met with Koch and Police Commissioner Robert McGuire at Gracie Mansion. Koch reportedly issued a stern warning to Satmar leaders to control their followers. The Mayor's office later denied this.

But Rabbi Leiblish Lewkovitz, president of the International Satmar community, issued a statement saying that "Despite our philosophical differences we believe it is everyone's right to visit our city in a peaceful manner."

#### KAHANE: JDL WILL SET UP WEST BANK, GOLAN 'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT' IF ISRAEL RETURNS THE AREAS

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) — Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, said here today that the JDL will set up "a provisional government" for the "Golan Heights, Judea and Samaria" if "the Israel government gives up those lands." He said the "provisional government" would establish an "embassy" in Washington for the "state of Judea" that would issue passports and visas and fly its own flag.

Kahane, who has been in the U.S. for seven weeks since he was released from prison in Israel where he served a sentence for inciting to violence, made his remarks at a sidewalk press conference outside the National Press Building here. He was barred from entering the building by police acting at the request of building officials.

Kahane, accompanied by about a dozen JDLers, said "There will be a second Jewish state but not a Palestinian state" in describing his plans. "Our dream is that Israel is going to annex" the "liberated lands" and "then we (the provisional government) will go out of business. We're serious about it. If Israel gives up the land, we'll fill the vacuum."

The JDL had planned to hold its press conference in a 10th floor corridor of the National Press Building, outside the offices of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Kahane claimed that the committee is a "front" for the Palestine Liberation Organization. James Zogby, former head of the Palestine Human Rights Committee, said he and former Democratic Sen. James Abouzeik of South Dakota were "co-organizers" of the anti-discrimination group. The Human Rights Committee is presently headquartered in Chicago.

#### YADIN'S MOVEMENT OFFICIALLY DEAD

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA) — The Democratic Movement, originally the Democratic Movement for Change before several splits from it took place, officially declared itself dead at its final council last night. Newspapers and commentators expressed surprise today that its two Cabinet ministers, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and Welfare Minister Israel Katz had announced their intention of staying in the Cabinet until the elections June 30. The general feeling was that they should have resigned the Cabinet seats since they no longer have a party to represent, but only themselves. While Yadin has already announced that he is retiring from politics, neither Katz nor former Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir have spelled out clearly what they plan to do.

## JEWS IN GEORGIA, INDIANA CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITY

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA) -- A cross-burning outside a synagogue building under construction in an Atlanta, Ga. suburb Feb. 20 and the desecration of a synagogue in Evansville, Ind., by vandals two days later, has aroused serious concern in both communities and among Jews generally, less for the damage done, than over the implications of the anti-Semitic acts.

According to Seth Eisenberg, editor of Community, a Jewish publication in Louisville, Ky., unidentified persons armed with red paint sprayed swastikas, "white power" and other racist slogans on the walls of the Adath B'nai Israel synagogue in Evansville, a town in southern Indiana with a Jewish population of 1200. The incident occurred in the early hours of Feb. 22. Children reporting for Sunday school classes at the synagogue were confronted with the hate messages.

According to Alan Shovers, president of the Evansville congregation, it was the second incident of its type in the past 18 months. It differed from the first in that it was not followed by hate letters and telephone calls, he said. Three days later, the home of Rabbi Michael Herzbrun, spiritual leader of the congregation, was ransacked by what police called "professional burglars" who did damage estimated at \$10,000.

Bambi Levy, writing in The Southern Israelite of Atlanta, reported that the cross-burning at Beth Shalom synagogue occurred in full view as over 75 members of the congregation, including children who were attending special Friday evening services at an elementary school across the street.

A three-foot high cross made of planking and fabric and held together by a coathanger was ignited on the front lawn of the unfinished synagogue. The blaze was put out by congregation members with fire extinguishers before the fire department arrived, Levy reported.

### Determined 'Not To Run'

The incident created a new sense of solidarity among the shocked congregants who expressed their determination "not to run." But sharply differing views emerged, according to Levy, as to the motivations of the vandals and how the Jewish community should respond. The basic difference was whether the cross-burning was an isolated incident or a manifestation of a more ominous trend.

Rabbi Donald Peterman of Congregation Beth Shalom was quoted as saying, "I've never doubted that anti-Semitism was on the rise. I think we are going to see more and more related incidents. We live in a very dangerous climate. Overt anti-Semitism is becoming stronger ... This burning was meant to scare us, it was a visual message that we are not wanted ..."

### Sees No Reason For Panic

But Stuart Lewengrub, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, did not see the incident as a massive movement or as a reason for panic. "At some point in life some Jewish institution receives some form of harassment," he stated. According to Levy, he attributed the cross-burning to troubled economic times. "Jews have always been the scapegoat in troubled periods," he observed. He demanded, however, that the incident be thoroughly investi-

gated, the culprits apprehended and prosecuted "like any other common criminal."

Similar views were expressed by William Gralnick, Southeast regional director of the American Jewish Committee. When Jews expand into the suburbs, so will prejudice, he said. "When there is a physical Jewish structure in a suburban neighborhood, the community can't ignore it like they might if there were one or two Jewish families living nearby. A synagogue is visually there, it doesn't go away," Gralnick said.

One of the immediate concerns of the Beth Shalom congregants was over the effects the cross-burning had on their children. The 20 youngsters who witnessed it were "terror stricken," according to one member of the congregation.

### Anti-Semitic Incidents Condemned

Similar concern was expressed in Evansville. "I don't know if the children fully understood what happened," Shovers said according to Eisenberg's account. "It's a tough issue to deal with, but we have a great deal of encouragement and sympathy from a large number of friends in the neighborhood."

Mayor Michael Vendevor of Evansville reacted strongly. "This is the kind of activity our community doesn't want to tolerate. Its unacceptable," he said. He added, "My overall concern is that when the community hears of this type of thing and sees swastikas painted on a building, most people are very much concerned. There is no evidence of any kind of anti-Semitism group here. Its a sporadic kind of thing and is not reflecting an organized element in the community."

The Atlanta incident also drew expressions of sympathy and outrage from community leaders of all faiths. According to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Dr. Donald Newby, executive director of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, called on all citizens to condemn cross-burning.

"We're deeply disturbed and angered by the outrageous act of cross-burning at the Beth Shalom site," he said. "From a Christian viewpoint, we must no longer tolerate such overt symbols of racism, intolerance and anti-Semitism."

### PROSPECTING FOR OIL

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA) -- A group of American and Canadian investors is to spend between \$3.5-4 million on prospecting for oil in the Kiryat Gat region, according to Elazar Barak, director of the Israeli-Hanna Oil Drilling Company which is to carry out the work. The site has been chosen on the basis of satellite pictures backed up with seismological investigations on the ground.

The drillers plan to go down to some 14,500 feet, using drilling equipment and rigs to be moved from Ga'ash just north of Tel Aviv where promising signs of oil have been found. Test pumping at the Ga'ash site is to be started this week, to ascertain the presence of workable oil reserves.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- "World Gathering: An Affirmation of Life" will be aired on WEVD Radio Sunday March 15 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. The program, produced by Amy Goldberg and Julie Frank with the cooperation of the New York Board of Rabbis, will bring together the most noted spokespeople on the Holocaust -- survivors, scholars, writers and Jewish communal leaders, including Elie Wiesel. The program is one of a series of events in preparation for the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Israel next June.