

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## A SCOTTISH FISHING VILLAGE BECOMES A FLASHPOINT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 24 (JTA) — Until very recently Dundee was best known as a fishing port in eastern Scotland famous for its fruit cake and its football team.

But it has now acquired unlikely significance as a cockpit of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Some 400 Jews, and Gentile friends of Israel from all over Scotland, attended a stormy meeting at Dundee University Sunday to protest against the town's decision to "twin" itself with Nablus as a gesture of solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

If Ernie Ross, the town's pro-Arab Labor MP, had thought that this "twinning" arrangement could go through smoothly, he was gravely mistaken. The meeting attracted not only local Jews, but Gentile friends of Israel, such as Scottish nationalist leader Winifred Ewing, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews led by its president, Greville Janner MP, who flew to Dundee from London for the day with fellow honorary officers. The national press, radio and television were also on hand.

What attracted them to Dundee was not merely the gesture to the PLO, symbolized by the display of its flag in Dundee's Council chamber, but the fact that it coincided with unprecedented displays of anti-Jewish prejudice in Dundee.

There are only about 20 Jewish families in Dundee and there is no previous record of anti-Semitic outbreaks since the community was founded over a century ago.

The fact that the "twinning" did not go unopposed was initially due to the leader of Dundee's tiny community, Dr. Albert Jacob. His outspoken and single-handed protests were "rewarded" three weeks ago by the appearance of anti-Semitic daubings on the home of his 81-year-old father.

### Nazi Symbols On Town's Synagogue

The shock was redoubled last weekend when more Nazi symbols appeared on Dundee's synagogue. The perpetrators, however, performed an unwitting service to the Jewish and Israeli cause. On landing in Dundee, Janner asked his pro-Arab colleague, Ross, as well as James Gowans, the Lord Provost, to inspect the daubings.

It was a graphic illustration of Janner's arguments about the affinities between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. Directly attributing the outbreak to the link with the PLO, Janner told the protest meetings: "When you twin a city with an organization of terror and hang up its flag you are creating a climate of hatred." An abashed Lord Provost promised to ask the Civic Council to have the flag removed.

Council members still remain committed to visiting Nablus in exchange for a visit by the Arab town's mayor, Bassam Shoka, who was himself the victim of a terrorist attack last June widely attributed to Jewish extremists. Under the influence of the weekend's uproar, however, Council members

are considering extending their visit to an Israel Kibbutz. Perhaps they will find that Israel is just as attractive as Nablus.

### WARNING SOUNDED THAT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE VATICAN, PLO OFFICIALS THREATEN JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) — Criticism continued here of the meeting held at the Vatican last week by Cardinal Augustino Casaroli, the Vatican's Secretary of State, with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department. The criticism was coupled with a warning that such incidents threaten Jewish-Catholic relations.

A letter protesting the meeting was sent to Msgr. Jorge Mejia, of the Vatican's Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity, by the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, a coalition of Protestant and Catholic clergy and laity who seek to foster understanding and support for Israel in the United States.

"By officially receiving those who vowed to add one more horrible chapter to the long history of Jewish suffering, the Church -- we believe -- nourishes fear among our Jewish brothers and sisters that once again Christians will forsake them at a critical moment in their history," the Leadership Conference said. "In light of past experience such sentiments are all too understandable."

The letter declared that: "We hope and pray for a clear word from the Holy See that legitimate concerns about the Palestinian people and questions about Jerusalem cannot be negotiated with people who, through their National Covenant and their actions, threaten the very survival of the State of Israel as well as the peace of the world."

The letter was signed by Dr. Frank H. Littell, president of the Leadership Conference; Sister Rose Thering, vice president; Rev. William Harter, secretary-treasurer and Rev. Isaac Rottenberg, executive director.

### Concerned Over Emerging Pattern

The American Jewish Congress also expressed concern that Casaroli's meeting with Kaddoumi was part of an emerging pattern of Church actions that threatens a deterioration of relations between the Church and Jews.

"With the election of John Paul II (as Pope), a witness to the destruction of European Jewry, we were deeply hopeful that the Catholic Church would be more responsive to the depth of Jewish suffering and the necessity to prevent a recurrence of such crimes against the Jewish people," Henry Stegman, executive director of the AJCongress said. "The meeting with the PLO follows a number of developments in recent months, including a hostile reference to Jewish ethics in the recent Encyclical, which have gone far to undermine this hope."

Earlier, the meeting between Casaroli and Kaddoumi was sharply criticized by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Israel Consulate General in New York.

### EBAN: ISRAEL HAS TO SHOW SPIRIT OF CONCERN, NOT MELANCHOLY IN FACE OF ARAB INTIMIDATION OF THE WEST

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) — Israel will have to display a "spirit of concern, not melancholy" to fend off "international intimidation" stemming from "Arab ability of extortion of the industrialized nations of the world," Abba Eban, former Foreign Minister of Israel, said here yesterday.

Addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Eban, who is presently a Labor Party member of Knesset, referred to current West European economic policies and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's agreement to let her ministers meet with Pales-tine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat or with any other PLO representatives.

Eban said, "The international community is intimidated by Arab power," in reference to oil supplies, and declared that Thatcher's meetings are "an attempt to undermine" United States Middle East peace initiatives. Eban cited the lack of participation on the part of the Europeans during the Camp David process.

Eban said the Reagan Administration is seeking to "discourage" a PLO-British meeting. He said "No Israeli government would support any initiative" resulting from a British-PLO meeting.

#### Possible Role For Saudis In Peace Process

He reiterated criticism of the proposed sale to Saudi Arabia of U.S. sophisticated equipment for the F-15 jets now awaiting delivery, including AWACS with capabilities to "peer" into Israeli land bases. He said it is clear that U.S. foreign policy does not consist exclusively of a military program in Saudi Arabia. Eban, however, observed that the U.S. may be able to encourage a Saudi peace dialogue and hoped there "might be elements in Saudi Arabia who can see that the real danger is not from Israel but from the Soviets." He did not identify the Saudi elements.

Eban said the Saudis may be the "ill or the key for the next stage of a Camp David process." He said with the peace talks stalled, the Reagan Administration took the correct decision "by not putting the Arab-Israeli dialogue at the head of American concerns."

Eban said President Anwar Sadat of Egypt will surely head his government in the later part of 1981, whereas uncertainty still surrounds Israel with elections scheduled in June. Either way, he said the "durability of the final accord responds to Egypt's needs as well as ours."

### SEPHARDI JEWISH LEADERS CLAIM CLIMATE IN ISRAEL FOR IMMIGRATION IS 'WORSE THAN EVER' AND TERM PROJECT RENEWAL A 'TOTAL FIASCO'

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 24 (JTA) — Sephardi Jewish leaders from several countries expressed profound disappointment with Premier Menachem Begin's Likud government. They said that the climate in Israel for immigration was "worse than ever" and that Project Renewal, Begin's emergency plan for improving the lot of 100,000 of Israel's poorest citizens, had been "a total fiasco."

The criticism of the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency came at the end of a meeting yesterday of the World Sephardi Federation's aliyah and social commission, which was attended by Nissim Gaon, the Federation's president, who had originally proposed Project Renewal to Begin shortly after the 1977 Israeli general elections.

Summing up the two-day conference, Roger Pinto, the commission's chairman, spoke of a "total lack of coordination" between the Ministry of Housing and Absorption and the Jewish Agency and said this was frustrating would-be immigrants to Israel.

#### Aliya Difficulties Spelled Out

Pinto, a French businessman and leader of the French "Ziona" movement, spelled out the difficulties faced by the World Sephardi Federation in promoting aliyah to Tiberias and Kiryat Shmona in answer to the government's plea for more Jewish settlers in Galilee.

On the one hand, he said, Jewish Agency officials had told the Federation that there was no scope for immigration in Tiberias because of local unemployment. On the other hand, the European head of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department had said it had 20 vacant apartments there and was calling for families to occupy them.

Pinto added that the Federation would therefore press on with its own program to encourage a further 40 families to settle in Tiberias in addition to the 60 Sephardi families who had settled there in the past two years. If there was not enough work for them, it would find the necessary investment to create new jobs there.

A similar situation had arisen in Kiryat Shmona where the Federation had decided to send out 15 young volunteers to the town despite the claim of the Jewish Agency office in Paris that it had received no instructions from Israel concerning these volunteers, Pinto said.

The charge that Project Renewal had been "a total fiasco" came from another French member of the commission, Jacques Abu-Hatzeira, who said that although the Sephardi Federation had had "big hopes" when Begin came to power, "almost nothing" had been done.

The project, entailing provision of 45,000 apartments over a five-year period for badly housed Israelis, was "still only at the start of the road," even though the Begin government was nearing the end of its term of office, Abu-Hatzeira said. He and Pinto emphasized that they were equally critical of previous Labor-led governments and were not interfering in Israeli domestic politics.

#### HIAS AIDED 28,000 REFUGEES IN 1980

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) — During 1980 — its centennial year — HIAS helped almost 28,000 refugees find new homes in free nations, according to reports presented to board members from throughout the country at its annual meeting here yesterday. This figure represents the second largest number of people helped by the Jewish migration agency in any single year since World War II, and includes 18,631 Soviet Jews, it was announced by HIAS president Edwin Shapiro.

To carry out its worldwide activities in the past year, the agency spent \$18,587,793, which includes funds furnished by the United States government for the resettlement of 5,157 Indochinese refugees, 2,781 Cubans and smaller numbers of other HIAS-assisted emigrants from other countries.

Leonard Seidenman, the newly-appointed executive vice president of HIAS, told board members the agency "is confident that the Reagan Administration will continue in the great American tradition of extending welcome and support to refugees." He noted that President Reagan has frequently expressed his commitment and compassion for the plight of refugees worldwide, "and we look forward to seeing these sympathies reflected in continuing support" for these programs.

In discussing the future resettlement of Soviet Jews, Seidenman reported on a plan developed late in 1980 to provide these refugees "with a more accurate picture of the positive possibilities offered by Israeli resettlement. Jews in the USSR, have been subjected to years of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda, and deserve a more honest and realistic view of the constructive opportunities available to them in Israel."

Seidenman asserted that the plight of thousands of Jews in a number of countries "has grown more serious in the past year," and the agency pledged -- through several resolutions -- to continue its assistance to members of these "oppressed and endangered" overseas Jewish communities.

### BIPARTISAN OPPOSITION IN SENATE TO U.S. SAUDI ARMS SALE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 24 (JTA) -- Nineteen Senators -- 11 Republicans and eight Democrats -- spoke out in the Senate today against the Reagan Administration's intention to provide Saudi Arabia with equipment to enhance the combat capabilities of the 62 F-15 warplanes they have purchased from the U.S.

The Administration has not yet formally notified Congress of its proposed sale of extra fuel tanks and air-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia that critics say would create an additional threat to Israel. The Administration contends that the purpose of the equipment is to strengthen indigenous forces against Soviet penetration of the Middle East oilfields.

The Republicans who spoke in opposition to the sale are: Bob Packwood (Ore.); Larry Pressler (SD); Bob Kaster (Wisc.); David Durenberger (Minn.); Rudy Boschwitz (Minn.); Slade Gorton (Wash.); Robert Dole (Kan.); Alfonse D'Amato (NY); Arlen Specter (Pa.); John Heinz (Pa.); and Charles Mathias (Md.).

The Democrats are Bill Bradley (NJ); George Mitchell (Me.); Gary Hart (Colo.); Dennis DeConcini (Ariz.); Daniel Moynihan (NY); Carl Levin (Mich.); Quentin Burdick (ND); and Lawton Chiles (Fla.).

### 'Bartering Integrity For Energy'

Packwood, who led off the discussion, said the Administration's package for Saudi Arabia is an example of U.S. willingness "to barter integrity for energy." Noting that the proposed equipment will improve the range of the Saudi planes by 80 percent, more than enough to attack Israel, Packwood recalled that he had opposed the original sale of the F-15s to Saudi Arabia in 1978 because he sensed at that time that they would be a threat to Israel.

Packwood recalled that at the time he had warned that the Saudis would not end their demands with the purchase of the F-15s as then constituted. "At the time our willingness to enter into the sale of the F-15s was posed as a test of our good will and friendship with Saudi Arabia,"

Packwood said. "They (Saudis) indicated to us that if we weren't willing to sell them they would certainly take that into regard in their relations with the U.S." As a result, he said, "We were afraid they would cut off our oil supply if we didn't sell." Packwood suggested that the same thesis is developing now.

Dole said he opposed the sale because he felt it would increase insecurity in the Middle East and appears to be an effort to buy good will. He said however that he was willing to keep an open mind if it were proved that the sale affected Middle East security.

Levin expressed doubt that the planes would be effective against any threats the Saudis might face. "A realistic assessment indicates there are three distinct potential threats," he said. These are "internal instability, typified by the Moslem fundamentalist of the kind that seized the mosque in Mecca; external command type raids against their oilfields; and finally and least likely, an invasion from Iraq or Iran and even less likely, by the Soviets."

"In none of these three cases will the offensive equipment contemplated in the President's request be useful as either a deterrent or weapon," Levin said.

### Must Aid Indigenous Forces

Speaking in favor of the proposed sale, Sen. John Tower (R. Tex.) said the U.S. must aid indigenous forces in the area to defend themselves since the alternative, he suggested, would be to send American forces. He insisted that the Saudis were motivated by the Soviet threat rather than any desire to act offensively against Israel. He said the difference between the situation now and in 1978 when the F-15s were sold to Saudi Arabia include the facts that the Soviets are now in Afghanistan and an anti-American regime is in power in Iran.

### SHARON: WEST'S DEFENSE POSTURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS AIDED BY JEWISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA) -- Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon claimed today that Jewish settlements on the West Bank were helping the Western world's defense posture in the region. He said he did not think the Carter Administration understood this but saw signs that the Reagan Administration might be more receptive to his thesis.

Sharon, who heads the Ministerial Settlement Committee, spoke to foreign correspondents who he conducted on a tour of four West Bank settlements. He noted that 55 new settlements have been established in the territory since the Likud government took office in 1977 bringing the total on the West Bank and Golan Heights to 85 with a Jewish population of about 27,000.

Sharon stressed that his strong advocacy of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories was not based on historic connections or religious beliefs such as motivate the Gush Emunim settlers who comprise much of the West Bank's Jewish population. Defense and security considerations alone shape his views, Sharon said.

According to the Minister, who is a retired general, Jewish settlements at strategic points was the only way to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state and therefore they were important to the Western world's defense against Soviet encroachment. A Palestinian state or one controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organization would inevitably be used as a toe-hold for further Soviet penetration into the Middle East, Sharon contended.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 24 (JTA) — The bitter-sweet political relations between Israel and Britain are currently going through one of their bitter phases. But trade relations between them rarely attracted so much attention as they did last week proving the durability of the Anglo-Israeli connection.

About 200 Israeli companies displayed their wares at a three-day exhibition entitled "Industrial Israel," showing the British public that Israel is a highly sophisticated technological society and not just a pretty orange grove in the sun.

The exhibition coincided with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the British-Israeli Chamber of Commerce. Trade between the two countries is now running at about 500 million Pounds Sterling a year.

Even more significant, perhaps, is the fact that for the very first time the balance of trade has swung in favor of Israel. She now sells Britain not only fruit and vegetables but a growing range of industrial products, like those that were on show in London's West Centre Hotel.

Among the products featured there were automotive parts, security systems, domestic appliances, air conditioning, solar energy equipment, medical equipment, rubber, plastic and metal cutting systems, batteries, computers and many more.

### Evidence: Of Complex Relations

The complex relations between the two countries were evident at the Chamber of Commerce anniversary dinner where the guest speakers were Sir Keith Joseph and Gideon Patt, the British and Israeli industry ministers, respectively.

Both men were speaking against the background of severe economic difficulties in their respective countries. Sir Keith, after paying the requisite compliments about Israel's technological achievements, expressed his amazement that Israel could remain civilized while their inflation rate was running at 135 percent. "Please write a simple text book for us on how you manage this," he pleaded with Patt.

Patt did not oblige but made it clear that Israel was so dependent on imports of vital weapons that she simply could not afford the "luxury" of the ruthless deflationary policies which raised Britain's unemployment to its highest level since the dark days of the depression.

It was ironic, too, that while Britain and Israel presented contrasting pictures of iron economic discipline on the one hand and inflationary anarchy on the other, in terms of their mutual trade it was Israel which was by far the healthier partner.

### Politics Rears Its Ugly Head

It was here, too, that politics reared its ugly head in the familiar form of complaints about Britain's acquiescence to the Arab boycott. Monty Sumray, the Chamber's chairman, bluntly asserted that fear of the boycott was the main reason for the relative fall in British sales in Israel, causing the Jewish State to cease being Britain's biggest Middle East market.

In introducing Sir Keith, he challenged him to provide some words of comfort about the British government's attitude to the boycott and an assurance that it would take active steps to counter it, rather than simply wringing its hands.

With equal candor, Sir Keith, who is a former vice president of the Chamber, said he could not give such an assurance, asserting his belief that trade relations with Israel could flourish regardless of the boycott.

The other political factor which overshadowed the Chamber of Commerce event was Israel's new found friendship with Egypt, symbolized by the presence of the Egyptian Ambassador to Britain, Abu Sa'eed, and his economic counsellor. The applause which greeted every reference to the Egyptian Ambassador and to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty far exceeded that given to Anglo-Israeli relations, the official theme of the evening.

Lord Marcus Steff, the Chamber's president, spoke warmly of his recent meeting with President Anwar Sadat and called for British businesses to become involved in the development of economic ties between Israel and Egypt. Shlomo Argov, Israel's Ambassador, went even further by forecasting that Egyptian-Israeli trade would one day be greater than Anglo-Israeli trade and that Israel would also begin trading with other Arab countries.

The Ambassador diplomatically steered clear of his current political difficulties with the British government. But the sweetness of his remarks about Egypt merely emphasized the bitterness of his thoughts about Britain, whatever the course of their commercial relations.

## RUMANIA REPUDIATES AND CONDEMNS AN ANTI-SEMITIC TRACT

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) — Ambassador Nicolai Ionescu of Rumania has informed the World Jewish Congress that his government categorically repudiates and condemns an anti-Semitic tract that has appeared in Bucharest and that appropriate measures have been taken to halt its circulation in Rumania.

The envoy made that clear to Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the WJC American Section, who had called his attention to the booklet defaming Jews and expressed concern. Schneier had requested the strongest government intervention to halt dissemination of the material. Among other things, it accuses Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of being an agent of a universal Jewish cabal.

Ionescu explained to Schneier that the publication was neither inspired nor sanctioned by the Rumanian authorities and in fact was not printed in Rumania but illegally introduced from another country. He noted that there are many organizations outside Rumania, most of them fascist or irredentist, that cling to the condemned attitudes of the Nazi era and try to impair good relations between the U.S. and Rumania. He said the Rumanian authorities will not allow this poison to be spread.

"Rumania wishes to reaffirm its commitment to maintain good relations between our countries and with the Jewish community based on mutual understanding and friendly and open cooperation," the Ambassador told Rabbi Schneier. Schneier observed that it was "reassuring to know that the Rumanian authorities will not permit a renaissance of anti-Semitism to raise its ugly head in any form that would directly effect the Rumanian Jewish community of 35,000."

GENEVA (JTA) — A Swiss economic delegation which includes 30 members of Parliament, left for Israel Tuesday on a week-long visit organized by the Swiss-Israel Chamber of Commerce. The delegation, headed by Dr. Lukas Burckhardt of Basle, will be received by Gideon Patt, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism and by Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem.