

# JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

MAY 18 1981

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Wednesday, May 13, 1981

No. 91

## HAIG SAYS HABIB TO REMAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS LONG AS HE FEELS HE CAN HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THE SITUATION

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said today that it was too early to judge whether Philip Habib's mission to the Middle East was achieving results but that he would remain in the region "as long as he felt he could make a constructive contribution to the situation." He described the situation as "still serious and dangerous."

Habib, a veteran career diplomat, was called out of retirement by President Reagan to visit the Middle East as his special representative in an effort to defuse the crisis between Israel and Syria over the anti-aircraft missiles Syria has placed in Lebanon.

Habib was in Beirut and Damascus over the weekend and arrived in Israel yesterday. He met twice with Premier Menachem Begin shortly after his arrival and continued his meetings with Israeli officials today. According to reports from Jerusalem, he decided to stay at least one more day for an additional round of talks.

Haig, who spoke to reporters following a closed door meeting with the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said "We are very hopeful we can find some basis which will permit a return to normalcy and a relieving of the tensions which are still serious and dangerous." He said there has been "a thickening" of the SAM-6 missiles in Lebanon and "military posturing on both sides," meaning Israel and Syria. Israel has threatened to destroy the missiles by air attack if they are not removed.

## SYRIANS FIRE MISSILES AT ISRAELI PLANES BUT FAIL TO HIT THE AIRCRAFT

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA) -- Several Syrian ground-to-air missiles were fired at Israeli planes which were on a routine reconnaissance flight over the Beka valley in Lebanon this afternoon but failed to hit the aircraft, an Israeli army spokesman said. He reported that the missiles were apparently fired from a site just inside Syria close to the Lebanese border. All the Israeli planes returned safely to their base.

The spokesman had earlier said he had no information about reports quoting eyewitnesses that missiles had also been fired at Israeli aircraft this morning. Well informed sources said there was no truth to the report, which was first broadcast on radio in Beirut and carried by foreign news agencies. No details were disclosed about the type of missiles that were fired at Israeli aircraft this afternoon.

## HABIB, BEGIN CONFER BUT NO CONCRETE PROPOSALS DISCUSSED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib conferred with Premier Menachem Begin for an hour this afternoon. It was their second meeting since Habib arrived here from Damascus yesterday on his mission to defuse

the Syrian missile crisis but neither he nor Begin made a statement and official sources had no information on the status of the situation.

Informed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency this evening that no concrete proposals were put on the table in the course of the discussions with Habib. It is understood that the American diplomat has as yet offered no specific U.S. proposals for a solution and that there are no negotiations between Israel and Syria for a quid pro quo accommodation.

Begin, who appeared in the Knesset directly after his talk with Habib said he hoped "war will not break out." Later, he conferred with senior Cabinet ministers. Habib is expected to remain here at least until tomorrow morning when he is tentatively scheduled to meet with Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party.

## Knesset Adopts Resolution

The Knesset debate over the missile crisis and the government's policy in Lebanon which opened yesterday, ended today with the adoption of a resolution "taking note of the Premier's statement." A Labor Alignment motion critical of the government's actions in Lebanon was defeated.

Begin defended his disclosure yesterday that he had ordered the Air Force to attack the Syrian SAM-6 missile batteries in eastern Lebanon on April 30 but the attack was called off because of bad weather. He claimed he had not given away a military secret. But Begin's disclosure was sharply criticized by opposition spokesmen and by defense establishment personnel who remained anonymous. They said his disclosure gave the enemy valuable information as to the kind of weather conditions under which the Air Force would not fly missions.

## KIRKPATRICK: U.S. TO ACT AGAINST ILLEGAL ACTIONS BY THE UN, SUCH AS ATTEMPTS TO BAR ISRAEL AT FORUMS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, declared here today that the Reagan Administration plans to be "vigorous" in seeing to it that the UN and its specialized agencies live by their own rules and not "pervert" their regulations.

Kirkpatrick testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations where she and Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizational Affairs, defended the Administration's request for some \$673 million as the U.S. contribution to the UN for fiscal year 1982.

Rep. William Lehman (D. Fla.), who requested the hearing, noted that he had helped found the United Nations Association in south Florida some 20 years ago but today neither he nor most people in his area support the world organization. He said that if the UN keeps on its present path he will not vote for the funding.

Kirkpatrick said that the U.S. will make known its displeasure over illegal actions by the UN, such as attempts to bar Israel and other countries from their rightful place in UN forums. Abrams said that policy is already showing its effects. He said that only last week an Arab attempt to bar Israel from

the World Health Organization (WHO) annual conference in Geneva was not even brought to a vote after the U.S. made known its strong opposition and the Arab states realized they did not have the votes in the Assembly.

Kirkpatrick noted a similar incident three weeks ago at a meeting on the problem of refugees in Africa. She said Israel was not invited until the U.S. demanded that Israel be at the meeting. She said that an Arab attempt to expel Israel was rejected because the U.S. made known its opposition. Kirkpatrick said the U.S. is not defending Israel but making sure that Israel and all countries are treated the same way.

#### Outlines Possible Actions

Asked by Rep. John Porter (R. Ill.) for more specific action to block anti-Israel moves, Kirkpatrick said that in addition to making known its position with "vigor," the U.S. can also refuse to participate in forums where illegal moves have been made.

"We can state for the whole world our refusal to be a party to procedures that victimize" any country, she said. She said the U.S. will "vigorantly" check into any funds going to the Palestine Liberation Organization and that she will not meet anyone from the PLO because this is the policy of the Reagan Administration.

In response to other questions, Kirkpatrick said the UN was unable to come up with a multi-national force to patrol Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal in April, 1982, because the U.S. would not have been able to get the votes in the Security Council. She said that when this became apparent after two weeks of efforts, the U.S. decided to seek to form a multi-national force outside the UN as President Carter promised in the Camp David accords.

Last week, representatives of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. met at the State Department to discuss the military aspects of Israel's withdrawal. Another meeting is scheduled in Cairo and the political aspects will be discussed at a meeting in Washington at the end of this month.

#### KIRKPATRICK REFUSES TO AGREE WITH A CHARGE THAT ARGENTINA IS A NAZI, ANTI-SEMITIC COUNTRY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, refused today to agree with a charge that Argentina is the most Nazi and anti-Semitic country since Hitler's Germany. That assertion was made by Rep. Clarence Long (D. Md.), chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations before which Kirkpatrick testified today.

When Long asked if she wouldn't agree to his characterization of Argentina as Nazi and anti-Semitic, she said that Vietnam, and Cambodia under Pol Pot followed many of the principles of the Hitler regime. When Long said he was referring specifically to the anti-Semitic policies of Argentina, Kirkpatrick replied, "I would not be willing to characterize Argentina as uniquely anti-Semitic in our time." She noted that the Soviet Union also has anti-Semitic policies, an observation with which Long agreed.

Long began the colloquy by noting articles that have been appearing on Jacobo Timerman, the former editor and publisher of the Argentine daily, La Opinion, who described his experiences

after his arrest by Argentina's ruling military junta in his new book, "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number." Timerman, who now lives in Israel, pointed out that while Jews comprise only a small number of those arrested by the Argentine regime, they are singled out for especially harsh punishment.

Kirkpatrick said she met Timerman last week and that she has long been aware of his experiences in Argentina. The UN envoy said that the Reagan Administration is concerned with human rights. But she stressed that it believes more can be accomplished with such governments as Argentina's by quiet diplomacy than by the public criticism used by the Carter Administration.

Long observed that the Administration's lifting of the grain embargo against the Soviet Union and its proposed sale of arms to the Argentine government demonstrates that it is willing to deal with any government, "no matter how despicable if it is in its own economic interests."

#### U.S. URGED TO WITHHOLD FUNDS TO UN AGENCIES, FORUMS WHICH ENCOURAGE VIOLENCE AGAINST MEMBER STATES

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- Declaring that "There is no more significant organized international campaign against the Middle East peace process than that organized at the United Nations," an official of B'nai B'rith International urged the U.S. government today to deny "participation in and funding for" any UN forums and programs that violate the UN Charter by encouraging violence against member states.

Maurice Weinstein, chairman of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations that such action would help "win back respect and adherence to the purposes and values" of the UN Charter and the constitutions of its various agencies. He noted that B'nai B'rith, which participated as a non-governmental organization in the 1945 conference that drafted the UN Charter, retains a strong commitment to the principles and values of the Charter.

#### Cites Harmful Resolutions

While "It is clear that the peaceful settlement of disputes is at the heart" of the UN Charter, the General Assembly "with lamentable regularity" has adopted resolutions that not only denounce the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict but endorse "armed struggle," Weinstein said.

He cited as examples UN condemnation of the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. In addition, "since 1974, the UN has welcomed, legitimized and promoted" the Palestine Liberation Organization, an organization that has been permitted to use the UN to "create obstacles to peace," he said.

Weinstein said the U.S. "should take the lead" in informing UN member states which vote to violate the Charter that they will have to "pay the price" and the U.S. should persuade other major donor nations to do likewise.

He made it clear that the B'nai B'rith does not advocate selective funding cuts "because we disagree" with the activities promoted by the UN. "We reserve this serious sanction for a very serious process -- the adoption by the UN of programs or decisions that violate the purposes of its Charter," he said.

In that connection, Weinstein singled out the UN Women's Decade which he charged was politicized and anti-American. He suggested that funding for the global participation of women's rights be given instead to private agencies that can be counted on to use such funds for their intended purposes.

**VAN DER KLAUW CRITICIZED**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) — Dutch Foreign Minister, Christoph van der Klaauw heard some forceful criticism from Premier Menachem Begin today and some more mildly phrased, but equally pointed reservations, from Labor opposition leaders — all directed at the European Economic Community's (EEC) policy in the Middle East.

Van der Klaauw was on the second day of his fact finding mission to Israel, part of the EEC's effort to consider launching an "initiative" to bring comprehensive peace to the area.

"I asked him, by what right the EEC tells us how we would arrange the security of our people," Begin told reporters after his meeting with the Dutch statesman. Van der Klaauw himself left Begin's office tight-lipped, refusing to reply to reporters' questions.

Informed Israeli sources said the meeting, though tough, was not unpleasant in tone or atmosphere. Begin told reporters he had told the Foreign Minister that by meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat in Beirut last month he had "shaken a hand covered with the blood of Israeli children."

Labor party chairman Shimon Peres and foreign affairs spokesman Abba Eban also attacked the Dutch minister in a separate session with him in the Knesset, for the EEC "giving legitimacy to the PLO." Eban said later that van der Klaauw's own account of his conversation with Arafat had demonstrated amply "how right we are." The Dutch official could point to no softening of the terrorist leader's extremism.

Eban said his impression was that the European Initiative was petering out. He and Peres, at any rate, had urged van der Klaauw, who is presently chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers, that it was time for the EEC to shelve its putative initiative.

**WEIZMAN: NO BIG DEAL FOR ISRAEL TO BLOW UP SYRIAN MISSILE SITES**

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) — Ezer Weizman, former Defense Minister of Israel, said today that from a "professional standpoint", it was "no big matter" for Israel to blow up the missile sites in eastern Lebanon, but the overlying concern is how the Syrians would react. He added that "both sides don't want to go to war."

Weizman spoke here at an Overseas Press Club luncheon, primarily to promote his new book, "The Battle for Peace." He refrained from specifics concerning the missile crisis now plaguing the Middle East.

However, when asked directly if there was a chance of war breaking out due to the new situation, Weizman responded that he is "afraid of fireworks" but said that the term war was a broad statement. Weizman doubted that the Soviet Union was behind the missile movement or that anyone in Syria initiated the movement with an ulterior motive.

Weizman spoke of his book and cited the Camp David accords as a "new beginning, an opening ... to a new way of living and a new era." He said that American interests in the Middle East are based around blocking out the Soviets, finding friends and linking the Camp David agreement to the Arab world.

**ISRAEL'S VIEW OF MITTERRAND WIN**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) — In the superheated atmosphere of Israeli politics six weeks before the elections here, the victory of Socialist Francois Mitterrand in the French Presidential election Sunday has become, in a strange way, part of the campaign in Israel. Premier Menachem Begin and Labor opposition leader Shimon Peres are vying with each other in their expressions of gratification over the French results and over the extent of their personal friendship with the new French President.

Begin extended a formal invitation to Mitterrand yesterday to visit Israel — as he promised he would immediately after hearing the French results Sunday night. "We will receive you with all the respect and enthusiasm due to you not only as a head of state, but also as a cherished friend who has never turned his back on Israel, and has always been concerned for its security and well-being," Begin's invitation said.

For Begin, his personal relationship with Mitterrand is especially important in view of his recent public denunciations of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany and former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and his repeated criticisms of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Begin is understandably anxious to show that he is not entirely bereft of friends at the top strata of international politics.

Peres, for his part, has made frequent reference during the past 48 hours to his own well known and long-time friendship with Mitterrand, and to the new French leader's attendance at the Labor Party's national convention in Jerusalem last December.

Both Begin and Peres, addressing the Knesset yesterday, expressed their satisfaction at the French election results and their hopes for a marked improvement in Franco-Israeli relations. Both men congratulated Mitterrand from the Knesset rostrum. However, Peres went Begin one better when he told the MKs that he had "just spoken to Mitterrand on the phone."

Both Israeli leaders pointedly made public reference in the aftermath of the French elections to Mitterrand's specific undertaking to cease supplying Iraq with enriched uranium. The real hope in political circles here is that this will indeed be one direct outcome of the change of administrations in France. There is also the expectation in Israel that the tone, at least, of France's Mideast policy will change for the better from Israel's point of view.

**Caution Against Over Optimistic Expectations**

But seasoned commentators are cautioning against overoptimistic expectations. Mitterrand, while always sympathetic to the Israeli cause, is publicly on record as supporting Palestinian political aspirations too, as indeed are all the leaders of the Socialist International.

One immediate change for the better that is likely to make itself felt is in France's attitude toward the U.S. orchestrated Camp David process. Mitterrand has repeatedly spoken supportively of this process, and this may very well temper France's enthusiasm for the European initiative which Britain has been pushing and which Israel sees as intrinsically inimical to the Camp David process.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Knesset House Committee voted 10-1 Tuesday to lift Religion Minister Aharon Abu Hatzeira's immunity so that he can be tried for alleged embezzlement while he was Mayor of Ramle the mid-1970s.

**'CELEBRATION 33' DRAWS THOUSANDS**

By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) — Some 4,500 people gathered last night in Radio City Music Hall to participate in "Celebration 33" which marked Israel's 33rd anniversary. The participants paid \$100 or \$500 for the night's fete. A \$500 ticket included champagne and canapes. All viewed the world premier of "The Chosen," the motion picture based on Chaim Potok's novel about Hasidic Jews and the conflict between Orthodox Judaism and Western secular values. One of the ground rules for invited members of the press was that the film, which begins its commercial run in the fall, could not be reviewed at this time.

The celebration here was one of many taking place around the world. Comedian Alan King, who welcomed the people, regaled the audience when he said that the showing of "The Chosen" was taking place in some 1000 theaters in some 21 countries, including the United States where in El Paso, Texas "twelve Jews are watching it right now as crosses are being burned on their lawns."

**Hopes For A Wave Of Identification**

Meshulam Riklis, the Israeli-born chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Rapid American Corporation, helped fund the film which has produced the husband and wife team of Ely and Edie Landau. Riklis conceived the idea of "Celebration 33" and his corporation provided the expenses for the worldwide program. The proceeds from the sale of tickets were divided among Jewish organizations which are involved in some way with education in Israel and the institutions and programs they sponsor.

Riklis, who was assisted in the work on "Celebration 33" by his long-time associate, Haim Bernstein, a Jerusalem-born sabra, explained at a meeting here earlier this year that in Hebrew the number "33" is comprised of the letters "gimel" and "lamed." This is also the spelling for the word "gal" (wave). "Gal" is another name for "Celebration 33" which, Riklis said, should result in a "wave of identification with the State of Israel and the Jewish people."

**Low-Keyed Celebration**

The scene here last night was relatively low-keyed. Except for the fact that the massive, art deco theater was adorned with Israeli flags, and two organists played a medley of Israeli tunes, and a 35-minute film was shown featuring screen and television personalities telling jokes about Israel and Jews and reciting in verse and song the history of the Jewish people and the Jewish State, the audience itself took the celebration in stride.

There was a flurry of excitement and applause when King called attention to the presence in the audience of actress Molly Picon, Consul General of Israel in New York Paul Kedar and former Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, Riklis and Bernstein.

Hatikvah was played three times — once by organists as part of the medley, another time in the 35-minute film, and before the showing of the short film. During the last rendition the audience stood up but only a few people managed to exercise their vocal chords in the singing of Israel's national anthem.

**MRS. NAVON ASSESSES PEACE PROSPECTS**

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) — Ofira Navon,

wife of Israel's President Yitzhak Navon, said that although relations between Egypt and Israel have improved significantly since the signing of the Camp David accords in 1978, "friends" of Israel who seek further concessions from Israel because of global political problems tend to forget those already made.

Mrs. Navon, addressing 500 persons at the 27th annual Israel Bond fashion show and luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel yesterday, did not specify who those "friends" were, but cited the "difficult negotiations with Egypt regarding the provision for autonomy." She noted, however, the return of Sinai, a strategically important area with three military airfields, vital oil fields, and the abandoning of new settlements, as areas Israel has already committed itself to relinquish for a peaceful co-existence.

**Cites Significant Achievements**

Mrs. Navon cited the daily flights by El Al and Nefertiti Airlines between Tel Aviv and Cairo, the official visits by heads of state and education and cultural exchanges as some of the significant achievements in Israeli-Egyptian relations. She added that the real nature of peace will not just come from the people in powerful positions but will focus on relations between the people of both nations.

"Now the Egyptian people will be able to see us as we really are; a small nation, but a brave one, longing for peace but ready to fight for its freedom, a nation with serious problems to contend with, but firm in its determination to develop its small, historic homeland," Mrs. Navon declared.

She said there remain apprehensions as "various elements" try to "sabotage" the peace agreement. "Several Arab states are participating in this endeavor, along with the PLO and at their side stands Soviet Russia," she said.

"We would be delighted to exchange tanks for tractors, planes for schools," Mrs. Navon said, but concluded: "We cannot confidently forecast the course of events in the world and in the Middle East. The general situation is fluid, and many contradictory forces are at work in it. We are obliged to be on guard, to continue to hope for the best, but to be prepared for evil winds that may blow against us."

**Describes 'Shelter Cities' Program**

Mrs. Navon previewed a program called "Shelter Cities" which she hopes to implement in conjunction with Jihan Sadat, wife of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and other world personalities such as the Queen of England and the First Lady of Mexico. The program would accommodate children who are victims of natural disasters or war. Shelter camps would be set up in suitable agreed locations bearing an international flag where children would receive both physical and emotional first aid.

The program would work in cooperation with the United Nations and top UNICEF officials. Mrs. Navon added that just recently, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United Nations confirmed his support for the program.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Share prices of industrials and commercial firms dropped on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange each day this week in view of uncertainty about development of the Syrian missile crisis and the possibility of war. The only shares to hold their own and even advance slightly were those of the three major banks. While industrial shares fell by between 5 and 10 percent each day, bank shares rose slightly, as did government bonds. According to Stock Exchange sources, Israeli shares quoted on the New York stock market also plummeted sharply in the wake of the war scare.