# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LIX - 64th Year | Tuesday, June 23, 1981 | No. 118

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JUN 25 1981

## NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FORMED ON DROPOUT PROBLEM

By David Landau and Gil Sedan
(Jerusalem)

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- A solution to the growing problem of "neshira" -- dropouts -- among Jews leaving the Soviet Union, will be sought by a top level international Jewish committee whose task will be to "reach a consensus within world Jewry" on how to deal with the phenomenon and reduce its proportions.

The committee was mandated by the Presidium of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry which ended its deliberations here some three weeks ago without resolving long-standing differences over how to deal with dropouts. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, was authorized to appoint the committee's members. He announced its composition to the WZO Executive at a meeting here this week.

The rate of dropouts -- Jews who opt to settle in countries other than Israel after emigrating from the USSR -- has soared to 85 percent in recent months. According to some foreign press reports, the Soviet authorities have warned Israel that if this high level continues, they will clamp down on Jewish emigration totally. The gravity of the situation was underlined when Chief Rabbi Yaacov Fishman of Moscow informed Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren by telephone recently that the high proportion of Soviet Jewish emigres who choose not to go to Israel could endanger the entire emigration movement.

The Brussels Presidium expressed grave concern and asked the new committee to take "appropriate measures among world Jewry" to prevent the dropout phenomenon. Dulzin and others have insisted for years that this can be accomplished only if Jewish organizations abroad, notably in the U.S., cease all assistance, financial or otherwise, to the dropouts. But there is a strong body of opinion among Jewish leaders that world Jewry is obligated to aid any Jew who manages to leave a country of distress, regardless of where he chooses to resettle.

The members of the new committee, in addition to Dulzin, are: Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Theodore Mann, immediate past chairman of the Conference; Seymour Lachman, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry; Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the WZO Executive-American Section; Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress; Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International; Claude Kelman, chairman of the French Committee for Soviet Jewry; Andrew Balcombe, chairman of the British Committee for Soviet Jewry; Izzy Liebler, chairman of the Australian Committee for Soviet Jewry; Rabbi Abraham Sottendorf, chairman of the Dutch Committee for Soviet Jewry; S. Z. Abramov, a leading Israeli activist for Soviet Jews and a vice president of the World Jewish Congress; Genia Intrator, chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry; and Rafael Kotlowitz, chairman of the WZO's aliya department.

## MITTERRAND VICTORY BRINGS LESS THAN HALF DOZEN KNOWN JEWS INTO NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARIS, June 22 (JTA) -- The second round of France's parliamentary elections which resulted in a sweeping victory for President Francois Mitterrand's Socialist Party yesterday, brought fewer than a half dozen known Jews into the newly elected 491-member National Assembly, and only one of those identifies himself as a Jew.

The new deputies, known to be Jewish, are Claude Gerard Marcus and Olivier Stirn, both neo-Gaullists; Pierre Zarka, a Communist; Jean Worms and Claude Estier, both Socialists. Only Marcus, a Paris Deputy, openly identifies himself as Jewish and plays a role in Jewish community affairs.

Most of the new deputies are new to the political scene and have not displayed interest in international affairs generally or the Middle East in particular.

Three outgoing Jewish deputies, all members of the Center Right Party, are former Majority Leader Lucien Neuwirth, Lionel Stoleru and Jean-Pierre Pierre-Bloch. All were close to local Jewish affairs and Israel. Stoleru, a former Labor Minister, served on the board ot the French Jewish Consistory until his appointment to the Cabinet. Pierre-Bloch, whose father is president ot the French B'nai B'rith and LICRA, was a supporter of the Jewish Defense Organization and other community self-protection agencies.

The Socialist Party won an absolute majority of 275 seats. Political observers here stress that the new Administration can now pass any legislation it wants with no real opposition and can conduct a foreign policy of its own choosing without the need to consider the parliamentary opposition. It is also less open to outside pressures or influences. France's next national elections are scheduled to be held in 1986.

## GOLDMANN SAYS PALESTINIAN STATE ESSENTIAL TO MIDEAST PEACE

VIENNA, June 22 (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, long a severe critic of Israel government policies toward the Arabs, has come out strongly in favor of the establishment of a Palestinian state, according to an interview published in the daily Kurier yesterday. Goldmann maintained that no solution could be found to the crisis in Lebanon until Israeli-Arab relations are improved and an important prerequisite for that development was the creation of a Palestinian state.

Goldmann, a past president of the World Jewish Congress and of the World Zionist Organization, was quoted as saying, "I condemn the permanent Israeli raids on Lebanon. These attacks are morally and politically not justified. I hope that another government than (Premier Menachem) Begin's and another Chief of Staff than (Gen. Rafael) Eytan will change this policy." He added, according to the Kurier interview, "I see no peace before the Palestinians have had the right to found a state of their own, just as they like ... They have the same right as other peoples, just like Israel has it. Without a solution of the Palestinian question, no real peace will be possible in the Middle East."

Goldmann was quoted as saying he had "serious doubts" about the "Jordanian option" proposed by Israel's Labor Party, not because he disapproves of the plan itself but because "I cannot imagine that King Hussein can split from the other Arab nations as did Eaypt's President Anwar Sadat."

## ORTHODOX RABBIS CHARGE PRESSURE

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., June 22 (JTA)--A leading Orthodox rabbi criticized here tonight what he called attempts by Conservative and Reform groups to undertake a program to utilize the United Jewish Appeal, the United Israel appeal and Federation agencies throughout the United States to press Israel to grant their rabbis the right to officiate at marriages, divorce and conversion in Israel.

Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, made the charge in his presidential address at the opening of the 45th annual convention of the Orthodox rabbinical group.

Addressing some 500 delegates, Rabbi Roth called on all religious groups in the Jewish community to reaffirm the indispensable unity of the Jewish people which, he said, "has always been predicated on the fundamental premise that in various forms, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform groups shall not adopt a partisan posture but rather shall work together to respond to the challenges to Jewish life that are universal in nature."

Asserting there had been "some deterioration in this area of Jewish unity," Rabbi Roth declared "this attempt by Conservative and Reform groups to achieve recognition in Israel by pressing in such forums is not consistent with the pattern that has prevailed in Jewish life in the past."

### Roth Cites 'Unwritten Rule'

"It is an unwritten rule that religious groups within the Jewish community shall not advocate in non-denominational forums, whose purposes are essentially social in character, programs that serve their exclusive interest. The United Israel Appeal and various Federations around the country are devoted primarily to the disbursement of funds to individuals in need, to institutions that assist the deprived and to causes that serve the totality of the Jewish people," added Rabbi Roth.

"All these guidelines of working together were established to assure that forums in which Orthodoxy, and Conservative and Reform appear do not become a battleground, but rather a matrix for the united and unified investment of effort in behalf of the Jewish people," Rabbi Roth added.

"While the several denominations have theological differences, they stand on common ground with respect to the goal ot Jewish survival. This objective has been isolated and severed from other issues -- no linkage was allowed -- in order that the Jewish community could work in harmony and unity to respond effectively to the most pressing problem of our time," Rabbi Roth said. "I am hopeful that, traditional perceptions on the importance of unity will be restored in the American Jewish community and that we shall be able to continue to expend our efforts in behalf of the universal needs of the Jewish people."

## LIKELIHOOD EMERGES STATE DEPT. MAY NEVER REPORT ON 'REVIEW' OF U.S. ARMS IN IRAQ RAID

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 22 (JTA) -- The State Department may never issue a report on its "review" on whether Israel violated its arms agreement with the United States by using American-made weapons to destroy Iraq's nuclear plant. This was indicated today by Department sources who stressed that the review has no connection with the decision on lifting the suspension of delivery of four F-16s to Israel.

If this is true, it would confirm the suspicion of many in Congress that the Reagan Administration wants to leave it to the legislative branch to make a decision on whether Israel violated the agreement, The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which held two hearings last week on the June 7 Israeli raid, is scheduled to hold at least two more this week.

This development follows the vote by the U.S. for the unanimous condemnation of the Israeli raid by the United Nations Security Council last Friday. David Passage, a Department spokesman, continued to maintain today that the U.S. position was based principally on the belief that Israel "did not exhaust all diplomatic means" open to it and the international community before bombing the nuclear plant.

### Passage Reiterates U.S. Policy

Passage said that the general policy of the U.S. is that "all means short of violence should be used in order to prevent the situation from a violent" stage.

Passage admitted that the State Department had received last year a report from Ronald Richter, an American inspector for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warning the U.S. mission to the IAEA that Iraq planned to build a nuclear weapon, but Passage would only say that Department officials had read it.

Richter, the only American inspector in the IAEA Mideast division, resigned from his job with the IAEA last Tuesday so he could testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Friday that the IAEA inspections could not prevent the Iraqis from building a nuclear bomb. When Passage was asked about Richter's charge that only Hungarian and Soviet nationals were permitted to inspect the Iraqi reactor, Passage said the question should be asked at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna.

### Rostow Nominated For Disarmament Agency

Meanwhile, Eugene Rostow, a Yale University law professor and former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs in the Johnson Administration, said that the Israeli raid on Iraq pointed to the need "to restore world public order" to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

"After the flash of lightning of the Israeli raid in Iraq, the world community should follow more strictly an agreed and concerted policy based on the principles of the Non-proliferation Treaty and the bilaterial and multilateral arrangements which have developed from it," Rostow said.

Rostow, the 67-year-old chairman of the Committee on the Present Danger, was testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on his nomination by President Reagan to be director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron said today he did not believe that the dispute over the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor would affect U.S.-Israeli relations. Evron made the comment after meeting with State Department Counselor Robert McFarlane, in what was described as a "routine" meeting. The Israeli envoy said that he hoped all major agreements with the United States would go ahead as scheduled, a reference to the U.S. suspension of the delivery of four F-16s to Israel.

## ZIONISTS UNDERMINING POLAND, TASS SAYS

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- A report by Tass, the Soviet news agency, alleging that Zionist organ-

izations are actively engaged in "a massive campaign to undermine Socialist foundations in Poland," was cited by Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section today as the "opening gunshot" in a new Soviet campaign against Zionism, Israel and the Jewish people.

Jacobson noted that the Tass item quoted the Literaturnaya Gazeta, the official publication of the Soviet Writers Union, which published an article on April 21 on "Anti-Polish Activities by Zionists." According to Jacobson, the article was intended to serve the Kremlin "during the crisis in Poland as a ready source of anti-Semitic quotation by the Tass Soviet news agency."

She said that the WZO "totally rejects these libelous, but no less menacing allegations. We brand them as a Nazi-like attempt to spread anti-Jewish lies, in this instance designed to spark anti-Semitic fires directed at the tiny and inconsequential Jewish remnant in Poland and at Jews living in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union." Jacobson said she categorically denies "that the Zionist movement--embracing every-one of its affiliated organizations -- has ever been, or is at present, engaged in the political internal struggles of Poland or of any other nation. This must be branded as a sordid attempt to resurrect the discredited lies of the 'Protocols of Zion' once more."

Jacobson added that she believed this "is the beginning of another chapter in the Soviets' relentless campaign to equate Zionism with racism ... I denounce it as the lethal libel it is -- a weapon aimed at the State of Israel as the heart of the Jewish people and at the same time targeted to undermine Jewish existence everywhere."

## FORWARD SAYS LEGAL FIGHT OVER WEVD-AM VERY COSTLY

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA) -- An unsuccessful 18-month long Orthodox-sponsored legal battle to prevent the sale by the Forward Association of the AM band ot its WEVD radio station caused "severe financial distress" to WEVD and "terrible financial damage" to the Jewish Daily Forward, the Forward Association (FA) has asserted.

The association, which publishes the Forward the only Yiddish-language daily in the United States, made those charges as part of a letter and statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency which had reported, in its May 21 Daily News Bulletin, that a Coalition to Save WEVD, comprised of a number of major Orthodox organizations, had abandoned its legal effort to nullify the sale.

The FA said, in the statement, that it had filed its 1979 application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to sell the AM band because "the Forward had been operating the AM station with significant losses in the three years preceding the sale." The buyer of the AM band is the Salem Media Corp., which is dedicated to Christian evangelical programming, according to the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA). The corporation operates radio stations in other cities.

The FA was initially unable to complete the transaction because the Orthodox coalition filed suit on Aug. 29, 1979 with the FCC, asking that the sale be nullified. COLPA, acting for the coalition, filed the suit and, when the FCC rejected the coalition's request, filed an appeal with the federal Court of Appeals in Washington.

The coalition announced last May 20 that a recent Supreme Court decision had made the appeal untenable and that the coalition was therefore abandoning its fight to prevent the sale of the AM band.

### Orthodox Coalition Legal Claims Disputed

The Forward Association rejected the coalition claim that the transfer of the AM band would severly impair Jewish listener benefits and asserted that "the community has lost none of its Jewish-oriented programming as a result of this transfer" of the AM band.

The FA statement added that "the only thing accomplished by 'the 'Coalition to Save WEVD' was the infliction of severe financial distress on the station as a result of our being forced" during the litigation "to operate a business that was losing money and, worse, the terrible financial damage done" to the Forward.

Declaring that the Forward and WEVD "have served the Jewish community for 84 and 50 years, respectively," the FA statement added that "we look forward to continuing to provide this service, the damage done by the litigation notwithstanding."

The statement further asserted that, since last March 2, when the Salem Corp. began operating the AM band, not only was WEVD-FM "carrying every program previously heard on WEVD-AM" but also that "not one Jewish advertiser, including those institutions which were part of the coalition, has either dropped or reduced its advertising budget."

The FA also declared that the coalition's argument that "there are areas of Jewish concentration served by the AM signal and not by the FM signal is simply unsupported by the audience reaction and the advertiser response."

## OUTGOING ISRAEL ENVOY SAYS 'SPECIAL' TIES WITH ISRAEL PERSIST AMONG GERMAN PEOPLE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- Yochanan Meroz Israel's outgoing Ambassador to West Germany, believes that that country's "very special relationship" with Israel persists among the population, though it has eroded at the official level and is less important to the younger generation than to those who lived through the Nazi era. Meroz, who spent seven years as Ambassador to Bonn, said he gained his impressions from many thousands of Germans with whom he spoke in groups and in private conversations.

He said on an Israel Radio interview yesterday that all had acknowledged that relations between Germany and Is were unlike those with other countries however much the others had been harmed by the Nazis.

But, he noted, attitudes are changing, apparently because of Germany's membership in the European Economic Community (EEC) and in the United Nations, both of which tended to downgrade the special relationship with Israel. He also said there was a "worrisome shift" away from the centrality of Germany's concern for Israel in its general dialogue with world Jewry. He attributed this to "biological reasons" -- the passing of the older generation which bore a larger measure of responsibility for Nazi crimes than those born since World War II.

Meroz said that he gathered from his talks with West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt that while there were many points of disagreement, Schmidt had a broad understanding of Israel's aims. He said Germany's policy of selling modern weaponry to Saudi Arabia was "still fluid" and no decisions have been taken yet.

He summed up his seven years of service in Bonn as "interesting and fascinating."

Focus On Issues

## 'PROJECT RENEWAL' HAS REACHED STAGE OF FITTING PROGRAM GOALS TO FUNDS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA) -- Two and a half years after project renewal was born, it now undergoes a plastic surgery, which -- the surgeons claim -- will give it a beautiful new face. One indication that things are happening: The project has already left behind the days in which there was money in the bank, and one did not know what to do with it. It now faces the more familiar situation in which there is a detailed working plan, but there may not be enough money to implement it.

"We started two and half years ago as a partnership between the Government and the Diaspora," recalls David Hersch, national director of Project Renewal in the U.S. "The purpose was to rehabilitate neighborhoods in Israel which have been unable to join the mainstream of the Israeli society, a rehabilitation process which should have been taking place both socially and physically."

The project was ambitious. The original plans called for the rehabilitation of 160 deprived neighborhoods in Israel, involving 300,000. The original sum which was to be raised for this purpose was $1.2 billion dollars, out of which 400 million dollars should have been raised in the U.S. -- and the rest by the rest ot world Jewry and the Israel Government. The money was to be raised above and beyond the regular pledges to the United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod. It was hoped that within five years, the social gap in Israel would suffer a major blow.

Reality was less rosy. Until now American Jewry has pledged some $95 million. Plans for the foreseeable future relate only to 70 neighborhoods. The financial needs to rehabilitate these neighborhoods are estimated at $350 million. Thus, there is still a wide gap between the needs and the pledges, not to speak of cash. Yehiel Admoni, the new director general of the Project Renewal department of the Jewish Agency, says that this fiscal year is in effect only the second year of the project, which means that the project will not be completed before 1985, three years beyond the original intentions.

### Need Seen Clearly; Means Hazy

"The program was originally presented to the American Jewish Community at a time when Israel did not have any mechanism for its implementation," says David Hersch. "There was an understanding of the need, but it wasn't clear how it should have been implemented. A problem of credibility was created. Money was pledged, forwarded, but was then frozen in the bank. Naturally, it affected the enthusiasm of orld Jewry to give a hand.

Admoni set up several principles, which he says are conditions for the success of the project. Top on his list is the economic advancement of the inhabitants in the deprived neighborhoods. Not only should they have more adequate housing, not only should they be encouraged for greater involvement in the community -- in the first place they should make a decent living. "Unemployment and low income can kill the project," Admoni warns.

High on his list is communal participation. No more exclusive reliance on the political representatives of the inhabitant people in the municipalities. Admoni wants to achieve greater involvement by direct participation of the representatives of the neighborhoods themselves in the development plans. "The main problem is not the physical deprivation. These are not slums as known elsewhere in the world. These are neighborhoods which have been neglected, inhabited by people who felt that they were deserted by the society," said Admoni.

The third key to success, according to Admoni, is greater involvement by Jewish communities abroad which adopt specific neighborhoods in Israel. "Canadian Jewry contributes millions of dollars to the UJA, and nobody asks what one does with the money. With Project Renewal, the contributors check with us every minor detail," say Admoni. "Only this week we had a meeting in which I was asked why $124,90 were not spent according to plans." The contributors no longer were spending money for a general cause. They know exactly where the money goes -- and they watch closely how it is being spent, how "their" specific community develops.

### Proper Administration Called Key Element

Admoni argues that the way to implement the three principles is proper administration. "At the beginning there was no comprehensive planning, just like there is no comprehensive planning throughout the urban sector in Israel," says Admoni. The city, for example, has very little say on the development plans of the Ministry of Construction and Housing. Admoni, who for years served as director general of the Jewish Agency settlement department, says he adopted the principle of rural planning to Project Renewal. The neighborhoods are now divided among several regions. Each region has an informal coordinator whose responsibility is to coordinate among the various government and Jewish Agency bodies involved in the project. "The new approach works," says Admoni. "More than 20 neighborhoods have already been rehabilitated, but of course there are about 50 more neighborhoods to go."

"World Jewry now believes that the project can be implemented," says Admoni, "although due to the credibility problem of the past, we still have difficulties in opening faucets." "The atmosphere in the neighborhoods themselves changed completely," adds David Hersch. "In a few months, people started to believe in the project. We have reached a point where the pledges can meet the needs. The next six months to a year will determine the fate of the project." The national UJA has reorganized the department responsible for raising the funds, and Project Renewal is now at the top of its priority list.

"There is no doubt that the project will prove successful," says Admoni, "provided that the people will have sufficient aid to pull through."

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AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Negotiations have broken down between the Dutch airlines KLM and the Israeli Ministry of Transport over the number of flights the Dutch carrier may offer weekly between Amsterdam and Tel Aviv. The difficulty arose when KLM insisted on five flights a week. Israel allows only four and alleged that KLM intended to use the fifth to carry American passengers to Israel via Amsterdam. KLM agreed to limit its flights to four weekly but only as a temporary concession.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The first Jewish Media Center here, offering a wide range of audio-visual materials, has been opened by the Board of Jewish Education. Fees are described as affordable.