

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## HABIB EXPECTED TO ASK ISRAEL TO REFRAIN FROM AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS AGAINST SYRIA

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib arrived here from Beirut today on the third round of his mission, begun last May, to defuse the continuing crisis between Israel and Syria over the latter's deployment of SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon. The American diplomat was scheduled to meet later today with Premier Menachem Begin and other leaders.

American sources here were quoted as saying that Habib would ask the Israelis to refrain from aggressive statements or actions against Syria in order to make his mission easier. His arrival coincided with Israel's second air raid in 48 hours on Palestinian terrorist bases in Lebanon which were seen here as an expression of displeasure over the slow progress Habib has made to date.

The initial air raid, Friday, the first in more than a month, destroyed a number of guns and rocket-carrying vehicles near the Zahrani River, according to a military spokesman. The Syrians did not intervene and all Israeli aircraft returned safely to their bases, the spokesman said. The targets were some distance from the area where the Syrian missiles are deployed. Today's raid was in the area of Damour, about 12 miles south of the Lebanese capital.

### No Confirmation Of Plan On Missiles

There was no confirmation here today of reports that the U.S. had, in effect, worked out a comprehensive plan to solve the missile crisis. Habib is understood to be trying hard to win agreement on a package proposal that would ensure Israeli and Christian withdrawals in areas of Lebanon in exchange for removal of the missiles. Habib held talks with Lebanese President Elias Sarkis in Beirut and with the Druze leftist leader Walid Jumblatt before coming to Israel.

Israel is said to be sticking to its demand that Habib speed up his efforts to get the Syrian missiles out of Lebanon. Syria reiterated its determination over the weekend to keep the missiles in place, come what may. Despite Israel's evident impatience over the lack of success by Habib to date, sources here were quoted as saying that no ultimatums would be given the American envoy during his current visit to Jerusalem.

### U.S. Hardliner Due In Israel

Meanwhile, another senior U.S. official, State Department Counsellor Robert McFarlane, was expected here today on a mission for Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Haig reportedly sent him here to discuss a new formula that would allow the Reagan Administration to resume deliveries of four F-16 fighter planes, suspended last month after Israel used American-supplied aircraft in its June 7 attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor.

McFarlane, described as the State Department's leading exponent of a tough stand toward Israel over the Iraqi raid, will reportedly seek to define under what conditions, if any, Israel could use

American-supplied weapons in attacks beyond its borders. The four F-16s are being held up pending an Administration review of whether Israel violated its agreement with the U.S. by using American planes to destroy Iraq's reactor.

### Flap Over Evron

Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. Ephraim Evron, who returned here over the weekend for consultations with Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, told reporters that he saw no connection between the deliveries of the F-16s and the Administration's proposal to sell five AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia. He said a majority of the U.S. Senate opposed the AWACS deal.

Evron refused to comment on press reports that the new government might replace him in Washington because he is not politically identified with Likud. Shamir was quoted by Israel Radio today as saying there was no move underway to replace Evron and the envoy himself said nobody had suggested that possibility to him.

Foreign Ministry circles were quoted as saying that such speculation would undermine Evron's position in Washington when he was required to prepare for Begin's official visit there in September. But the speculation apparently reflects pressure within Likud for a "political appointment" to what is Israel's most important diplomatic post abroad.

Mentioned as possible replacements for Evron are Eliahu Ben-Elissar, former Ambassador to Egypt who resigned to run for the Knesset on the Likud ticket, and Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori, who could embarrass Begin politically by challenging the appointment of Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon as Defense Minister in the next Cabinet. Zipori has made it clear that he considers himself first in line for that post.

Meanwhile, the fact that Begin consulted with Sharon before ordering the latest air strikes against Palestinian targets in Lebanon was seen as a further indication that he is determined to name the ultra-hawkish Sharon to the defense post regardless of opposition in some Likud circles.

The Friday attack drew prompt retaliation. Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon lobbed more than a dozen Katyusha rockets into the border town of Kiryat Shmona two hours after the raid, slightly injuring 14 residents. United Nations sources said Israel artillery and Christian forces in south Lebanon replied strongly to the rocket attack.

## RELIGIOUS PARTIES SEEN JOINING BEGIN GOVERNMENT EVEN IF HE REFUSES TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS ON THE 'WHO IS A JEW' AMENDMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Political observers here believe that the National Religious Party and the Aguda Israel will ultimately agree to join a Likud-led coalition government even if Premier Menachem Begin declines to meet their demands for an iron clad guarantee that the controversial "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return will be adopted by the next Knesset. The two religious parties are expected to cast their lot with Begin, as



they did in 1977 when the Likud leader promised to "do his utmost" to get the amendment through parliament. The amendment has been effectively shelved during the past four years for lack of political support, even within Likud ranks and the opposition to it is as strong now as when Begin first took office.

Simcha Ehrlich, a leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing, gave notice over the weekend that he and his party were not prepared to support the proposed amendment which went against their conscience.

The amendment would define as a Jew any person born of a Jewish mother or converted by an Orthodox rabbi "according to halacha." Ehrlich said he hoped the coalition negotiations would not break down over the issue. "I'm sure we can find a formulation ... the Hebrew language is rich enough for that," Ehrlich told reporters.

#### Chief Rabbis Send Telegrams

Israel's Ashkenazic and Sephardic Chief Rabbis, Shlomo Goren and Ovadia Yosef, have sent telegrams to all religious members of the Knesset to withstand pressures from non-Orthodox Jewish communities and their leaders in the diaspora to kill the amendment. The Chief Rabbis noted that the non-Orthodox religious community in Israel represented "a tiny minority" of the people and its leaders "live in the diaspora because they wish to do so" but still seek the right to influence decision-making in Israel.

While the Chief Rabbis' counter-pressure is expected to have some impact, particularly on the NRP, observers here noted that neither of them issued a halachic ruling requiring the religious parties to stay out of the government unless they were assured that the "Who is a Jew" amendment was certain to be adopted. It was recalled that in 1974, the NRP stayed out of the Labor-led government of Premier Yitzhak Rabin for a time on the strength of such a ruling by Goren.

The ruling, however, had been issued at the NRP's request. This time it has made no such request and one NRP politician observed privately today, "We've learned our lesson. We shan't ask for an halachic ruling this time."

Meanwhile, a leading Reform figure in Israel, Prof. Michael Klein, Dean of the Hebrew Union College Jerusalem branch, stated in an open letter to Begin over the weekend that "Over three million affiliated non-Orthodox Jews throughout the world are concerned about their legitimacy being questioned by the State of Israel."

Klein declared: "In the post-Holocaust period of our history we cannot afford to suffer another division at the hands of a small, intolerant and presumptuous group of ultra-Orthodox politicians... We respectfully but rightfully demand equal rights and religious freedom for all Jews in the State of Israel as guaranteed by the declaration of independence."

#### ORTHODOX LEADER CONDEMNS REFORM AND CONSERVATIVE GROUPS

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA) -- Dr. Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel, condemned what he termed the threats by American Reform and Conservative leaders to withhold support for Israel if the new government led by Premier Menachem Begin accedes to the requests of its religious parties coalition members "to strengthen the integrity of the Israeli religious establishment." Jacobs termed the threats "a naked attempt at economic and political blackmail to re-

verse the democratic decision of the Israeli electorate expressed in the ballot box" June 30.

Jacobs refuted the charge by Dr. Gerson Cohen, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, that the religious parties' request would be a "religious affront" to the majority of Jews by citing a recent American Jewish Committee study which found, "A growing acknowledgement among virtually all sectors of the Jewish population (of Israel) that the state cannot survive if it is not a Jewish state, and that the Jewish character of the state is preserved most fully by those recognized at the authentic guardians of Judaism, the Orthodox."

Jacobs responded to the charge by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, that the religious parties' requests would "rupture the unity of the Jewish people" by pointing to the attempts of the Reform and Conservative groups to "undermine the traditionally united American Jewish support of Israel to extort by political pressure the recognition they have failed to win from the people of Israel."

Furthermore, Jacobs said, "by rejecting the standards of Jewish law and tradition, it is the Reform and Conservative groups which have divided the Jewish people and caused needless human suffering through invalid conversion, marriage and divorce procedures which have thrown a shadow over the Jewish identity and marital status of thousands of innocent men and women. It is to avoid further damage and human suffering of this kind that we must reject Reform and Conservative demands for official religious recognition in Israel."

#### MEYER LEVIN DEAD AT 75

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Meyer Levin, who for more than 50 years recorded Jewish life in the United States and Israel and who for the last 25 years of his life contended that he was the first to conceive of a stage adaptation of "The Diary of Anne Frank," died of a stroke last Thursday night at Hadassah Hospital. He was 75 years old. Funeral services were held here today.

Levin, who began writing for The Chicago Daily News in 1922 while attending the University of Chicago, was a prolific writer of novels, plays, documentary films and scenarios. He was a passionate defender of Jewish settlement in Palestine and the State of Israel. During the last years of his life, he was an outspoken advocate for the immediate settlement of all Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) in Israel.

His works about Jewish life in Palestine and in Israel began with his first novel in 1931, "Yehuda," about kibbutz life. It was based on his own experience working in Palestine on a kibbutz near Haifa in the late 1920s. Subsequent novels about Israel included "The Settlers" and "The Harvest." After World War II he filmed the smuggling operation of Jews from Poland across Europe to the Palestinian coast and the documentary he produced was called "The Illegals."

Levin's books dealing with life in the United States included "The Old Bunch" (1937), "Citizens" (1940) and "Compulsion" (1956) which became a highly successful play and film. In 1955 he instituted a suit against Anne Frank's father and the producers of "The Diary of Anne Frank." He sought more than \$1 million in damages, claiming that he had first conceived of the idea for the play and that his version had been rejected because it was "too Jewish." Levin contended that the version which appeared on Broadway was watered down, with the stress on a universal theme. Levin, who was born in Chicago, first visited Palestine in 1925 to cover the opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and returned in 1928 to work on the kibbutz. In the early 1920s he traveled



to Paris and was introduced to Hasidic literature, which was to become a life-long interest. He translated Yiddish tales into English and traveled to Eastern Europe. In 1958 he took up part-time residence in Israel, and divided his time between homes in New York City and Jerusalem.

As a reporter, Levin covered the Spanish Civil War and the Arab riots against the Jewish yishuv in Palestine. From 1930 to 1932 he wrote for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and from 1944 to 1946 he was a war correspondent for the Overseas News Agency which was at the time a subsidiary of the JTA.

Shortly before his death he completed a novel, "The Architect," about the life of Frank Lloyd Wright. It is to be published this fall by Simon and Schuster. Levin was the recipient recently of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences first annual Joseph Handleman Prize in the Arts. He was a founding member of the Committee for Historical Truth. In 1950 he wrote his autobiography, "The Search," and created a series of nonfiction books called "The Jewish Heritage."

### U.S. EXPECTED TO DECIDE ON TWO ISSUES AFFECTING ISRAEL'S SECURITY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration is expected to decide this week on two issues affecting Israel's security--delivery of F-16 jet fighters to Israel and notification to Congress of its proposed sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes and other equipment to Saudi Arabia.

The Administration has promised a decision by Friday on whether to lift the suspension on delivery of four F-16s to Israel, ordered last month after Israel's June 7 attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor. Next Friday is the day six more F-16s, not affected by the ban, are scheduled to go to Israel.

The Administration is also expected to give its unofficial notice to Congress this week, of a decision to sell Saudi Arabia five AWACS and enhancement equipment for 62 F-15s previously purchased by the Saudis. Some observers expect this to happen as early as tomorrow although as late as last Friday the Administration was still stressing that the "timetable" was being worked out with Congressional leaders.

The decision on the F-16s delivery is publicly linked to the Administration's completion of its review of whether Israel violated its arms purchase agreement with the U.S. by using American-made equipment to bomb Iraq's nuclear plant. Robert McFarlane, Counsellor to the State Department, is due in Israel today, apparently for discussions of requirements on the future use of American-made weapons.

McFarlane used the harshest language against Israel of any State Department official in testifying about the Iraqi raid before Congressional committees. He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month that Israel had "shattered trust and confidence" because it failed to consult with the U.S. about the use of American-made weapons in the attack.

### Expect Delivery Of F-16s To Continue

However, most observers expect neither the Administration nor Congress, which is conducting its own review, to call for any arms cut-off to Israel. Instead, they expect the delivery of F-16s to continue.

This attitude was expressed today by Sen. Gary Hart (D. Colo.), a member of the Senate

Armed Services Committee. Appearing on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program, Hart said that neither Congressmen who supported the Israeli raid or were critical of it believe they "can turn their backs on Israel."

He said the Israeli raid was a "symptom of the disease" and not the disease itself which, according to Hart, is the spread of nuclear weapons. He said he would introduce legislation to ban the export of material that might be used for nuclear weapons.

Hart also said he would continue to oppose the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia even if the Administration takes steps to provide assurances that they would not endanger Israel. He said the Administration must seek peace in the Middle East and end its policy of trying to arm all sides.

Meanwhile, observers feel there is a link in the expected timing of the announcements of the resumption of F-16 deliveries and the AWACS proposal in order to tone down criticism by supporters of Israel to the Saudi deal and offset reactions from the Arab states to the resumption of aircraft deliveries to Israel. The existence of such a link had been strongly denied Friday by the State Department's deputy spokesman, Alan Romburg.

"There is absolutely no linkage between F-16s deliveries to Israel and the sale of military equipment to Saudi Arabia," Romburg said. He asserted that Secretary of State Alexander Haig "is strongly opposed to any notion of such a linkage and has never drawn such a relationship explicitly or by indication, nor has anyone else in position of authority in the (Reagan) Administration."

### Denies Haig Letter To Begin

Romburg was replying to questions about newspaper reports that Haig had sent a letter to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin last month implying that Israel drop its strong opposition to the AWACS sale if it wanted to get the four F-16s.

There has been "no letter or other form of message from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister of Israel on the matter of the suspended aircraft delivery," Romburg maintained. He said that there have been "diplomatic exchanges" between the U.S. and Israel since the Administration began its review of whether Israel violated its arms agreement with the U.S. in using American made equipment in the Iraqi raid. But he said he could not divulge what was said in these exchanges except to deny that any linkage was made between the AWACS and F-16s.

### HOLLAND IMPROVES RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES

AMSTERDAM, July 12 (JTA) -- The vastly improved relations between Holland on one hand and Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries on the other was demonstrated last week when a 1.5 billion Guilders (over \$600 million) contract was signed in Bahrain for the construction of a 25-kilometer long dam and causeway by a Dutch firm.

The firm, Ballast Nedam, won the contract over 15 other competing countries, including the U.S., West Germany and Japan. The reinforced concrete dam, which will link Bahrain with Saudi Arabia, was ordered by Bahrain but is being paid for by the Saudis. Both nations, and most other Arab nations had severed relations with Holland in 1973 because of its alleged sympathy for Israel in the Yom Kippur War.

The project will be carried out by a joint Saudi-Dutch venture, Badar Ballast. The Dutch firm, Ballast Nedam, will receive a \$400 million advance payment from the Saudis for the dam.



**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****PROJECT RENEWAL: A SUCCESS STORY**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Project Renewal, which has suffered from painful teething problems, has come in for a great deal of adverse publicity here and abroad as a result of them. The media, naturally, zero in on problems and arguments when these are in evidence -- and as a result, the progress and achievements tend to lack "coverage" and tend therefore not to win their fair share of the publicity.

The objective fact is, though, that despite the teething problems and bureaucratic snafus, Project Renewal has made significant strides forward in depressed neighborhoods all over Israel, benefiting and improving the lives of many thousands of families. The project has also inspired grass-roots-level contact and cooperation between communities in Israel and communities throughout the diaspora.

**Examples Of Success**

Here are some examples of Project Renewal successes, collated by the Keren Hayesod:

\* The Hatikva quarter of Tel Aviv had no bookstore, apart from street-corner newspaper and paperback vendors. Project Renewal staffers took an interest in the subject. A prominent Israeli book company was offered premises rent-free if it would open a shop in the quarter, selling books at reduced prices. Today the Hatikva branch store has been reporting higher sales than the company's main store in Tel Aviv.

\* The Weisgal Center in Rehovot supplies cultural and sports facilities to the surrounding neighborhood. But a nearby Project Renewal neighborhood, Kiryat Moshe, was not receiving the center's benefits. This was the case until Project Renewal officials stepped in and bought \$85,000 worth of subscriptions, which were sold to residents of Kiryat Moshe at a reduced rate.

\* Dora, a neighborhood in Netanya, used to make newspaper headlines almost daily in Israel -- always for stories of crime and juvenile delinquency. Not any more. This sort of headline has now given way to Project Renewal headlines of a brighter nature.

Recently Haaretz, the leading Israeli daily, carried a story on Dora: "Disadvantaged neighborhood changes its face beyond recognition -- residents of Dora join ranks with Project Renewal authorities and achieve remarkable results." The story went on to describe the complete face-lift, which included painting and clean-up campaigns and small renovations which were carried out entirely through the initiative of local residents and Project Renewal supervisors.

**A Net Gain**

\* Twenty-four hours of non-stop tennis was recently played in the modern 17-court tennis facility near the Project Renewal neighborhood of Neve Golan. The idea of the marathon originated with Australian volunteers living temporarily in their Project Renewal "twin" neighborhood. Their goal: to raise neighborhood awareness of the tennis court and of the tennis programs being offered there. After the marathon, more than 100 Neve Golan children enrolled at the center's afternoon tennis course.

\* 22-year-old Julia Hillman from England, a graduate of the World Union of Jewish Students in Arad, went to volunteer in Ashkelon. Her unique contribution: making use of empty bomb

shelters for educational activities. The plan was so successful that it was adopted by other volunteers throughout the city. Julia also ran a dental education program in Ashkelon schools and sewing classes for out of work young girls. Postscript: Julia decided to make aliya and settle in Ashkelon.

\* After more than 16 months in operation, with a rotation of 64 dentists (all volunteers), four per month, and the treatment of more than 13,000 local residents, among them 8,500 children, it is fair to say that the English-Ashkelon Project Renewal dental clinic is among the finest successes of renewal countrywide.

\* The women of Yavne (a Project Renewal township), proud of their ethnic heritage, wanted to share something in their way of life with their Project Renewal partner communities in the diaspora. And what better -- and more useful -- gift, they decided, than giving them their favorite recipes, all drawn from Mideastern lands. The result: a soon-to-be-released Project Renewal cook-book.

**CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN JORDAN**

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- More than 225 people in Jordan have been hospitalized with cholera and five people have died as a result of the illness since the epidemic broke out last week. The first case of cholera was detected this weekend in the Kalandia refugee camp near Ramallah, but the 70-year-old Arab resident of the camp, who returned from a visit to Jordan last week, was reported today to be out of danger.

Israeli health authorities have warned both West Bank and Israel residents to take special precautions by washing the disinfecting fruit and vegetables from the West Bank and Gaza areas were organic fertilizers and drainage water are used for irrigation. At the same time, heads of health services in Judaea and Samaria met yesterday for an emergency session and set up special medical teams to curb the spread of the epidemic.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Haifa Mayor Arye Gurel has threatened to operate the city-owned Carmelit subway on the Sabbath if the Aguda Israel Party gets its way and persuades the incoming government to try and halt public transport in Haifa on Shabbat. Haifa still operates buses on the Sabbath -- a carry-over from the pre-State days when Arabs formed a large proportion of the public.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Police have warned Tel Avivians to be on watch for 10 poisonous snakes stolen from Tel Aviv University's zoological garden. But they think the reptiles have been taken by amateur snake lovers who wanted them for a private collection. The snakes stolen include several from whom no known antidote is available against their sting. All are described as "extremely dangerous."

\* \* \*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Over 40,000 veterans of the Haganah and Palmach gathered on the green lawns of Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park in a nostalgic "happening," looking back to their fighting days in the pre-State underground army. The rally was organized by Moshe Rivlin, Jewish National Fund leader and chairman of the Haganah Veterans Association, under the slogan: "60 Years Hagannah, 40 Years Palmach." The Haganah, defense force of the pre-Israel Jewish Agency and Vaad Leumi, was formed in 1921. The Palmach, its strike force, was formed in 1941. The white-shirted men and women are now in their 60's and 70's.