

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL AIR FORCE DOWNS SYRIAN AIRCRAFT IN DOGFIGHT OVER LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- Israeli Air Force planes today shot down a Syrian aircraft in a short dogfight over south Lebanon, an army spokesman said. He said that Israeli aircraft were attacking terrorist bases south of Beirut when Syrian fighters tried to intercept them. In the ensuing dogfight one of the Syrian planes was downed, while all Israeli aircraft returned safely to base, he said.

The targets for today's attack were said to be in the Damour area some 12 miles south of Beirut, the scene of an earlier Israeli air raid this week. Beirut Radio said that eight Israeli aircraft had bombed the vicinity of several Lebanese towns in the south and that heavy casualties were reported from the area.

## NAVON SAYS HE WILL INVITE BEGIN TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon said today that he will invite Premier Menachem Begin to try to form a new government. He said he would officially charge Begin with the task at a meeting tomorrow morning because he has concluded that the Likud leader is in the best position to form a coalition Cabinet commanding a majority of 61 seats in the next Knesset.

Navon told Israel Radio that it probably would be better if a larger majority could be assured. He was non-committal when asked if he personally would have favored a broad-based national unity government. He said a broader government would be best but "the other partner, the Labor Alignment" has signified that it would not serve in such a regime under Begin.

Navon announced his decision to call on Begin almost immediately after concluding consultations with all parties represented in the new Knesset. He met yesterday with delegations from Likud, Labor, the National Religious Party and the Aguda Israel and completed his talks today with the other parties.

## Aguda Will Not Press For Amendment

In the meantime, it appears that the Aguda would not demand the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return as a condition for joining the new Begin government. Begin made it clear yesterday that he would not force his Likud faction to vote for the amendment. He said if the Aguda insisted on such an undertaking, "I will tell them straight out: No, I cannot give it."

It was learned that the Communist Party, which won four Knesset seats, had urged Navon to choose a Prime Minister who would work for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. The opposite extreme was pressed by Geula Cohen's ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction, which won three Knesset seats. It wants Israel to renegotiate the peace treaty with Egypt so as to end further withdrawals from Sinai.

Aharon Abu Hatzeira's Tami faction, with three seats, indicated to Navon that it preferred a

government headed by Begin, while Moshe Dayan's two-seat Telem party leaned toward Labor because its policy on the autonomy negotiations is closer to Dayan's. Representatives of Shinui (Change) and the Civil Rights Movement preferred Labor to Likud but were resigned to the fact that Navon would select the party with the largest representation in the Knesset. Likud has 48 seats to 47 for the Labor Alignment.

## HAIG: REAGAN HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO RESUME DELIVERY OF F-16 FIGHTER PLANES TO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 14 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig maintained today that President Reagan has not yet decided whether to resume delivery of F-16 fighter planes to Israel. The President would make his decision after meeting with State Department Counsellor Robert McFarlane who is returning from Israel tonight, Haig said in an interview on the NBC-TV "Today" program. (See Related Haig Story P.3).

It was announced in Jerusalem last night that McFarlane's visit ended the "misunderstanding" between Israel and the U.S. over Israel's June 7 air attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor after being "clarified to the satisfaction of both parties."

But Haig denied today that this meant a lifting of the suspension of delivery of the four F-16s, imposed on June 10 after the Israeli raid, as well as a go-ahead for delivery of six more F-16s scheduled to be shipped to Israel this Friday.

## Cautions Against Speculation

"In fairness to the President who has to make this decision, I think it would be premature to speculate," Haig said. "I've noted there has been quite a bit," he added in apparent reference to press speculation that the McFarlane trip was designed to pave the way for resumption of the F-16 deliveries.

Haig, who will meet with McFarlane tonight, said that once the President makes a decision, the Administration will have to consult with Congress. McFarlane is scheduled to meet with the President and members of Congress this week. Both the Administration and Congressional committees have been conducting separate reviews to determine whether Israel violated its arms agreement with the U.S. by using American-made aircraft in the Iraqi raid.

## Completion Of Review Due By Friday

State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romburg said today that the Administration still plans to complete its review by Friday when the six F-16s are scheduled to be shipped. Romburg, however, refused to divulge any details of the understanding worked out between Israel and the U.S. during McFarlane's visit. Romburg also reiterated that there is "no connection between the decision" on the F-16s and the Administration's proposal to sell AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other weapons to Saudi Arabia.

He was replying to press reports from the Middle East that McFarlane had shown Israel the terms under which the AWACS would be sold to the Saudis. McFarlane reportedly tried to lessen Israeli opposition to the AWACS sale in return for resumption of the F-16 deliveries. There has also been much speculation that the Administration would officially notify Congress of



its proposed AWACS sale at the same time that it announced resumption of the F-16 deliveries in order to neutralize opposition from both Israel and the Arab countries.

But a Capitol Hill source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that in order to prevent the accusation of linkage, the Administration is now not expected to send the AWACS package to Congress for another week to ten days.

#### Optimistic About Mideast Peace

Meanwhile, Haig said on the TV interview that he was "optimistic" about chances for "progress in the near future" toward a Middle East peace settlement. "We are now on the verge of initialing the Sinai agreement which will permit the return of the Sinai to Egypt," he said. He added, "There have been expressions already from the Israeli government--that government being formed--suggesting that they must get on with the autonomy talks."

Haig said these were the two remaining aspects of the Camp David accords and that while the longer term aspects of peace are "very, very difficult," he was "optimistic that with good will on both sides and a sense of urgency which must be forthcoming, that there will be progress in the near future."

#### JOINT STATEMENT BY REFORM AND CONSERVATIVE JEWISH LEADERS URGES REJECTION OF ISRAELI ORTHODOX DEMANDS ON AMENDING LAW OF RETURN By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- The current demands by Israeli Orthodox parties that the Law of Return be amended as a precondition to their participation in a new government coalition is "an affront to world Jewry" and "an act of utter irresponsibility," according to a joint statement issued by 15 leaders of Reform and Conservative Judaism here yesterday, at a press conference at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

"This small minority has forced Knesset sanctions of religious codes which ... has been exercised without concern for the negative influence this discrimination might have on the loyalties of diaspora Jewry, nor for its impact in destroying Israel's democratic image. The current move to extend this discrimination into Israel's civil law is an act of utter irresponsibility," the statement said.

The National Religious Party and Aguda Israel have demanded that the controversial "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return be adopted by the next Knesset. This would define as a Jew any person born of a Jewish mother or converted by an Orthodox rabbi "according to hal-acha."

The statement, signed by eight Conservative and seven Reform leaders, urged leaders in Israel to reject the demands by the Orthodox parties. The leaders here said the amendment would diminish the appeal of aliya and efforts to stimulate a flow of Western olim "exercising their own free will to participate in the upbuilding of Zion."

#### Cites Role Of Diaspora Community

Rabbi Ira Youdovin, executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) rejected claims that the diaspora should keep out of internal Israeli politics. The diaspora community "has a right and obligation to deal with this kind of Israeli issue" since it only affects diaspora Jewry, according to Youdovin. He added that

world Jewish leaders must get at "the root of this time bomb that may drive a wedge between Israel and the diaspora."

Among those signing the statement representing Conservative Judaism were: Rabbi Wolfe Kelman of the Rabbinical Assembly; Goldie Kweller of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism; Simon Schwartz of the United Synagogue of America; Rabbi Mordecai Waxman of the World Council of Synagogues and Dr. Gerson Cohen of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Among those representing Reform Judaism were Youdovin; Theodore Broido of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbi Amiel Wohl of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and also Roger Herz and Philippa Strum of the American-Israeli Civil Liberties Coalition.

A telegram signed by the 15 Reform and Conservative Jewish leaders was also sent to Premier Menachem Begin of Israel expressing gratification "at the report that the proposal to amend the Law of Return will not be a precondition to an agreement for a coalition under your leadership. We commend those individuals and groups in Israel who, in support of the ideal of Jewish unity, avoided what might have been a dangerous and harmful development in Jewish life."

#### THORN: EEC IN HOLDING OPERATION ON EUROPEAN INITIATIVE ON MIDEAST By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 14 (JTA) -- Gaston Thorn, president of the commission of the European Community (EC) said yesterday that the West European countries will wait to see what direction the government being formed by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin will take before pushing the "European initiative" for a Middle East peace.

Even though the Israeli government will be run by the same people, the Europeans want to give them time to offer their own policy and see the "response of their neighbors," Thorn told a press conference ending a five-day visit to Washington.

He said the European initiative was not discussed in his talks with President Reagan, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other members of the Administration. The discussions concentrated on economic issues that will be dealt with at the economic summit in Ottawa this weekend.

Thorn said the European initiative is not an attempt "to find an alternative to Camp David" or the "American initiative" but to take part in Mideast peace efforts and be "helpful." He said the EEC was not trying to compete with the U.S.

Thorn noted that the EEC's Venice declaration in June 1980, which called for associating the Palestine Liberation Organization with the Middle East Peace Process, was a decision by the West Europeans "to take a greater responsibility" in the Mideast peace effort.

He said that with British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington having become president of the EEC Council of Ministers July 1, contacts with Mideast countries will increase. Carrington is believed to be the leading European leader pressing for recognition of the PLO. But Thorn pointed out that when he, as Luxembourg's Foreign Minister was president of the Council of Ministers, the effort was begun to seek a solution for the Palestinians.

#### TERRORIST DEVICE KILLS ARMY COLONEL, MILITARY PERSONNEL

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- An army colonel was killed and other military personnel travelling with him injured today when a terrorist explosive



device went off under their vehicle at Rafiah, south of Gaza, Israel Television reported tonight. The dead man was the military commander of the Rafiah area, Eli Shahak, the television said. The TV added this was the first fatal terrorist attack against Israel Defense Force personnel in the Rafiah area since the early 1970s and the military authorities regarded it as extremely serious.

### ISRAEL DENIES ANY COMMITMENT TO THE U.S. BEYOND JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY BEGIN AND MCFARLANE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Israel denied today that it has given any commitment to the United States beyond the joint statement issued last night by Premier Menachem Begin and U.S. State Department Counsellor Robert McFarlane that the "misunderstanding" between the two countries over Israel's June 7 air attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor had been "clarified."

A statement released by the Prime Minister's Office specifically denied a report in the Washington Post today that Israel had given an oral promise to take into account American interests before using American-supplied weapons in the future. The U.S. suspended delivery of four F-16 jet fighters to Israel in the wake of the Iraqi raid on which American-made aircraft were employed.

### Content Of Joint Statement

The statement, read to reporters last night by McFarlane, with Begin standing by, said: "The governments of the United States and Israel have had extensive discussions concerning the Israeli operation against the atomic reactor near Baghdad. The discussions have been conducted with the candor and friendship that is customary between friends and allies. The governments of the two countries declare that any misunderstanding which might have arisen in the wake of the aforementioned operation have been clarified to the satisfaction of both sides."

Israeli officials said they regarded the statement, drafted at the second of two meetings between Begin and McFarlane, as a significant diplomatic success for Israel. They said they expected it to open the way for the Reagan Administration to report to Congress that the "clarification" with Israel was satisfactorily concluded and that the suspension of deliveries of the F-16s could be lifted.

### HAIG, MCFARLANE REPORT MAY BE DECISIVE IN DETERMINING POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF F-16s TO ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said today that the "possible resumption of the F-16" warplanes to Israel will be decided after he gets the reports tonight of State Department Counsellor Robert McFarlane, who reportedly reached an agreement on the issue last night with Premier Menachem Begin in Jerusalem.

Haig said the report will be forwarded to President Reagan before a final decision is taken on the lifting of the suspension of the F-16s deliveries to Israel the President ordered after the Israeli raid June 7 on Iraq's nuclear reactor.

Haig made these remarks at a Foreign Policy Association luncheon at the Hilton Hotel here. His comments on the Mideast came during the question and answer period, after he delivered a half-hour speech on U.S. arms control policy.

Haig said that the mission of special envoy Philip Habib to defuse tension between Israel and Syria over the placement of Syrian missiles in Lebanon "is a continuing source of hope" for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. He said the fact that hostilities did not break out in the area proves the U.S. was right in undertaking the Habib mission.

The Secretary of State also said he is "optimistic" that "we will soon, perhaps as early as this week, initial the Sinai disengagement proposal," between Israel and Egypt regarding the peacekeeping force to be established after Israel's final withdrawal from the Sinai in April 1982.

### Summit Meeting Will Aid Peace Process

Haig noted that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israel's next Premier, who, Haig said, will probably be Menachem Begin, will meet next month with Reagan.

"As a result of these meetings, the peace process will be resumed with more vigor," he said. He also noted, in that connection, that an Israeli official, whom he did not name, said recently that the autonomy negotiations between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. will be resumed, continuing the Camp David process.

In response to a question whether he feels that the U.S. policy toward Israel is too "lenient" in view of Begin's policies, Haig said he does not agree with this assessment. He said the Administration policy toward Israel is on the tradition followed by all Presidents of commitment to Israel's preservation and security.

### PLO OFFICIAL'S VISIT PROTESTED

GENEVA, July 14 (JTA) -- An invitation by Foreign Minister Pierre Auber to a senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Farouk Kaddoumi, to meet with him tomorrow in Bern has raised a storm of public protest. The protest has been so strong that television crews and photographers will be barred "for security reasons" from a press conference Kaddoumi is scheduled to hold after meeting with Auber. Kaddoumi, who is the PLO's foreign policy spokesman, arrived today in Geneva.

The protest against Kaddoumi's visit has been across the board. Swiss dailies have been carrying letters to the editor categorically opposing the visit. The Swiss Radical Party, which has two ministers in the seven-member coalition Cabinet, issued a strong statement declaring that a state reception for the PLO official would be "an insult to the innumerable innocent victims of PLO actions" and would confer a legitimacy on the PLO which it does not deserve.

The Federation of Swiss Jewish Communities has also lodged a strong protest with the government. It stated that while it understood the government's desire that Switzerland be in a position to help mediate the Mideast conflict, the invitation to Kaddoumi is not a move in that direction. "The declarations made recently by the PLO indicate clearly that their aim is the destruction of Israel. The PLO also has not given up its terrorist activities," the Federation statement said.

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LONDON (JTA) -- Britain's Chief Rabbi did not receive an invitation to the royal wedding and Lilian Susman of Manchester wrote the Queen to complain about the snub. On behalf of the Queen's private secretary, John Fitmin explained that the Prince of Wales had selected the clergymen who will take part in the service July 29 "and others who are to robe and process and sit in the sanctuary." Fitmin said he was sorry to send Ms. Susman "this disappointing reply."



## U.S., CANADA, NORWAY BOYCOTT DINNER AFTER ISRAEL IS BARRED

UNITED NATIONS, July 14 (JTA) -- The United States, Canada and Norway boycotted a dinner last night given by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in honor of the opening of the International Conference on Kampuchea because the hosts withdrew an invitation to Israel.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who was expected to attend the dinner, declined to participate after learning of the move against Israel. A State Department spokesman said last night that "in fairness and equity" Haig could not attend if Israel was barred from the dinner.

The invitation was withdrawn without an explanation and without a written notice. Israel was informed of the action by a telephone call last Thursday. The next day, Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore called Israel's Ambassador Yehuda Blum and apologized for the withdrawal of the invitation.

But Koh, Israel diplomats said, was not able to provide any satisfactory explanation "for this extraordinary breach of etiquette." The invitation was withdrawn by the dinner's hosts after they discovered that two of their members -- the Moslem nations of Indonesia and Malaysia -- had no diplomatic relations with Israel.

## POLICE PROBING PIPE BOMB EXPLOSION IN JEWISH CENTER

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- Federal officials and local police are investigating the explosion of a pipe bomb Sunday in the sanctuary of the Jewish Center of New City, a community in suburban Rockland County about 40 miles from New York City. No one was injured by the blast which caused an estimated \$20,000 damage.

According to Murray Cohen, a spokesman for the Center, the bombing was motivated by anti-Semitism. He said other incidents included the theft of four Torah scrolls from Temple Beth Shalom in New City several months ago. New City detectives said their investigation has turned up no suspects so far but they expressed doubt that anti-Semites were involved.

## HADASSAH ASKS BREZHNEV TO ALLOW NUDEL TO ATTEND ITS PARLEY IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- Ida Nudel, Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience, who has been exiled to Siberia for aiding the families of imprisoned Jewish dissidents, whose rights she has defended, has been invited by Hadassah to attend the opening session of its 67th national convention, Sunday, Aug. 9 in New York, to accept personally the organization's highest honor, the Henrietta Szold Award, it was announced today.

The national convention will be held at the New York Hilton Hotel, August 9-12. More than 3,000 delegates and guests representing over 370,000 members in 1,600 chapters and groups from every State and Puerto Rico are scheduled to attend the four-day convention, which will be preceded by the National Board meeting opening Aug. 5.

"We have written to President (Leonid) Brezhnev asking that he allow Miss Nudel, who is in poor health, to come to New York and then to proceed to Israel, to join her sister, Elena Fridman, who is her sole surviving relative," Rose Matzkin, Henrietta Szold Award chairman, said. Mrs. Matzkin explained the Soviet Union recognizes Israel as the Jewish homeland, and Jews are considered a nat-

ionality. Furthermore, the Soviet Union reaffirmed in the Helsinki Accords that people have the right to be united with their families.

"Therefore, we are asking President Brezhnev something that is consonant with Soviet law. We also ask him to exercise compassion in releasing Ida Nudel, who is in poor physical condition, from her exile, before her sentence ends in March 1982," Mrs. Matzkin said.

Elena Fridman, Ida Nudel's sister, has been invited by Hadassah to come from Israel to be with Miss Nudel, and to accept the Henrietta Szold Award on behalf of her sister if Miss Nudel is not allowed to come.

## BENJAMIN SIJES DEAD AT 73

AMSTERDAM, July 14 (JTA) -- Benjamin Sijes, a Dutch Jewish historian who helped compile evidence in the trials of Nazi war criminals in Holland and West Germany and often served as an expert witness for the prosecution, died here Sunday at the age of 73. Sijes, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Amsterdam in 1970, was a specialist on Nazi persecution of Jews and other minorities.

In 1945 he was appointed to the staff of the newly formed Netherlands State Institute for War Crimes Documentation and frequently worked in close cooperation with Simon Wiesenthal, director of the Vienna-based war crimes Documentation Center. During the past 10 years he was engaged in research on the persecution of Gypsies by the Nazi regime and published a book on that subject.

Sijes served for one year as Professor Extraordinary in the Cleveringa Chair at the University of Leyden, established in memory of the late Prof. Rudolph Cleveringa who was well known for his protests against the dismissal of his Jewish colleagues from the university when the Nazis occupied Holland in 1940.

## JUDITH LERNER BURIED IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- Judith Lerner, wife of Prof. Alexander Lerner, the Soviet Union's noted specialist in cybernetics, was buried yesterday in a cemetery outside Moscow, it was reported here today by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. She died last week at the age of 65 after suffering a heart attack. Both she and her husband had sought since 1970 to receive exit permits to immigrate to Israel. Scores of Jewish activists attended the funeral in Vostriakovo.

When Mrs. Lerner died, Soviet authorities refused permission for her body to be flown to Israel for burial. The two Soviet Jewry groups characterized Soviet emigration chief Constantin Zotov's refusal to allow her to be buried in Israel "the ultimate Kremlin indignity, even to a dead refusenik's last wishes."

However, Soviet authorities did permit the Lerner's daughter, Dr. Sonya Lerner of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot to attend her mother's funeral after foreign pressure was applied through political and scientific circles, the two Soviet Jewry groups reported.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel's Bank Leumi announced it will formally take over four banks it has acquired in France on Oct. 1. Bank Leumi, which has been active in France since 1972, said it had bought four banks from the Rothschild interests in Marseilles, Strasbourg, Lyon and Nice, bringing its outlets in France to six. It at present has two branches in Paris. The new purchase brings to 17 the number of Bank Leumi branches in Europe, with a total of 61 branches outside Israel.