

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN WARNED NOT TO PRESS AWACS ISSUE WHEN HE MEETS WITH REAGAN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- President Reagan's special advisor on Jewish affairs, Jacob Stein, is reported to have warned Premier Menachem Begin not to press his luck with Reagan by continuing to try to block the sale of American AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia. Stein was in Israel last week for talks with Begin and Israeli leaders, in apparent preparation for Begin's visits to Washington for talks with the U.S. President next month.

Israeli papers say that Stein told Begin that Reagan and the U.S. Administration would view a continued Israeli policy to persuade Senators and Congressmen to oppose the aircraft sale as a personal affront to Reagan himself.

Stein said in a weekend radio interview here that Israel could trust the Reagan Administration's integrity in its support for Israel. He said he thought the American use of military bases in Israel might be "one element which may be on the table for discussion" during Begin's Washington talks.

## HAIG: REAGAN ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO 'PROCEED AND WIN' CONGRESSIONAL BATTLE OVER PROPOSAL TO SELL AWACS

By Kevin Freeman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said today that the Reagan Administration intends to "proceed and win" the Congressional battle over the controversial proposal to sell Saudi Arabia five AWACS reconnaissance planes and enhancement equipment for their American made F-15 fighter jets.

Haig, appearing on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" program, said there is "no question it is a controversial issue" but stressed the sale would be a "fundamental improvement of U.S. strategic consensus in the Mideast." He added that it was in the interests of this country to protect the Saudi Arabian oilfields from any type of attack.

Asked if the Administration intends to offer Premier Menachem Begin, scheduled to meet with President Reagan in Washington next month, something in return to compensate for the Saudi sale, Haig replied: "My experience with the government of Israel is that they won't be bought off..." The Secretary of State said Israel's "concerns are understandable ... but we must explain why it (the AWACS) won't harm the Israeli State." He noted that it would not be in the interests of the U.S. to supply a potential aggressor of U.S. allies with AWACS.

It would be wrong to suggest that the U.S. is indulging in rewards for acquiescence of the AWACS package, Haig said, adding the decision "stands on its own merits."

President Reagan said last week he will send to Congress tomorrow the informal notification of the proposed sale. However, the 50-day period in which Congress may reject the proposal will not actually start until after Congress returns from its

summer recess in September. At that time, Congress will have a 20-day informal notification period followed by a 30-day formal period during which it can adopt a resolution voiding the sale. A majority of both houses is required to block such weapons sales.

## No Guarantees From The Saudis

Meanwhile, reports this weekend said the Administration's proposed sale contains no Saudi commitment to prevent the planes from being used against Israel. Furthermore Administration officials said the sale would not give the United States explicit or inherent legal control over their use, as some Congressional foes of the transaction have suggested might make the sale acceptable to them.

The officials, according to press reports, also said that the Saudi government has not agreed to restrictions on the use of the planes or the high performance 62 F-15 fighter planes the Saudis have ordered and for which they have also ordered enhancement equipment to give the F-15s greater range and firepower.

Despite the lack of control conditions attached to the AWACS sale, the American officials contend that a threat, if there is one to Israel, would not be "significant" and that the United States would have a high degree of control because the Americans expect the AWACS and the F-15s will need "a high degree of control" for maintenance and technical support the Saudis will be unable themselves to provide.

It was also reported that the price of the Saudi transaction has risen to \$8.5 billion which is reportedly nearly \$4 billion more than the rough price estimates the Reagan Administration gave Congressmen last spring.

## Elements Of The Proposed Package

In addition to the five AWACS reconnaissance planes, the Administration's proposed package will include these items:

- \* A total of 1,177 Sidewinder heatseeking air-to-air missiles for use by the F-15 fighters. These missiles are identical to those used by Navy F-14s last week against Libya's Soviet-built jets.

- \* A total of 101 pair of fuel tanks for the F-15s, to increase the planes range, however, causing only a slight reduction in acceleration and performance.

- \* A fleet of KC-707 tanker planes totaling six with an option to buy two more, for in flight refueling of the AWACS and the F-15s as well as for the F-5 fighters already in the Saudi Air Force, and possible U.S. Navy planes.

- \* Ground radar stations to provide an air defense screen when the AWACS are not airborne as well as stations for receiving electronic and voice messages from the patrolling radar planes.

## BEGIN-SADAT SUMMIT WILL DEAL WITH AUTONOMY FOR WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Talks on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians will get under way at a summit conference between Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Alexandria on Tuesday. But the positions of the two countries are still far apart, and there are re-



ported differences, mainly of approach, within the Israeli delegation.

While Begin still adopts an uncompromising stand, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, leader of the ministerial negotiating team, favors a more flexible and compromising approach.

The position of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, attending the talks for the first time in his new capacity, is still unclear, though observers believe his recently announced more liberal approach to the West Bank indicated his desire to reach autonomy with some degree of understanding with local West Bank leaders, thus hopefully undercutting the influence of the Beirut-based Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to reports, Sharon has already begun talks with West Bank Arab notables, but Defense Ministry officials decline to confirm this. The Arab leaders involved are reported to have promised not to disclose the subject of the talks, or even the fact that they have taken place. His recently announced "velvet glove" policy included instructions to the army to press ahead with its campaign to combat PLO terrorism and PLO supporters but not to mistreat the West Bank civilian population.

#### Advises Against Sinai Withdrawal Linkage

Burg said in a weekend radio interview he thought every attempt should be made to resume the autonomy talks without any reference or linkage to next April's deadline for Israel's final withdrawal from the Sinai.

The talks were halted some 18 months ago. Analysts say they were stopped by Egypt because Sadat hoped that Begin's Premiership was only a passing phase and he would be replaced by a Labor leader in the Knesset elections last June. He is also thought to have felt that then U.S. President Jimmy Carter could not bring sufficient pressure to bear on Israel during an election year both in the U.S. and in Israel.

Begin is due to hold two private meetings with Sadat during his two days in Alexandria, while the negotiating teams start their talks in a larger ministerial forum. Israel will be represented by Sharon, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, with Burg as head of the team.

Begin is due to return to Jerusalem on Wednesday, while Sharon is expected to stay on in Egypt for a few days more for further talks on specific military aspects of relations between the two countries, specifically the details of the Israeli Sinai withdrawal.

The Cabinet today discussed the Begin-Sadat summit meeting and Cabinet Secretary Arie Naor told reporters afterwards that Israel would submit proposals for renewing the talks. "I can't tell you if we have any new proposals, but very frankly Israel does have proposals of her own leading to the resumption of negotiations," he said. Naor avoided saying Israel had new proposals to present to the Egyptians.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT HAS NO EVIDENCE ISRAEL SOLD SPARE PARTS FOR AMERICAN-MADE BOMBERS TO IRAN

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The State Department says that it has "no evidence" to support a report that Israel secretly sold Iran spare parts and tires for American-built F-4 fighter bombers last October to help Iran in its

war against Iraq and at a time when American hostages were being held by Iran.

According to a report last Thursday night on ABC News, former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr said in an interview in Paris with ABC that he had been opposed to any deal with Israel but had been overruled by religious leaders close to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "I was opposed. I said: If we have to buy arms from the Israelis, why not make peace with the Iraqis? It would be much better," Bani-Sadr said.

Former Carter Administration officials and diplomatic sources said over the weekend that the Israelis yielded to American pressure not to continue their military relationship with Iran until the hostages were freed. A spokesman for the Israel Embassy said his country does not provide information on purchases or sale of weapons. At the time of the alleged sale, the U.S. had imposed an embargo on the sale of all goods to Iran.

Responding to questions from reporters, State Department Dean Fischer stated last Friday: "We have no evidence that any U.S.-origin equipment or spare parts subject to our control has been supplied to Iran by the government of Israel. The government of Israel has been fully informed of our policy on shipment of U.S.-origin materials to Iran both in regard to the hostage crisis and the subsequent Iran-Iraq hostilities. We have received assurances from the government of Israel that no military equipment or spare parts subject to U.S. control have been shipped to Iran."

Asked whether the U.S. is conducting any review of this matter, Fischer said: "I am not aware of any formal review of this in progress."

#### NEW ORGANIZATION FOUNDED TO REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND JEWRY

By Sam Lipski

MELBOURNE, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A new organization authorized to represent the New Zealand Jewish community has been established in Wellington at a national conference attended by Jewish leaders from all the centers of Jewish population. The new umbrella group is to be known as the New Zealand Jewish Council.

New Zealand's Jewish community numbers 3,500 and is divided mostly between the cities of Auckland and Wellington, with smaller communities in key provincial centers. In recent years the community has faced serious problems as a result of intermarriage, emigration to Australia, and a growing anti-Israel shift in government policies among some opinion making groups.

Relative to its small numbers, New Zealand Jewry has a high rate of aliya. At the same time, there has been a steady growth in recent years of newcomers from the Soviet Union.

The national conference elected Wellington communal personality Wally Minsch as the first chairman of the Council. Ernest Markham from Auckland and Syd Goldsmith from Christchurch were elected vice chairmen. The president of the Zionist Federation, Blanche Weinstein, and the president of the United Synagogues of New Zealand, Gerald Shapiro, were appointed ex-officio to the national executive.

Speakers at the conference included the Israeli Ambassador Yaacov Morris, and from Melbourne, Australia, Isi Leibler, chairman of the Asia branch of the World Jewish Congress Internal Advisory Committee. In this capacity, Leibler has been working with the New Zealand leadership in the formation of the new Council, and welcomed it as an affiliate of the World Jewish Congress.



## HAMMER SEEKING COMPROMISE BETWEEN RABBIS AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS OVER DIG AT THE CITY OF DAVID

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) — The month-long controversy over the archaeological excavation in the City of David near the Western Wall between religious circles and archaeologists appeared to simmer down this weekend as Education Minister Zevulun Hammer indicated that he was seeking a compromise between the two groups.

Hammer, a member of the National Religious Party, met with the two Chief Rabbis and with the Israel Archaeological Council, which is the highest scientific authority on the subject, to work out a compromise solution. This followed a ruling by the rabbis last week that the City of David site is an ancient Jewish cemetery and that no excavations are to take place there. Further meetings are scheduled this week between Hammer, the Chief Rabbis and the Council.

Discussing the controversy in a TV interview, Hammer said he doubted whether there were indeed old Jewish graves at the site. He said that the ruling of the two rabbis last week should not be taken "too seriously." However, out of respect to the highest rabbinical authority, Hammer said he felt that a compromise should be reached which would be satisfactory to them as well as to the archaeologists.

### Elements Of The Compromise Plan

However, Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren's initial reaction indicated a rigid approach to the compromise idea. He told reporters that he refused to contemplate a compromise because "there can be no compromise about halacha." Furthermore, he said, Prof. Yigael Yadin, former Deputy Premier and a leading archaeologist, still has not returned the remains of 50 warriors in the Bar Kochba campaign against the Romans (132-135 BCE) which were discovered by Yadin 25 years ago in caves near the Dead Sea.

Goren charged that then Premier David Ben Gurion had promised him that the remains of the Bar Kochba warriors would be given a proper Jewish burial and that a monument would be erected at the site. "But the skeletons are still scattered in laboratories around the world where who knows what people are doing to them," Goren said. He stated that as long as this affair was not settled, he would have no confidence in archaeologists.

The Knesset is scheduled to convene Wednesday for a special session during its recess to discuss the excavation at the City of David. The session was called at the demand of more than 30 Labor Alignment Knesset members and agreed to according to Knesset rules.

### Begin Urges Respect For Chief Rabbis

Meanwhile, Premier Menachem Begin requested that Cabinet Ministers and Knesset members scheduled to take part in the debate show respect for the Chief Rabbis. His request came at today's Cabinet meeting after several Ministers criticized the rabbis for taking an inflexible position in the controversy.

Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich reportedly said that the Chief Rabbis, "and particularly one of them" (referring to Goren), were directly responsible for the unrest among secular elements

in the population regarding the rabbis' interference in the work of the archaeologists at the City of David dig. At the same time, Hammer met today with Yadin who said he was prepared to make efforts to trace the remains of the Bar Kochba campaign warriors.

## SHARON: ISRAELIS ARE NEITHER MERCENARIES NOR BEGGARS NOR ANYBODY'S 'STRATEGIC ASSET'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said Israelis are neither mercenaries nor beggars, could look out for themselves and should not strive to be regarded as anybody's "strategic asset." Addressing graduation ceremonies at the Israel National Staff and Defense College last Thursday, Sharon said:

"We are not mercenaries. For us it is a matter of life or death. For almost 25 years we have stood alone in this part of the world against Soviet expansion ... we should not tell ourselves or anybody else that we are a 'strategic asset'. We don't belong to anybody else, and we should not try to persuade anybody else we are such .... We are capable of doing a lot, and there is sufficient proof of that. We are not beggars standing at anybody's gate ... but there is a price for our assistance."

Sharon said that in any talks and negotiations with any other country, Israel should make it clear that it would not stand for any breach of any agreement. "Even if the breach is only a logistics one, we might be faced with the question of having to go to war. We must therefore make it completely clear that no breaches of any agreement will be allowed," Sharon said.

He did not refer to any specific incidents or cases. Israeli government officials had termed the Reagan Administration's embargo on the F-16 and F-15 warplanes a breach of contract because Israel had contracted for them with signed agreements.

### Appeals For Unity

Sharon decried splits and quarrels among Israelis in all political parties, and appealed for unity in the face of external dangers. "We are faced with a clear and defined Soviet strategy, of long-range, which sought to achieve its aims either by direct intervention, as in Afghanistan, or by infiltration," Sharon said. The Soviet Union today is behind almost every case of unrest in the world, he noted.

"We today face great masses of Soviet arms in what the Western world calls the 'moderate Arabs' in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Ethiopia or South Yemen," Sharon declared. "American policy is still being worked out, without any clear answer at present. We hope there will be an answer, but at the moment there is none. We are not America's mercenaries or policeman. We should be pleased in the change in American policy which has finally come about. They finally have the philosophy that they bear world responsibilities and are their own policemen and must take the necessary measures."

Referring to this week's autonomy negotiations in Egypt, Sharon said he thought agreement could be reached on West Bank autonomy "but only strictly according to the Camp David agreements." Sharon said he thought agreement could be reached with the "Arabs of the land of Israel (the Palestinians) by talking to them. The government policy is clear -- to wipe out the terrorists and terrorist activity and their leaders in the occupied territories and to achieve cooperation with the West Bank population in general."

He said that in his talks to army officers on the West Bank he had stressed the need to differentiate between the terrorists and their supporters, and the population in general.



## BEGIN URGES BOND LEADERS TO HELP 'BRING TO REALIZATION' THE MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA CANAL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A challenge to the Israel Bond Organization to "bring to realization" the Herzlian vision of the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal was presented by Premier Menachem Begin at the closing dinner of the Israel Bonds' 30th Anniversary Conference last Thursday to 600 U.S., Canadian and European participants. "Could there be a greater enterprise in your own lives?" he asked. "Vision," he stated, "is the corridor to creation of a new reality."

The Israel Bond Organization has undertaken to sell an additional \$100 million in Bonds over and above its annual sales as seed money for the energy project. Some 400 Canal Founders in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and other countries have each committed themselves to purchase \$100,000 or more in Bonds for the project. At the dinner, general chairman of Israel Bonds, Sam Rothberg, presented Begin with a leather-bound copy of the 30-year history of Israel Bonds. Rabbi Leon Kronish of Miami served as dinner chairman and conference chairman.

Begin, whose 68th birthday coincided with the anniversary conference, was addressed by Sam Rothberg, who expressed "the hope and the prayer that the strength and wisdom of your leadership will carry forward to completion your heroic vision of peace for Israel." The statement continued:

"On the eve of your journey to meet with the President of Egypt in Alexandria and later with the President of the United States in Washington, we, the members of the International Conference of Israel Bonds, pledge our full support to you in your efforts to preserve the security and freedom of the citizens of Israel in Eretz Yisrael."

Yaacov Meridor, Interministerial Economic Coordinator in the new Cabinet, told the conferees that the Mediterranean-Dead Sea Canal is "the most significant project ever planned by Israel. It could be a turning point in our economic life."

### 'A Significant Milestone'

The Bond anniversary was termed an "event which is a significant milestone in the history of Israel's economic development," by Minister of Finance Yoram Aridor. He told the conference that much of what he was reporting to them would "not have been possible had it not been for the achievement of the Israel Bond campaign over the past 30 years."

On a visit to the Dead Sea region, during which 44 Canal Founders signed a special scroll to be placed in the foundation of the sea-to-sea canal hydroelectric plant, Israel's new Minister of Energy, Yitzhak Berman, described the canal as furthering "the basis for cooperation between Jordan and Israel not only in energy production but for creating neighborly relations."

At Nahariya, one of Israel's northern communities hard hit during shelling from Lebanon during July, an enthusiastic reception was accorded Bond participants who joined in a demonstration of solidarity and identification with local citizens during a march through the town.

## MORE EMIGRANTS FROM USSR ARRIVING IN VIENNA ARE GOING TO ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Israel Radio's Vienna correspondent reported today that 20 of the 29 emigrants from the Soviet Union who arrived

there during the past three days will leave for new homes in Israel tomorrow. This is the highest percentage of Soviet Jews to come to Israel in recent years, and follows the new Jewish Agency arrangement whereby only emigrants with "first degree" family relationships in the U.S. will be helped by HIAS and the Joint Distribution Committee to go to America. All others will be helped to come to Israel, in conformity with their exit permits, or will be left on their own, to make their own way in the world.

Jewish Agency officials say an overwhelming number of new arrivals in Vienna from the USSR have said they would go on to Israel if they are not helped to go the U.S. The attitude of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky to the new policy is not yet known. He has in the past complained that Soviet immigrants to Israel were being made to settle on the West Bank.

## CONTROVERSIAL FILM, BANNED FROM FRENCH TV FOR 12 YEARS, TO BE SHOWN

PARIS, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A controversial film banned from French television for 12 years for depicting strong pro-collaborationist sentiment during the Nazi occupation is to be aired for the first time.

The film, Max Ophuls' "Le Chagrin et la Pitié" ("The Sorrow and the Pity") will soon be programmed on France's Third Channel, the station's new director, Guy Thomas, said in a newspaper interview.

The film has been shown on television in most countries neighboring France but has only been seen in cinemas here. Previous French television station directors have said the film, which contends many more Frenchmen collaborated with the Nazis than is officially admitted, was unsuitable for television screening.

## DROP IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Traffic accidents and casualties dropped sharply last week after a week of intensive anti-accident and road safety campaigns. Four persons were killed during the week and 253 were injured in 131 traffic accidents involving casualties. In the previous week, 34 persons were killed and 238 injured in two of the worst highway accidents in the history of Israel. Two weeks ago there were 19 deaths in highway accidents.

Civilian and military police have taken drastic measures to curb violations of traffic regulations. The military police have set up field courts along the main roads and intersections, trying traffic offenders on the spot. However, the head of the traffic department at the national police headquarters in Jerusalem, Shmuel Bogler, cautioned that the decrease in highway accidents and fatalities is no reason to be complacent. He said the war on traffic accidents will continue unabated.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin has named Dov Shilansky, Deputy Minister in the Premier's office, to head the fight against emigration. One of the first appointments Shilansky made is Shmuel Lahis, former director general of the Jewish Agency who resigned from the job last February after a storm erupted over his report that 300,000-500,000 Israelis live in the U.S. "We see this as an important first step in coordinating the fight against emigration," Lahis said, "but the appointment is only a first step, and must be followed by the implementation of a program."