

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## KREISKY COOLING TOWARD THE PLO

By Monika Brenner and Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, shocked and angered at the unabashed jubilation expressed by the Palestine Liberation Organization over the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, has indicated that Austria's hitherto warmly sympathetic attitude toward the PLO may be over.

Declaring that "It is unbelievable that somebody is praising a murder," Kreisky said that PLO chief Yasir Arafat's remarks after Sadat's death might result in "personal consequences" but he declined to elaborate. He did indicate, however, that Austria, the first Western country to extend quasi-diplomatic recognition to the PLO, was in no hurry to receive a new PLO representative in Vienna.

Kreisky made his remarks on Saturday, the day of Sadat's funeral. The Chancellor's spokesman, Wolfgang Petritsch, said yesterday that "We are in written diplomatic contact with the PLO. This could mean reconsidering how the contacts would be continued."

Kreisky said that he and Arafat had "unbridgeable differences" in their assessments of the assassination. According to Kreisky, Sadat was a victim of his own political miscalculations. "Sadat's tragedy was that he believed he could take on the Palestine question with his peace treaty with Israel. He underestimated the problem."

Asked about a new PLO representative in Vienna, the Chancellor said, "At the moment we are not interested. We are not in a hurry, which should be understandable." The PLO representative in Vienna, Ghazi Hussein, was expelled from Austria last summer for involvement in an arms smuggling operation shortly before a planned visit by Sadat to Salzburg. The visit was subsequently cancelled.

### Angered By Arafat's Remarks

Kreisky repeated that he was shocked by the assassination and warned that "deeds like this one have never contributed to a peaceful development." He continued to maintain, however, that there would be no political solution to the Middle East conflict without the participation of the PLO.

Kreisky was angered by Arafat's remark last week that "The assassination of Sadat was carried out by the Egyptian army in the name of the brave Palestinian people that bears the burden of the Zionist occupation." He claimed the deed demonstrated that "The Palestinian struggle is alive in the conscience of the great Egyptian people, which has not forgiven its President for having deceived it on Jerusalem, bartered away the Palestinian goal and signed the treacherous machinations at Camp David."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department and its spokesman on foreign policy matter, said in an interview with Agence France Presse during an official visit to Havana Oct. 6 that the assassination of Sadat "is the best news for many years ... The Egyptian people ... removed the shame and dishonor which Sadat had imposed on the glorious history of Egypt." He added that Sad-

at's death marks "the beginning of the disintegration of the plot represented by the troika (trio) Begin-Sadat-U.S. ..."

Abu Ayad, head of El Fatah, the PLO's terrorist arm, said in a Beirut radio broadcast, "We shake the hand that fired the bullets and declare to the whole world that the dubious house of cards has been blown away ... The shot fired at Sadat was fired at the worst of all stages in Arab history and is proof of the people's vigilance and the evolution of the opposition from the passive steps to the active."

## ANTI-SEMITISM IN SWITZERLAND

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- A 16-year-old Jewish youth was severely injured when he and two other members of the Bnei Akiva in Basel were accosted by a group of Swiss youths in the locker room of the local sports center. Police are investigating the incident and the anti-Semitic inscriptions that appeared on the locker room walls several days earlier.

The three Jewish youngsters, all wearing yamulkas, were dressing after a handball game when several local Swiss youths demanded to know, "What are you Jews doing here? How come you were not burned in the gas chambers?" A fight ensued and one of the Jews was rushed to the hospital with head wounds. Anti-Semitic inscriptions were also reported on the walls of a cultural center in Zurich a week before the Basel incident.

## STATE DEPARTMENT DENIES U.S. IS URGING ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW EARLIER FROM SINAI AS A GESTURE TO THE NEW EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- The State Department denied today that the U.S. has been urging Israel to make its final withdrawal from Sinai earlier than the scheduled April date as a gesture to the new Egyptian government of Hosni Mubarak.

"There are no plans for an acceleration of the schedule," Department spokesman Dean Fischer said. He was commenting on a statement by Secretary of State Alexander Haig on the ABC-TV "Good Morning America" program this morning that the U.S. is "now trying to re-inject some momentum" into the Camp David process.

Haig said, "We have been able to do so, both in the Sinai withdrawal schedule and the provisions for that and the resumption of the autonomy talks and the normalization talks which will continue this very month without any delay despite President Sadat's untimely death."

Fischer said he was "not aware" that the subject of accelerating the Sinai withdrawal schedule "was raised" when Haig met with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin in Cairo at Sadat's funeral last Saturday. Fischer said Haig was stressing the need to "re-inject some momentum," noting that the autonomy talks which were moribund since last year, will now resume at the working level Oct. 21. Fischer said that after these talks, the U.S. will make an assessment as to whether to upgrade the level of its representation at the talks. Should this be done, however, the American representative will not be Philip Habib, President



Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East. Fischer said that when Habib returns to the region, it will be to continue his efforts in Lebanon for which Reagan brought him out of retirement last May.

Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, is now in the region as a "prelude to Habib's return," Fischer said. Draper is visiting Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, according to the spokesman. But he had no explanation as to why Draper was not going to Saudi Arabia except that it was not in his itinerary.

#### Nixon, Saudis 'Not Talking About Piper Cubs'

Former President Nixon is now in Saudi Arabia, having gone there immediately after attending Sadat's funeral in Cairo, on what he said was a private visit. When Nixon's spokesman was asked in Riyadh today if the former President had discussed the proposed sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes with Saudi officials, he reportedly replied, "They were not talking about Piper Cubs." But Nixon, who will also visit Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco before returning to the U.S. next week, will have no comment on his talks until after he returns, his spokesman said.

Fischer also said that Nixon is not reporting to the Reagan Administration while he is abroad but will presumably make a report when he returns. An Administration official was quoted yesterday as saying that Nixon was not specifically asked to report on his trip "but that's the usual thing."

The Administration says it knew nothing of Nixon's travel plans until he requested -- and received -- a State Department briefing on the four countries he intended to visit last Thursday, before he left for Sadat's funeral in Cairo.

#### Haig Presses For AWACS Sale

Meanwhile, Haig continued to press for the AWACS sale on his television appearance this morning. He said the loss of Sadat "makes our relationships with Saudi Arabia more, not less important in the days ahead." He said that while in Cairo he found that "there wasn't a Middle East leader" or a European leader "who didn't register their grave concern that the American Congress might once again fail to support its President in the conduct of his foreign policy."

#### Carter Urges Sale Of AWACS

Meanwhile, former President Carter, visiting Washington for the first time since he left office nine months ago, made public yesterday the text of a letter he had sent to Senators urging them to support Reagan's proposed sale of the AWACS and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

Carter told reporters, "It's very important that once a President makes a commitment of that kind to a valuable friend, such as the Saudi Arabians, that the Senate approve what their President has proposed ... A lot of foreign countries can't understand the intricacies of American law, and they look upon a promise as a commitment on the part of our nation."

Carter added, "Because of that and the peaceful attitude of the Saudi people, the fact that an AWACS capability is already there, assigned by me during the Iranian crisis, I believe it would be better to approve the AWACS sale."

Carter's letter to the Senators said that the sale would contribute to Israel's security and to Middle East peace. "I always found the Saudi Arabian leaders to be staunch friends of our country. They

are strong and influential moderates in an area where moderation is vital in circumscribing fanaticism and violence," Carter said in his letter.

#### EEC In New Mideast Effort

In another development, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington announced today that he planned to go to Saudi Arabia shortly as an emissary of the European Economic Community (EEC) in a new effort to further peace in the Middle East. He said the decision was made after a meeting of the EEC Foreign Ministers to discuss the impact of Sadat's death. The EEC's search for a mediating role in the Arab-Israeli conflict will continue, Carrington said.

He said the Foreign Ministers had expressed their "determination to remain active in the spirit of our past declarations, in particular, the Venice declaration" of June, 1980. In that document, the EEC maintained that the Palestine Liberation Organization must be "associated" with the Mideast peace process.

#### Israel Rejects Plan On Contact With PLO

Former Presidents Carter and Ford made similar assertions to reporters aboard a U.S. Air Force jet returning them to Washington after Sadat's funeral. They said that the U.S. eventually would have to talk to the PLO if a Middle East peace is to be achieved. The Israeli government promptly rejected the suggestion. In a statement attributed only to "Israeli officials", the government said:

"The timing of these statements (by Ford and Carter) is especially inappropriate coming so soon after the PLO expressed its joy over the assassination of President Sadat. At a time when there should be general support for the peace process in the Middle East, statements such as these can only encourage the PLO and other rejectionist factors in their struggle against peace in the Middle East."

#### Reagan Reaffirms U.S. Policy on PLO

President Reagan reaffirmed yesterday the long-standing U.S. policy not to have any contact with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's right to exist. "There would be a condition, always has been," Reagan said. "There never has been any refusal to talk with the PLO. There has been only one condition: until they would recognize the right of Israel to exist as a nation which they still have never done."

#### GERMAN POLITICIAN CALLS FOR THE RELEASE OF HESS, OTHER EX-NAZIS

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- The release of Rudolf Hess, and four other Nazi war criminals serving life sentences abroad, has been urged by Alois Mertes, spokesman for the opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Bundestag faction. In a statement released here, Mertes said that the continued incarceration of these aged and ill men no longer makes moral or legal sense.

In addition to Hess, Hitler's one-time deputy, the prisoners are Franz Fischer and Ferdinand Aus Der Fuenten, both imprisoned in Holland for the last 36 years; Walter Reeder, jailed in Italy; and Erich Koch, jailed in Poland for the last 31 years. Hess, now 87, has been in the Allied prison of Spandau in West Berlin since Oct. 1, 1966 and is the only inmate there.

The former Deputy Fuehrer was sentenced to life imprisonment by the International Court in Nuremberg. The Bonn government has pressured the U.S., Britain and France over the years for his release but the Soviets have categorically refused to endorse such a move. Mertes, in his statement, reiterated Bonn's long-standing request.



There is, in fact, a strong group lobbying in West Germany for the release of Hess. It has mounted public campaigns and undertaken legal moves, including challenging the validity of the sentences imposed by the Nuremberg court shortly after World War II. So far it has been unsuccessful.

#### ISLAMIC CONFERENCE LEADER SAYS ARAB AND MOSLEM COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO RECONCILE ISRAEL AS PART OF GLOBAL AND JUST PEACE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Habib Chabbi, Secretary General of the Islamic Conference which represents 42 Moslem countries, said today that all Arab and Moslem countries are prepared to recognize Israel as part of a global and just peace. He also stressed that practically all of his organization's member states favor the basic principles of the Saudi Arabian peace plan presented last August by Crown Prince Fahd.

Chatti, addressing a press conference, said "All the concessions come from our (Islamic) side. Even (Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir) Arafat said yesterday in Tokyo that the Palestinians are prepared to recognize Israel under a simultaneous recognition between them and the Jewish State." Chatti said that the PLO is prepared to negotiate on the basis of the Fahd plan.

The eight-point Saudi peace proposal basically provides for the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the setting up of a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem in exchange for Israel's recognition by the Arab states and a peace agreement.

#### Says Egypt Willing To Back Fahd's Plan

Egypt's Deputy Foreign Minister Boutros Ghalli said last night that Egypt is prepared to "enthusiastically back the Fahd peace plan if Israel, the Palestinians and the Americans would favor such a solution." Ghalli, who appeared on French Television, stressed, however, that the Fahd plan, even if adopted by all the interested parties, would not replace the Camp David agreements but serve as "a parallel peace process."

The Egyptian Minister also reiterated President-elect Hosni Mubarak's promise that Cairo will honor all its peace commitments and strive for a continuation of the peace process. Ghalli said "the negotiations (on Palestinian autonomy) might be slow but we shall proceed according to plan and to our commitments and will eventually succeed."

#### TWO ORTHODOX GROUPS DIFFER ON DROPOUT ISSUE, JEWISH AGENCY PLAN

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Two Orthodox organizations, in separate statements, offered differing views on the issue of Soviet Jewish dropouts (noshrim) and the new Jewish Agency's policy toward Soviet Jews who emigrate to countries other than Israel.

A statement by Rabbi Moshe Sherer, chairman of the World Agudath Israel Organization, and Rabbi Yehuda Abramowitz of Jerusalem, said the Jewish Agency's policy of helping only those Soviet Jews who want to settle in Israel amounts to "coercion, an approach totally foreign to Jewish tradition."

Their statement added that while Soviet Jews should choose Israel as their destination to avoid the "relentless forces of assimilation" in other coun-

tries, "there is no guarantee that Jews forced to settle in Israel will remain there."

At the same time, the Rabbinical Council of America's executive board adopted a resolution in support of the Jewish Agency policy and "in opposition to groups like HIAS and Satmar who are resisting suggestions made by the Jewish Agency and the government of Israel."

#### Warns Against 'Ticket To Assimilation'

The resolution, which was announced by Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Rabbinical Council, stated, in part: "Encouraging Soviet Jews to go to the United States is shutting off movement of Soviet Jews out of the Soviet Union altogether which is dooming the committed Jews who wish to leave in order to live a more Jewish life in Israel. For most Soviet Jews, coming to the United States seems to be a one-way ticket to assimilation. Should Jewish charity dollars be used for this purpose? ...

"The argument that people must be given freedom of choice is, in this context, nonsense. Jewish communal dollars can appropriately be used only to further the interests of the Jewish people not to undermine those interests. After tasting life in Israel, Soviet Jews, like everyone else, are free to leave."

The two Aguda leaders, however, argued that "The primary goal of world Jewry should be to save Russian Jews by encouraging as speedy and large an exodus as possible from Russia. Any step that in any way can discourage and thereby diminish the flow of immigration of Jews from Russia ... is therefore unacceptable, quite apart from the traditional Jewish obligation to extend help to fellow Jews in need, under all circumstances."

The Aguda leaders claimed that "The only way to encourage Russian Jews to opt for Israel and to remain there is to create a religious absorption atmosphere there, which would establish a spiritual bond between new immigrants and the Holy Land."

#### FIRST WORLD GATHERING OF NAZI CAMP LIBERATORS DUE OCT. 26-28

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- The first international gathering of representatives of the World War II allies who took part in liberating Nazi concentration camps in the spring of 1945 will be held at the State Department Oct. 26-28 under auspices of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, it was announced here.

The Memorial Council, headed by Elie Wiesel, was formed in 1980 as the official federal agency to memorialize the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, as well as the many millions of other victims of the Nazi conquest of Europe.

Delegations from the United States and the other Allied forces who took part in the camp liberations, as well as members of the World War II Jewish Brigade have been invited to participate, according to Miles Lerman of Vineland, N.J. vice-chairman of the Memorial Council and chairman of the conference.

Invitations have been extended to Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Britain, the USSR and Yugoslavia, Lerman said. Plenary sessions Oct. 27 and Oct. 28 will present eyewitness accounts of the liberations by survivors, high-ranking military personnel, doctors, nurses, chaplains, war correspondents, members of war crimes tribunals and historians.

An appeal to all persons present at the liberation of the camps to give their testimonies to Dr. Paul Crawford, director of the Witness to the Holocaust Project at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., was made by Robert Zweiman, Jewish War Veterans commander.



## HEARINGS ON SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM COMMEMORATE BABI YAR MASSACRE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Hearings to increase public awareness of officially-condoned anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union were held on Capitol Hill last week. The hearings, which took place Oct. 6, were designed to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the massacre of more than 33,000 Jews by the Nazis at Babi Yar near Kiev in the Ukraine.

The special hearings were co-chaired by Sens. John Heinz (R. Pa.) and Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.), both commissioners of the Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission). Co-sponsoring organizations were the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) and the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington.

In his opening statement, Heinz said, "As we gather here on this doubly sad day (referring to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and the massacre at Babi Yar on Oct. 6, 1941) there is no question that the repressions of Soviet Jews is the harshest of any time in the last decade."

### Most Disturbing Feature

He told the heavily-attended hearings: "One thing that emerges as more disturbing than anything else. It is not the oppression of Jews who apply for visas for Israel. It is not the rejection of most of the applications, not even the waiting in fear and anguish for years, which is the fate of most Jews who want to leave the country which simply does not accept them as Jews. The ugliest part of the cruel anti-Semitism which today is part of Soviet policy is its unrelenting effort to eradicate every last vestige of Jewish culture and Jewish contribution to the history of the Soviet Union."

Heinz added: "All of us -- Jews and non-Jews, Americans and others throughout the free world -- should recognize and know that this is the most evil and dangerous epidemic, and it is getting worse, not better. Just as the people of the free world did not permit the lesson of Babi Yar to be lost in history, so we will not permit Soviet anti-Semitism to escape our thorough and critical examination."

### USSR Fosters Growth Of Anti-Semitism

Pell, who is a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that while the Soviet Union is a signatory of the Helsinki accords, it "has consistently and flagrantly violated these obligations in its treatment of Soviet Jews."

He stated, "Through its policies and practices, the Soviet government institutes and fosters the growth of anti-Semitism. There are many indications that in recent years discrimination against Jews, particularly in the areas of education and employment, has increased." In addition, Pell said, "the Soviet government has placed further obstacles in the pathway of Jews who desire to emigrate to the West and has increased harassment of those who have been refused exit permits."

Dr. Michael Novak, U.S. Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, was among the scholars, clergymen, and a former refusenik to testify. He emphasized, "The situation for Jews in the Soviet Union is especially bleak at this time."

Dr. William Korey, director of International Policy Research for B'nai B'rith International, echoed warnings by Soviet Jews that this is "a

moment of grave urgency." He quoted from a recent analysis of the Soviet Jewish condition signed by nearly 130 prominent Jewish activists in Moscow and Leningrad which stated: "The Jews of the USSR are facing the threat of a national catastrophe."

Observing that anti-Semitism has become "a form of state policy" in the Soviet Union, Korey declared that as a result, Soviet Jews "find themselves particularly vulnerable" because not only has their institutional life and structure "all but been pulverized" by a drive that began in 1948 and that has continued ever since, but a 90 percent slash in emigration finds them trapped in the Soviet Union. Emigration, he said, "is their only salvation," but with doors all but closed, "agony becomes desperation."

Two Washington clergymen who visited the Soviet Union last year, Rev. John Steinbruck, pastor of the Luther Place Memorial Church, and Father Eugene Brake, Oblate, St. Francis DeSales, Chaplain of the Lorton, Va., Reformatory, described their meetings with Soviet Jews and witnessing signs of their harassment.

Dr. Israel Kugler, national president of Workmen's Circle, told how thousands of Jews thronged to the tiny exhibit booth he manned at the Moscow Book Fair last month, in awe over the Yiddish and Hebrew books displayed. Marcia Weinberg, chairwoman of the Committee on Soviet Jewry of the Greater Washington Jewish Community Council, and Jerry Goodman, executive director of the NCSJ, assisted in questioning the witnesses. The entire proceedings were recorded by the Voice of America for future broadcast.

### SHCHARANSKY STEPS NOW OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Mayor Edward Koch has signed into law a bill naming the spiral stairway at the Isaiah Peace Wall opposite the United Nations in honor of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky. The legislation was initiated by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and was adopted unanimously by the City Council last month.

In signing the bill, Koch declared: "The naming of the Shcharansky Steps will serve as a constant reminder for all New Yorkers and visitors from around the world of the persecution of thousands of men and women like Anatoly Shcharansky who yearn to live their lives in freedom and dignity without religious intolerance."

### GERMAN MOVIE EXTOLS THE PLO

BONN, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- "Die Fälschung" (The Forgery), a film which deals with the situation in Beirut and was photographed with the help of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has opened in West Germany to negative reviews. Made by the Oscar-winning West German director, Volker Schlöndorff, it presents the Christian population of Lebanon in a poor light and is sympathetic to the PLO.

The daily, Die Welt, criticized the film for depicting the Lebanese Christians as being brutal and disgusting while it ignores the military cooperation between the PLO and German neo-Nazis. The newspaper, which has a nationwide circulation, compared Schlöndorff's work to the movie productions in Germany during the Nazi era.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund, for the first time, is cultivating land on the West Bank, it was learned. The area involved is more than 350 acres and the financing was supplied by the World Zionist Organization and the army. The JNF expects to plant crops soon between Mehola and Argaman in the Jordan Valley where new settlements are to be built.