

## SHAMIR: EGYPT HAS NO BASIS FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT THE GOLAN LAW

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last night that there was no reason for a buildup of Egyptian bitterness over the Golan law which was "a legitimate step by Israel" to ensure its security.

Egypt had no reason to complain about Israel because Israel was "doing the giving and Egypt the taking" in the relationship between the two countries, Shamir added in an Israel Radio interview. Israel for its part was dissatisfied with some of Egypt's actions in regard to the normalization process and to "the atmosphere in Cairo today," he said.

Shamir acknowledged in his radio interview that the Golan law would cause difficulties in Israel's foreign relations, notably in relations with the United States. Israel, of course, always did what it could to maintain good relations with Washington, he said, but that consideration could hardly be the sole criterion of government policymaking.

"There is not a total identity of interests -- and the U.S. understands that full well," Shamir said. "Many times over the years ... there were disagreements and misunderstandings. But the friendship between us continued notwithstanding. I am sure that will be the case now, too."

### Israel Ready For Peace With Syria

He said Israel still stood ready "with its hand stretched out towards Syria in peace." Asked what interest Syria's President Hafez Assad now had in negotiating with Israel, Shamir replied that all Israeli governments since 1967 had made it clear that Israel would not "descend from" the Golan -- and that if Assad had the true interests of his country at heart he would seek to obtain peace.

Asked whether he was prepared to attach the "traditional" rider to Israeli peace offers -- negotiation "without preconditions," Shamir replied: "Yes ... definitely." Asked if he could envisage a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights, Shamir responded: "I said without preconditions. Thus the Syrians, in a negotiation, could put forward whatever demands they wished."

### No Connection Between Camp David, Golan Law

The Foreign Minister stressed that there was "no connection" between the Golan law and the negotiations under Camp David. Indeed, it was clear to all concerned at the time of Camp David that Israel and Egypt were in disagreement both over Jerusalem and over the Golan Heights, he said.

The new law, Shamir noted, would give the people living on the Golan -- both Israelis and non-Israelis -- a "sense of permanence and certainty." It would serve to inculcate into the consciousness of the world that "the borders of Eretz Yisrael include the Golan Heights." Israel sought to inform the world "that we will never return to the 1967 lines."

Interviewer Shimon Shiffer asked: "In that case, according to that outlook, it would be as well if Israel applied its law and administration to Judaea and Samaria, too?" Shamir replied: "No -- because Israel signed the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Egypt. It undertook to set up an autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Israel is faithful to its undertakings."

## GOLAN DRUZE RESIDENTS IN A 3-DAY STRIKE TO PROTEST ISRAEL'S ACTION

By Hugh Orgel and David Landau

TEL AVIV, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Most of the nearly 14,000 members of the Golan Heights Druze community, who comprise two-thirds of the total population of the region, today began observing a three-day strike to protest the virtual annexation of the Heights by the imposition of Israeli civil law there.

While the some 7,000 Jews living in 30 villages in the region continued to express their pleasure at the government move, the army was on a higher state of alert in what army sources described as "routine higher defense precautions."

The army made little effort to cover up the increased troop and armor movements on the Golan Heights, with foreign television crews moving about freely recording the activities in the area. From the Israeli side of the border, little evidence of increased Syrian military activity could be seen.

### The New Law In Practice

The actual effect of the new Golan Heights law means that the previous military rule there has now been replaced by the civil law administered throughout the rest of Israel. Certain anomalies are now being removed -- such as the application of a law making compulsory the wearing of seat belts in cars while there was no law making residents take out radio and television licenses.

Israeli identity cards will now be available to all residents asking for them. But no Druze or other residents will be forced to apply for or accept them. Some pro-Israeli Druze had taken out Israeli identity cards in recent months but were forced to return them under pressure from Druze religious leaders who by and large are pro-Syrian.

Representatives of the pro-Israeli Druze have called public meetings to request continuation of military law under which they feel safer. But their move is not supported by many of their co-religionists.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Yosef Burg has signed a regulation in pursuit of the Golan law determining in effect that all military ordinances previously applying to the Golan would retain their validity -- but would now apply on the basis of civilian powers.

Officials said this general regulation was the first of many that the Interior Ministry would have to process and promulgate in the wake of Monday's Knesset action applying the "law, jurisdiction and administration" of Israel to the Golan Heights. Two interdepartmental committees have been set up: one to study the legal aspects and the other the administrative aspects of the change of the Golan's status.



## RABIN OPPOSED TO TIMING, BUT NOT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THE GOLAN MOVE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Israel's juridical annexation of the Golan Heights was criticized here by Yitzhak Rabin who, as Chief of Staff, led its capture by Israeli forces in June 1967.

The former Labor Premier who arrived here on a private visit Monday, said yesterday he had no idea that the Begin government was planning to rush legislation through the Knesset later the same day and that if he had been present in the Knesset he would not have supported the government move.

Rabin made clear, however, that while he opposed the timing of the move, he did not quarrel with it in principle. "As a former Premier," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "I say that the Golan Heights must be part of Israel and that even in a Syrian-Israeli peace treaty Israel should not go down from them."

However, annexing them now was not a priority especially in view of the "question marks over the Reagan Administration's attitude towards the Camp David accords as the sole basis to a solution of the Middle East dispute," Rabin said.

Instead of antagonizing both the U.S. and Egypt, Israel should have called for a tripartite summit with them in February to discuss what would happen after Israel completed its evacuation of Sinai in April, he said.

The timing of this week's move did not help to strengthen the Camp David accords, even though there was a "national consensus" for Israel to keep control of the Golan Heights, Rabin stated. He added that the result would be that "Egypt and the United States might be angry and will have to swallow it."

## EVRON: NO HINT FROM REAGAN ADMINISTRATION OF REPRISALS BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S ACTION ON THE GOLAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron maintained last night that there has been "no hint" from the Reagan Administration of a possibility that the United States might delay arms shipments to Israel because of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. He said he hoped that the current situation would not be a setback in United States-Israel relations but would instead "strengthen" those relations.

Evron, who spoke to reporters after meeting for 90 minutes with Secretary of State Alexander Haig at the State Department, would not reveal what position the United States will take at the United Nations Security Council debate today on the issue, as outlined to him by Haig. However, it has been reported that the United States will support a resolution condemning the Israeli action as illegal but that it does not call for any sanctions. (Separate story P. 3.)

Evron said that during the meeting, he outlined the Israeli position as it was given to the Knesset Monday by Premier Menachem Begin. Haig then gave the United States position on the action, Evron said. The envoy said that the Israeli action was not a violation of Security Council Resolution 242, as the United States has declared. "We do not think so," he said, "otherwise we would not have done it."

Evron insisted that "the Syrians cannot have it both ways." He said that, on one hand, the Syrians have never accepted Resolution 242 and have called for war against Israel. On the other hand, they are now accusing Israel of violating 242, he said.

Evron maintained that the Israeli action "couldn't have been too much of a surprise." He pointed out that every Israeli government since 1967 had declared its determination to retain the Golan Heights. Asked why it was done now, he said because it was felt that this was the "proper" time, and he noted that whenever Israel would have taken the action, it would have been criticized.

However, when asked if the Israeli action was annexation of the Golan Heights, or an extension of Israeli law to the area, Evron advised reporters to read the law. The Knesset Monday approved that "the law, jurisdiction and administration of the State shall apply to the Golan Heights." But another Israel Embassy official said the Knesset action could not be considered annexation because Israel already occupied the area.

## State Department Refuses To Comment

At the State Department today, spokesman Dean Fischer continued to refuse to comment on whether the U.S. considered the Israeli action an annexation or an extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

Fischer said that Haig, in his talks to Evron last night and with Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal earlier in the day, expressed "our deep concern over this development." He refused to comment any further on the situation, noting that the U.S. was engaged in consultations on the issue at the UN in New York at the present time.

Fischer said that he had not heard any suggestions that Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands will now refuse to serve in the Sinai peacekeeping force because of Israel's actions. He said that the statement yesterday by the European Economic Community Foreign Ministers condemning Israeli action on the Golan "speaks for itself."

## FRANCE OFFICIALLY CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S GOLAN ACTION

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- France today formally condemned Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights but official sources said that President Francois Mitterrand will not cancel or postpone his forthcoming official state visit to Israel in February.

An official communique released here after the French Cabinet's meeting said "The government denounces the Israeli initiative as contrary to international law and United Nations Resolutions on the subject." Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, who recently returned from a 25-hour visit to Israel, said after the Cabinet meeting, "The (Israeli) Annexation is unacceptable. We can do nothing but condemn it."

The official French condemnation came in the wake of a public protest voiced by the Arab League's representative in Paris, Mohammed Yazid, an Algerian diplomat well known in French political and intellectual circles since the time of the Franco-Algerian war. He accused France of having "encouraged Israel (to annex the Golan) by its complacency, lack of condemnation and double language."

In France itself practically all major political parties and even some Jewish organizations have condemned or protested against the Israeli move. The secretary general of the French Socialist Party, Lionel Jospin, who is known for his close ties with Israel, said the Israeli move was "an error and a mistake which will not serve the cause of peace."



The Gaullists headed by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, who generally openly courts the Jewish electorate, said the annexation "is contrary to the needs of a peaceful solution." Several trade unions, including the non-Communists, also condemned the Knesset decision. Two Jewish organizations with close links to Israel's Mapam Party, the Circle Bernard Lazare and Michmar, also released communiques regretting the move.

#### BLUM: ISRAEL'S ACTION ON THE GOLAN WAS NEEDED TO 'REGULARIZE THE SITUATION' THERE IN FACE OF SYRIA'S NO-PEACE POLICY WITH ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Israel told the Security Council today that Israel's decision to apply its laws to the Golan Heights was needed "to regularize the situation" there in the face of Syrian determination to perpetuate its no-peace policy with the Jewish State.

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, speaking at the opening of the Security Council meeting, which was called into urgent session by Syria, recalled repeated Syrian declarations against peace with Israel and the mounting military threat to Israel by the Syrian control over Lebanon, Syria's tightened links with Libya and its incitement of the Druze population on the Golan Heights.

"There is a limit to how long any country can live under such threats, particularly military threats backed up not only by a sizable arsenal but also the political will to use it. For 14 years, Israelis and the Druze inhabitants of the Golan Heights have lived well together there. All daily life on the Golan Heights, both of the Israeli residents and the Druze inhabitants, is with Israel," Blum said.

The envoy continued: "The authorities on the Golan Heights, military and civilian, are Israelis. They certainly cannot wait a hundred years and more as the Syrian Foreign Minister would wish in order to register births, marriages and deaths." The Syrian Foreign Minister, Blum recalled, suggested at the recent Arab summit at Fez that the Arabs should wait 100 years or more until Israel is weakened, and then the Arabs could act.

At the conclusion of his speech Blum appealed to Syria "to start negotiations with us directly with a view to achieving an agreed settlement on all outstanding issues between our two countries, including the question of the international boundary."

#### Syria Calls For Voiding Israel's Move

Syria, which opened today's debate, urged the Security Council to declare Israel's annexation measures on the Golan Heights "null and void" and to demand that the Israeli government rescind the move.

Syrian Ambassador Dia-Allah El-Fattal, charged that by annexing the Golan Heights, Israel had flagrantly violated international law. He said that the annexation followed the strategic cooperation agreement signed recently between the U.S. and Israel, America's "favorite surrogate." He said the Israeli action was part of the process of "colonization" launched by Israel in June 1967, with the outbreak of the Six-Day War.

Ambassador Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid of Egypt told the Council that the Israeli action directly

contradicted the framework of peace on which the Camp David accords were based, and posed a serious challenge to the prospects of stability and the peace process in the Middle East. The action, he said, ran counter to Security Council Resolution 242 and also violated the disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria.

Meguid said that the peace sought by Israel could not but remain an unfulfilled illusion in the face of her annexation and "colonization" of Arab territory. On the contrary, such actions would raise the psychological barrier even higher and heighten animosity, he said.

Stressing the need to resist acts which threatened the prospects of peace and peaceful coexistence among peoples and states in the region, he urged Israel to rescind the measure it had taken. The peace between Israel and Egypt was a genuine breakthrough, said Meguid. Israel now had to live up to the challenge of peace, he said.

#### U.S. Not Likely To Support Call For Sanctions

Meanwhile, reliable sources here said that the U.S. is not likely to support any draft resolution calling for sanctions against Israel or leading toward such an eventuality. The U.S., along with other members of the Council, is also against a provision in a preliminary draft, which was circulated here today, calling on Israel to immediately rescind its action regarding the Golan Heights and "not later than one week from the adoption of the resolution," the sources said.

According to the sources, the U.S. refuses to be "chained" by the timing of the resolution and would prefer reconsideration of the matter in January. If the Arabs persist in calling for sanctions against Israel, the U.S. is likely to veto the resolution, the sources said. The debate is expected to be concluded by Friday.

#### ISRAEL MIGHT CHECK INFLATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Israel might -- with luck -- be able to keep its inflation rate for calendar year 1981 down to two digits, economic experts said today after publication of official inflation figures for November.

The November figure was 5.8 percent, bringing the 12-month total for November-to-November to 103.6 percent. But the December-to-December figure may be below 100 percent if the government succeeds in maintaining the present slight downward trend, these experts said.

Based on the November figure, government officials issued tables for cost of living increments to be paid to all wage and salary earners on their January salaries to cover the October-to-December quarter. The C.O.L. increase is 17.8 percent. Tax brackets and child allowances are also adjusted according to the C.O.L. index.

Histadrut secretary general Yeruham Meshel said the monthly inflation figure was no longer a true reflection of the state of the economy because the government was using artificial means to keep it down.

More indicative and much more worrying to the Histadrut, said Meshel, was the unemployment figure: November showed a 14 percent rise in the number of unemployed over the previous month. Some 40,000 people sought work at labor exchanges during that month, the highest for the whole of 1981.



**SPECIAL TO THE JTA  
FIRST EFFORT UNDER JEWISH  
AUSPICES TO PROBE PRICE GOUGING  
IN THE SALE OF KOSHER PRODUCTS**  
By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- The first effort under Jewish organizational auspices to investigate and publicize price gouging in the sale of kosher products is now underway, Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel, sponsor of the Kashruth Consumer Protective Commission, reported today.

Formation of the new commission was authorized by delegates at the 64th annual convention last June of Young Israel, a national association of Orthodox synagogues.

Jacobs announced the appointment of Samuel Feinberg, a semi-retired New York attorney, to head the board. Jacobs said the commission had set up its first subcommittee, which was given the assignment of investigating charges of huge price jumps for kosher foods specifically before and during holiday seasons. In recent years this has been one of the most widely voiced complaints of observant homemakers.

He said the commission was seeking a professional investigator and administrator, with expertise in the economics of the household products industry, to direct the commission's work. Feinberg, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that initially the commission's work would be limited to the Greater New York area.

"Once we have established our credibility, we will go where the facts lead us," Feinberg said. He pledged to the kosher products industry that its manufacturers, wholesalers and vendors would receive a fair hearing on complaints -- which he said the commission already was receiving.

**Consequences Of Price Gauging**

Both Jacobs and Feinberg stressed, in their statements to the JTA, that the commission would have nothing to do with kosher certification, a rabbinic procedure. Steinberg said the board includes lawyers, biochemists, businessmen and Jews generally concerned with the escalating prices of kosher products which have forced many kashrut observers to give up keeping kosher because of the constantly mounting prices at the retail level.

"We have issued a special appeal to all Young Israel members to call to our attention specific instances of kosher pricing policies which may require the attention of the commission," Feinberg told the JTA, but he added that "We will not necessarily wait for a consumer complaint before we move into the situation."

He was reminded that last October, New York State Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, (D, Manhattan) an Orthodox Jew who is chairman of the Assembly Agriculture Subcommittee on Food Products, said that he was considering such an investigation. However, Silver has not taken action on that announcement. Feinberg commented that the Young Israel commission "would welcome all cooperation" from Silver.

Feinberg agreed that the commission faced at least two major problems as it moved "slowly but steadily" into carrying out its mandate.

Since this is the first probe of its kind, the commission has no guidelines in developing its program and in effect will be pioneering each step in implementing its mandate.

The other is that while the Young Israel commission has no subpoena powers to compel testimony by any elements of the industry, it has a tool of considerable clout -- publicity on abuses -- but one that carries a very considerable peril: lawsuits for damages stemming from its planned policy to report to the observant public any findings of price abuse.

**Promises Fairness And Justice**

Feinberg agreed that publicizing abuses, though a potent tool, carried the threat of such lawsuits. He said that, apart from that danger, the commission was determined to develop a reputation for fairness and justice. He said "we must be sure of our facts before we publicize a situation of price unfairness," adding, "We will give to the merchant or producer the same publicity as we hope to give to the violator of the code of morality and decency in this vital field to observant Jews."

In emphasizing that the commission's scope excluded questions of certification, Feinberg said the commission will not accept cases involving questionable kosher certification. He said "our interest is entirely in the economics of the industry. Jews with questions about the kashrut of a given product will be referred to their rabbi."

Jacobs said the commission is working out of the Manhattan offices of the Young Israel and, for the time being, had no budget. Its expenses are being met from Young Israel organizational operating funds.

**ARAFAT REBUFFED BY ITALY**

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Dec. 16 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat, rebuffed by the Italian government, has reversed his decision to attend the International Convention on Jerusalem being held here Dec. 15-17. Arafat was invited by the Italian-Arab Friendship Association but the government made it clear that no official invitation would be forthcoming.

That position was taken despite approaches to Italian political figures by Emo Egoli, head of the Friendship Association. Egoli's telegram to President Sandro Pertini on Arafat's behalf went unanswered. To date, only the leader of the Italian Communist Party, Enrico Berlinguer, agreed to a colloquium with Arafat in Rome. Nehmer Ammad, the PLO representative here, reportedly feels this is not enough to warrant a visit.

According to the Milan daily Il Giornale Nuovo, Arafat hoped to use his presence at the Rome conclave to seek recognition of the PLO which Italy does not wish to grant at this point. Apparently, to save face the PLO leader has advanced his scheduled visit to Greece by one month. By being in Athens from Dec. 14-16, he will thus be "unable" to attend the Jerusalem convention in Rome.

Greece is the first member-state of the European Economic Community and the second NATO nation to officially invite Arafat. He visited Portugal, a member of NATO, two years ago.

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REHOVOT (JTA) -- Twenty scientists from 14 countries participated in a two-week international laboratory training course on Molecular and Cellular Aspects of Antigenicity at the Weizmann Institute of Science.