

## AIDE TO CEAUDESCU TO MEET WITH BEGIN AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Vassily Pugnan, an aide to President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania, is due here this week for talks with Premier Menachem Begin and other government officials. It was announced today. He has visited Israel in the past on special missions for Ceausescu.

Israel Radio said today that Pugnan would see Begin privately and would also meet with economic ministers about increasing trade between the two countries. Begin visited Rumania shortly after he took office in 1977. He and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt later affirmed that Ceausescu had played a behind-the-scenes role in Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and peace initiative in November, 1977.

In September, 1979, Pugnan visited Israel on a mission for the Rumanian President. A Kuwait newspaper claimed at the time that his purpose was to set up a secret meeting between Begin and President Hafez Assad of Syria. Begin acknowledged later that Ceausescu had been interested in engineering such a contact but there had been "no change" in Syria's position as a result of his efforts.

## SHAMIR URGES ACTION TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY IN POLAND

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir today called on democratic countries to "act together to defend democracy" which was being "cruelly trampled" in Poland.

In a statement on behalf of Israel's government, Shamir told the Knesset that Israel, although small and beset with problems of its own, was a member of the democratic camp and therefore concerned about events in Poland. "The democratic world must mobilize to help Poland," Shamir urged.

He noted that the Jewish people had its own long and checkered history of relations with the Poles, including the "active aid by many Poles to the Nazis during the Holocaust." "But I am not here to make that calculation today," the Foreign Minister said. His statement was in response to weeks of pressure from the Labor Alignment opposition on the government to speak out on the crisis in Poland following the imposition of martial law there three weeks ago.

## BRZEZINSKI: U.S. JEWS EXERCIZED LEGITIMATE RIGHT IN PRESSURING THE ADMINISTRATION ON FOREIGN POLICY

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Advisor in the Carter Administration, said yesterday that the American Jewish community was exercising "a legitimate and traditional" right when it put pressure on the Administration in foreign policy matters. Brzezinski spoke in reply to questions on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program.

He was asked if the "American Jewish lobby" throws U.S. foreign policy "out of kilter" and if it was "really a problem." He replied:

"This is a legitimate and traditional part of American society ... There are other groups that are also well organized, well educated and wealthy. This is something which need not be swept under the rug as if it didn't exist ... We have to accept it as part of the traditional American political reality."

Referring to the Middle East, Brzezinski stressed that the Camp David process still offers a "tested way" to peace. Asked if he thought Israel would annex the West Bank as it did the Golan Heights, he said: "I think there is a risk that unless the U.S. makes its commitment to the Camp David process unambiguously clear, there may be some elements in Israel -- I hope very much a minority -- that might be tempted to annex the West Bank and Gaza."

He added that the U.S. must "provide the kind of mediation that is necessary and without which the Arabs and Israelis on their own can never resolve their differences."

## INDEFINITE CURFEW IMPOSED ON RAFAH

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- An indefinite curfew was imposed on Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip last night after a demonstration by local youths protesting the introduction of a civilian administration by the Israeli authorities. Meanwhile, the army lifted a curfew on the Druze village of Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights but continued an intensive search for two terrorists believed to have infiltrated the territory from Syria.

Tension has been running high in the Gaza Strip since Defense Minister Ariel Sharon separated the military from the civilian administration a month ago. The local population saw the move as the beginning of unilateral autonomy aimed at perpetuating Israel's control of the territory. A protest demonstration last month ended in a clash with Israeli troops in which a Rafah youth was shot.

The situation in Rafah is aggravated by the fact that the old international boundary line between Israel and Egypt runs through the town as a result of its expansion since it was occupied by Israel in 1967. This is expected to create new tension when Israel returns Sinai to Egypt next April.

In another development, one Ghanaian soldier was killed Saturday night and another was severely injured when a new outpost they were manning in southern Lebanon came under automatic fire. Both men were part of the Ghanaian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). They are believed to have been attacked by Palestinians. Since UNIFIL was formed in March, 1978, 71 soldiers have been killed, including three from Ghana.

## LABOR ALIGNMENT DOWNS JOIN NON-ALIGNED LEFTISTS AND LIBERALS TO FORM A NEW GROUP TO COUNTER ALIGNMENT'S DRIFT TO THE RIGHT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Labor Alignment doves, concerned by what they see as a drift to the right within the party, have joined with non-aligned leftist and liberal elements to form a group to counter that trend. It is called "Ometz" which means courage and is an acronym for political Zionist opposition that could emerge eventually as a new

political faction. It was promptly dismissed by Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres as of no importance. But Peres said he would wait and see if it turned into a political party before reacting. He indicated that he had no objections to a philosophical study group within Labor ranks but warned against political action that might split the Labor movement.

But Yossi Sarid, a doveish Labor MK, told a press conference yesterday that Labor was already badly divided and confused and the new group was necessary because the Begin government is too dangerous to leave unopposed. He said the decision to form "Ometz" followed "the shameful behavior of the Labor Party over the Golan bill."

Sarid was referring to the Labor MKs who voted in favor of the Likud-sponsored bill to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights on December 14 despite a party decision to abstain.

Yair Zaban of Mapam told the press conference that too many Laborites were moving to the right because they interpreted Likud's election victory last June as evidence that the electorate was moving to the right. "In the swamp of nationalism, clericalism and social conservatism, Begin is king," Zaban said. Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights Movement said that in the present climate "Those who call themselves humanist Zionists or social democrats cannot get their views heard."

#### U.S. WELCOMES EGYPT'S PURCHASE OF JET COMBAT AIRCRAFT FROM FRANCE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- The U.S. gave its blessing today to Egypt's purchase of 20 advanced Mirage-2000 jet combat aircraft from France. The \$1 billion deal, financed by the French government, was announced in Cairo yesterday by Egyptian Defense Minister Abdel-Halim Ghazala at a joint press conference with visiting French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said today: "We have long recognized that Egypt's need for military equipment went far beyond that which we have ourselves been able to provide from our own military assistance program. To the extent that Egypt can further its efforts to replace a portion of its ageing Soviet military equipment with assistance from others, this is a development which we welcome and which will complement our own efforts to be of assistance."

Fischer added that there was "no conflict between our own program to supply F-16s to Egypt and the reported sale of M-2000 Mirage aircraft. The report from Cairo said that 100 Egyptian pilots and mechanics would go to France this year to gain experience on the Alpha jet ground support planes Egypt contracted to buy from France last year."

#### No Comment On Iraqi Report

Fischer said he would not comment on an Iraqi report that Israeli jets violated Iraqi air space yesterday for the second time in recent days, but added, "I don't have any information to suggest that they (the Israelis) did not do it." He went on to say that "our views have been made known to the Israelis. We regard overflights such as this as unhelpful and quite likely to contribute to tensions in the area." Israel has refused to confirm or deny the Iraqi report.

With respect to other matters, Fischer said it was up to President Reagan to decide whether

to appoint a high level American negotiator for the Middle East and noted that "up to now he has not made that decision." Fischer noted that the U.S. Ambassadors to Israel and Egypt, Samuel Lewis and Alfred Atherton, respectively, who have been representing the U.S. at the Israeli-Egyptian autonomy talks, are coming to Washington and will probably meet with Reagan this week.

He could not confirm reports that Secretary of State Alexander Haig will visit the Middle East after attending a NATO meeting in Brussels on January 11.

#### Can't Comment On Saudi Plan

Fischer said the State Department "noted" an interview with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal al-Saud, published in The New York Times yesterday. "I can't characterize our comment other than to note that we remain in close consultation with the Saudis on the overall issues of the Middle East," he said. According to the interview, the Saudi minister said his country's proposed plan includes acceptance of Israel on condition that it withdraws from all occupied Arab territory and recognizes Palestinian rights.

The State Department spokesman dismissed questions about how the U.S. would vote in the UN Security Council when it resumes debate tomorrow for sanctions against Israel. "It's a little premature to speculate. We don't know what the resolution will be. Based on press reports, we assume there will be one but we have not seen it," he said.

#### BONN HESITANT ABOUT VISIT TO ISRAEL BY GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- The Bonn government is hesitating over a visit to Israel by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher which was announced several months ago although no date was set. Informed diplomatic sources indicated that a decision will be influenced by whether President Francois Mitterrand of France goes ahead with his scheduled trip to Israel next month.

French sources said last month that Mitterrand would postpone his trip to dramatize France's displeasure over Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. The Foreign Ministry in Paris would neither confirm nor deny those reports but hinted that the President would wait until the Golan issue cooled down to announce the postponement so as not to overly embarrass the Israeli government.

Some officials here want to keep diplomatic and political contacts with Israel at a low level. Their position was strengthened by Israel's Golan move. Others argue that this would mean deepening the rift between the two countries. Most diplomats agree that if Mitterrand goes to Israel, Genscher could not afford not to go there too.

But diplomatic sources made it clear that a visit to Israel by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is out of the question. Schmidt has a standing invitation from Israel, first extended seven years ago to the Chancellor of West Germany by then Premier Yitzhak Rabin. But Schmidt was the target of a bitter personal attack by Premier Menachem Begin during his campaign for reelection last spring.

Nevertheless, Bonn-Israel relations took a turn for the better last week when the director general of the Foreign Ministry held talks in Jerusalem. They were described here as friendly and helpful. The issues covered included the Golan annexation and Israel's relations with the European Economic Community.

## BACKGROUND REPORT A TENACIOUS DEFENSE MINISTER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, known as "Arik" to friends and foes alike, has been likened to a bulldozer, pushing everything aside to get where it wants to go. Like the American World War II General, George Patton, Sharon is acknowledged by supporters and detractors to be a brilliant field general but a man whose abrasive character has antagonized more people than have been attracted by his successes on the battlefield.

It is these attributes of general disregard for superiors and inferiors which has barred Sharon from the advancement within the army he has sought all his life -- to the top post of Chief of Staff.

Even under the Labor governments, it was his personality more than his politics which blocked his way to the top; and it was his character that shunted him into the Ministry of Agriculture in the first Likud government, rather than the post of Defense Minister he coveted.

But now, with the Defense Ministry portfolio in his hands as reward for the major role he played in returning Menachem Begin to power for a second term, his abrasive character and bulldozer tactics have again caused trouble, this time with his own Defense Ministry employees.

### Reforms Are Long Overdue

Many of the reforms he is now seeking to implement in the defense establishment, streamlining operations and avoiding unnecessary duplication between the civilian ministry and the military General Headquarters, are generally acknowledged to be healthy and long-overdue.

It is the method by which he has sought to implement his reorganization rather than the reorganization itself which created the tension that has degenerated into outright hostility, strikes or labor sanctions in a ministry which has never experienced such upsets in over 30 years of its history.

In addition to his reorganization plans, Sharon intended to bring in outside aides, without consulting the workers committees or informing them in advance. His choice of Arye Genger, a former Israeli living in the U.S. where he made his fortune and adopted American citizenship was announced by Sharon without warning that Genger was arriving immediately to take up a post as personal aide with responsibility for centralizing all arms sales abroad.

Sharon may have gotten away with his choice and even turned it into an example of "soul-saving and bringing home a yored" if he had used proper public relations. But Sharon simply does not believe in consulting the hired help. Consequently, he annoyed and antagonized many devoted employees with years of hard and often underpaid service who would have liked an opportunity to be considered for such a plum job.

Genger resigned from his well-paying job in the U.S., rented out his New York apartment and came to Israel, only to announce a few days later that the local opposition to him made it impossible for him to accept the job for which he came.

The Defense Ministry and Army Staff reorganization plans drawn up by Sharon were announced by the Defense Ministry spokesman as covering three main fields. These involved the consolidation

of the Army's quartermaster branch and the Defense Ministry's purchasing and procurement directorate; integration of the two units' research and development facilities; and a joint project administration for production of the Lavie jet-fighter aircraft.

In addition, the Defense Ministry's European purchasing mission, based in Paris, would be combined with the Army's purchasing mission and placed under command of the military attache at the Embassy in Paris. A similar consolidation is also planned in North America.

Most of these consolidation moves put the civilian installations under the command of army officers -- a reversal of the customary subordination of the military to overall civilian control Sharon's opponents charged. Sharon himself tried his very best to explain that the opposite was the case, that he was only trying to tighten up civilian control by concentrating power in his own hands as Minister responsible for the civilian ministry and with parliamentary responsibility for Army General Headquarters.

Angered by Sharon's complete disregard of their feelings, the Defense Ministry's workers committee started a series of "labor sanctions" which they threatened to escalate into a full strike, for the first time in the history of Israel, if Sharon persisted in implementing of his reorganization plans. They instructed the head of the civilian purchasing mission in Paris not to cooperate with the Army General who Sharon sent to the French capital to implement his integration plans.

Zvi Allon, the head of the Paris ministerial office, has now agreed to leave his post in March rather than in June as planned, and has agreed to hand over authority to the Military Attache before he goes.

### Claims Moves Would Save Millions Of Dollars

In an address to the Knesset in reply to opposition motions criticizing his plans, Sharon explained that his moves would have saved the country millions of dollars and would have resulted in greater efficiency of both the army and the Defense Ministry. Observers admit this may be true, and that much of the reorganization program is long overdue.

But this does not soften the criticism, still expressed, of Sharon's methods and his personal relationships with equals and inferiors. Neither does it do anything to lessen fears that Sharon's almost dictatorial attitudes could, at some time in the future, represent the greatest threat to Israeli democracy. Critics recall that it was Begin who once summoned up the bogey of Sharon ordering tanks to surround the Cabinet office.

### A Major Testing Time

The next few months will be a major testing time for Sharon, both as regards his relations with his civilian staff and his political future and general popularity. The first test will come next April for it is Sharon, as Minister of Defense, who will be responsible for implementing the final withdrawal from Sinai.

It will be Sharon who will order -- or refrain from ordering -- the Chief of Staff to use force to evacuate settlers from Yamit, if they refuse to move of their own accord. Until now, Sharon has repeatedly appealed to his Cabinet colleagues to show restraint, not to force the issue now but to wait until April before deciding whether to move the Yamit residents and the squatters, who have joined them.

Although Sharon's popularity in public opinion polls is among the highest at the moment, his high standing might not survive an order for Jewish soldiers to move Jewish settlers by force if necessary. A decline in popularity might prejudice Sharon's chances of becoming

ing Prime Minister if Begin steps down for any reason. Sharon still most definitely has his eye on the Premiership.

#### REFERENCES TO JEWS VIRTUALLY BANNED IN CZECH, SLOVAK BOOKS

LONDON, Jan. 4 (JTA) — References to the pre-World War II Jewish community of Czechoslovakia has been almost completely banned in publications dealing with the nation's general literary and local histories, and in major comprehensive reference books published during the last 25 years, it was reported by the London-based International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia.

An order placed last year by the Council with a prominent West German bookseller specializing in Central and East European books, requesting material from Czechoslovakia containing material about its Jewish community, has been returned to the Council with the comment:

"In the case of publications that have appeared in the late 1950's and now, there is no trace of a reference to Jews of any substance, nor do indices of such publications provide a lead for this specific subject."

The Council had ordered a number of standard works covering the period of the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia and local histories of towns which in the pre-war period of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Carpatho-Russia had a substantial Jewish population and a number of Jewish institutions.

#### CUBA, PLO IN JOINT VENTURE ON FILM DEALING WITH PALESTINIANS

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA) — A film dealing with the Palestinian people has been co-produced by the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television and the Palestine Liberation Organization, it was announced in Granma, the official organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The paper, produced in English in Havana, said the film, "El camino de la tierra" (The Road of the Earth), "skillfully depicts the tragedy of a people displaced from their land and forced to wander throughout the world." The film includes an interview with PLO chief Yasir Arafat "and men and children who have been victims of Zionist crimes," the paper added. The film had its premiere recently in Havana.

#### REPORT WILDLIFE HAS BEEN HARMED IN SOUTH SINAI SINCE ISRAEL RETURNED THE AREA TO EGYPT

By Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA) — Avraham Yoffi, head of the Nature Reserves Authority, says that great harm has been done to wildlife in Sinai since the southern part was handed back to Egypt nearly two years ago.

In a weekend radio interview he said that the gazelles had been decimated by Bedouin hunters, due to lack of government supervision, and the wonderful coral reefs at Ras Muhammed had been ruined by Egyptian fishermen using dynamite to capture fish.

Yoffi said that for the 14 years of Israeli occupation of the region Israel had sought to maintain strictly Egyptian law on these matters, placing personnel at the disposal of the Authority. But the Egyptians had failed to do so. Yoffi said he had discussed this with the Egyptians and other Arab officials even before the peace treaty, at international forums.

"For 14 years we retained a lot of people who were busy in saving and protecting the coral and fish under water and in great measure we succeeded," Yoffi said. But the Egyptians did nothing to follow through on this.

"We had a big fight with the people who are collecting marine turtle eggs — the turtles who have their nests on the shore ... we enforced Egyptian law about the quail — in September the quail come from the north and are trapped on the beach in nets," he said.

"In the last 14 years the gazelles have travelled in great numbers and the ibex moved on the mountains, as well as lots of other beasts and birds who got along well, including foxes and hyenas."

Yoffi said much research material on nature preservation in Sinai had been sent to Egypt, but the Cairo authorities had done nothing to halt the vandalism in the areas they had reoccupied.

#### UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA LAUNCHES NATIONAL PARK IN GALILEE

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA) — The United Synagogue of America has launched a major project to establish a national park of Israel at Safed in the Galilee. It was announced by Marshall Wolke, president of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational arm of Conservative Judaism. The action was approved by the recent biennial convention of the United Synagogue. The park, being established as a Jewish National Fund project, will be a multifaceted study and recreational center and will be located on 300 acres. Wolke said that the more than 840 affiliated congregations in the U.S. and Canada will help raise funds for the park which, he added, "will be a major oasis of calm and natural beauty in a region where the JNF is expected to establish 30 new agro-industrial settlements." The United Synagogue National Park of Israel also will contain a Conservative movement synagogue, a study hall for congregational seminars, groves and gardens.

Wolke said that for centuries the Galilee was the home of Talmudic scholars and Jewish mystics, including viable settlements and that this project met the spiritual feelings of the Conservative movement; to establish a study center as well as contribute to the Jewish state by building up the Galilee which has remained underpopulated by Jews and which has lacked sufficient community facilities and services.

#### NAOR SUBMITS HIS RESIGNATION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA) — Arye Naor announced that he has submitted his resignation as Cabinet Secretary, a post he has held for nearly five years, to Premier Menachem Begin. He said he asked to be relieved of his duties next April but denied that his resignation was connected in any way with a disciplinary hearing on charges that he leaked secret information to a European journalist to obtain a newspaper job had the Likud government been defeated in the Knesset elections last June.

A complaint was filed against Naor by syndicated cartoonist Roshan Lurie who works for the Times of London and was previously employed by the West German news-magazine Die Welt. Lurie alleged that Naor leaked to him secret information about a conversation between former President Jimmy Carter and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in an effort to persuade Lurie to help him get a job on Die Welt. Naor has denied the charges and contends that the "secret information" had in fact been published weeks earlier in the Israeli daily Maariv. Naor is a staunch Herut loyalist. It was rumored here today that he would be succeeded by another Herut loyalist, Jerusalem lawyer Dan Meridor.