

## ISRAEL IS IN NO HURRY TO RESPOND TO FOUR WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON THEIR PARTICIPATING IN SINAI FORCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA) — Israel is expected to accept, eventually, the participation of Britain, France, Italy and Holland in the Sinai peacekeeping force. But for the present, it is in no hurry to respond to the letters received from the four powers last week reiterating their offer.

The letters were not discussed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting although it had been expected that they would be. Officials said they "could wait" until next week. They noted that the Europeans had taken five weeks to draft their letters and promised that Israel would not wait that long to reply.

The correspondence developed because the four European countries, after agreeing to participate in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) last November, issued statements linking this to the 1980 Venice declaration by the European Economic Community (EEC) ministers. Israel had rejected the declaration because, among other things, it called for association of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Mideast peace process.

Israel insisted that the European powers conform to an Israeli-U.S. joint statement of December 3, 1981 affirming the Camp David agreements as the sale basis for the MFO. The letters received here last week by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche were clearly an effort to mollify Israel on this. While the European powers do not explicitly endorse the December statement, their letters imply acceptance of its key principle: that the MFO's functions are strictly as determined and defined in the relevant Israeli-Egyptian agreements.

Although Premier Menachem Begin might seek further "clarifications" from the Europeans, observers here are confident that Israel will agree to their participation in the MFO, but in its own good time.

## REPORT EGYPT AGREES TO ALLOW ISRAELIS TO REMOVE STRUCTURES FROM SINAI AFTER AREA IS RETURNED IN APRIL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (JTA) — Israel Radio reported today that Egypt has agreed to a proposal by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, presently visiting Cairo, that would allow Israel to remove structures and equipment from northern Sinai after the region is formally returned to Egypt next April 26. Under terms of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, all Israeli civilians must be out of the area by the time Israel makes its final withdrawal.

If the report is confirmed, the government would be relieved of the immediate problem of dismantling installations and equipment in the face of resistance from militant settlers and squatters who are trying to block withdrawal from Sinai. In order to avoid a possibly violent confrontation, the government agreed last week to halt the dismantling process.

An Egyptian concession on this matter would allow the government to wait until the settlers and squatters have been removed before resuming the

work. Sharon has made other proposals, though none in the form of an ultimatum, according to Israeli reporters accompanying the Defense Minister. The most important of these, from Israel's security viewpoint, is to have the Sinai international peacekeeping force patrol the islands of Tiran and Sinafir in the Straits of Tiran after they are evacuated by Israel. The islands, commanding access to the Gulf of Aqaba and the Israeli port of Eilat, belonged to Saudi Arabia and were ceded to Egypt before Israel captured them in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel fears that Saudi Arabia will insist on their return once Egypt regains control and that the Egyptians might accede. The islands are included on the maps of Sinai affixed to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. But they are not specifically named in the zone to be patrolled by the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), after Israel's withdrawal. The Israelis believe this may have been an oversight. So far, the Egyptians have insisted that they would patrol the islands, noting that the MFO areas apply only to the Sinai mainland.

Sharon has also suggested that the town of Rafah, which lies astride the old international boundary between Israel and Egypt, be designated either a part of Sinai or a part of the Gaza Strip. He said this was the only practical and "humane" way to deal with the problem since the boundary line runs through houses, making some rooms part of Egypt and others part of the Gaza Strip which is controlled by Israel. He said if the Egyptians do not agree to his proposal, houses and streets would have to be divided by a wall to prevent smuggling and infiltration.

## HAIG PROMISES TO RAISE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWS, PARTICULARLY SHCHARANSKY, WHEN HE MEETS GROMYKO

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA) — Secretary of State Alexander Haig has promised to raise the question of Soviet Jewry, and specifically the case of Anatoly Shcharansky when he meets with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva later this month.

Haig made that pledge at a meeting with Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir here last Thursday before returning to Washington. Following the meeting, he met briefly with Shcharansky's wife, Avital. Sources here said Begin had pressed Haig for a commitment as a means of publicly demonstrating America's concern with the issue.

At their meeting, Begin and Shamir described the general situation of Soviet Jews and the sharp drop in emigration permits issued them during the past year. Shcharansky, a Jewish activist arrested in 1978, is in the fifth year of a 13-year prison term for alleged treason and anti-Soviet activity.

## Haig To Return To The Mideast

Shamir told the Cabinet yesterday that Haig would return to the Middle East on January 28 for another attempt to impart some impetus to the

lagging autonomy negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Israeli sources expect him to present proposals of his own aimed at bridging the gap between the two countries. Haig said he would do this when he left Israel last Friday. He said his suggestions would be based on his assessment of the positions of both sides and would be offered as "a partner" to the negotiations.

Shamir said his talks with Haig indicated that the basic friendship between Washington and Jerusalem has not eroded despite the recent dispute over Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. On the contrary, Shamir said, there was every indication that Washington wants to improve relations.

### Complaints About Egypt Dragging Its Feet

Shamir said the Egyptians were not especially anxious to press ahead with the autonomy talks before Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai next April 26, while, according to the Foreign Minister, Israel is anxious to make progress toward an agreement. Shamir and other ministers complained that Egypt was dragging its feet on some aspects of normalization between the two countries and expressed fear that after Israel leaves Sinai, the Egyptians might lean toward the Saudi Arabian peace plan which Israel has rejected.

Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor announced yesterday that the Cabinet would "soon" hold an "in-depth" debate on the state of the peace process. He stressed, however, that there was no question of Israel "reviewing" its commitments under the peace treaty, particularly its commitment to vacate all of Sinai by next April. None of the ministers were suggesting anything like that, despite their dissatisfaction with some Egyptian statements and actions, Naor said.

### MITTERRAND PROMISES TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF TWO WEST BANK MAYORS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand promised today to intervene during his visit to Israel in March, on behalf of the two West Bank mayors, Fahed Kawassame of Hebron and Mohammed Milhim of Halhoul, who were expelled by Israeli military authorities in May 1980 following the ambush slaying in Hebron of six yeshiva students.

The two mayors met with Mitterrand for nearly 45 minutes. After the meeting, Kawassame said "the President has promised that he will try to obtain permission for us to return to our homes."

French sources confirmed that Mitterrand will "most probably" raise the issue of the two mayors' return and will probably ask Premier Menachem Begin to grant their wish for both political and humanitarian reasons. French officials explained that an Israeli "gesture" on this subject would help show the Arab states that his pro-Israeli policy "pays off" and that even Palestinian individuals, such as the mayors, accused by Israel of incitement to violence, can benefit as a result of his confident and cordial relations with Israel.

Mitterrand is due to leave for Israel early in March for the first visit by a French President to the Jewish State. His personal adviser, Jacques Attali said yesterday that Mitterrand will also visit Jordan for talks with King Hussein, either at the end of March or early in April.

### DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY OF AT LEAST 20 NEW SETTLEMENTS IN WESTERN NEGEV

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- The development of at least 20 new settlements in the western Negev is underway to replace the settlements Israel is leaving behind in the Sinai as part of the Camp David agreements with Egypt.

According to Menahem Perlmuter, director of engineering for the Negev and Sinai in the Jewish Agency's Settlements Department, the western Negev is similar to the northern Sinai area in its warm climate and sandy earth and, therefore, is fit for the development of winter agriculture. The basic items to be grown, he said, are tomatoes, flowers and mangos.

Perlmutter, who was here as guest of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), said that the establishment of the 20 new settlements in the western Negev is a joint project of the JNF and the Jewish Agency, with the JNF preparing the infrastructure for the new settlements. Three of the settlements will be kibbutzim and the rest moshavim, Perlmutter said.

He said that the first settlers have already moved into six moshavim and two kibbutzim in the western Negev. He listed the moshavim as Yesodot Hadarom, Yated, Pri Gan, Yevul, Dekel and Talmai Yafa and the Kibbutzim as Sufra and Holit. These settlements have already 160 families, Perlmutter said, adding that 120 additional families will move to these settlements within the next three months.

According to Perlmutter, the total cost of relocating one family from northern Sinai to the western Negev is about \$100,000. He said that when the project is completed in the next few years the population of the western Negev will be close to 65,000.

### A NEW FILM ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST IS A DRAMATIC REMINDER THAT IT DID HAPPEN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (JTA) -- Leon Kahn, of Vancouver, Canada, like many Holocaust survivors, fears that once the survivors will be gone, the murders and atrocities committed by the Nazis will be forgotten.

It is to prevent this from happening that the Simon Wiesenthal Center at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles worked to produce the film, "Genocide," which had its world premier before a black tie audience at the Kennedy Center here last night.

There are 64 publications denying the truth of the Holocaust printed in the United States and Canada, Kahn told a press conference following the premier. He said in another 20 years, there would no longer be any survivors alive to bear witness. "My biggest concern is what is going to be," he said.

Kahn's own harrowing experience is described in the film by Elizabeth Taylor. He and other members of his family escaped into the woods and hid from the Nazis but he left his mother who refused to leave her aged grandmother. The two women were killed in the gas chambers.

### It Was All Real

"I have nightmares when I returned from the studio," Ms. Taylor, who along with Orson Welles narrated the film, told the audience last night. "The nightmares were real because what you saw (in the film) was real. So many people do not realize that. It (the Holocaust) did exist and it could exist again. It is up to people like you to keep it from happening again."

Ms. Taylor's remarks were made at a ceremony following the showing of the film at which she and

Welles, who was not present, were presented an award by the Wiesenthal Center for donating their services. It was a painting by Daniel Schwartz, who did the illustrations for the film, of a young Polish Jewish woman as a symbol of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Also receiving this award was the chairman of the evening, Frank Sinatra, who noted that in Germany, the "countrymen of Bach and Beethoven became the custodians of Auschwitz." He said the world must never again be indifferent to evil committed against others.

The film, which was conceived by the Wiesenthal Center was produced and directed by Schwartzman who also did the screenplay. It was also written by Rabbi Marvin Hier and Marlin Gilbert, the British historian of the Holocaust period. The music was composed and conducted by Elmer Bernstein.

Ms. Taylor did a masterful job at reading the words of victims and survivors. Welles was the perfect choice as the narrator. "Every word in the film is real," Hier stressed.

### Film Does A Good Job

The film does a good job in presenting the history of pre-World War II European Jewry and then on anti-Semitism and the rise of Nazism, albeit in a capsule form. Through the use of actual film clips, still portraits and illustrations, it takes the viewer through every step from the Hitler takeover in Germany to the extermination camps.

Complex issues are dealt with also. The film answers effectively the charge that Jews went to their death like sheep to the slaughter. It describes Jewish resistance without overdoing it. The scenes of the victims of both those who survived and the dead when the camps were liberated will remain long in the memories of viewers. The film does not gloss over the failure of the United States and the allies to bomb the camps. At the end, it is noted that Nazi incidents continue today in the U.S. and abroad.

If there is criticism, it is that the film does not show the Displaced Persons camps after the war and the desire of the Jewish survivors to go to Israel. Israel is hardly mentioned, although to be fair, in describing how the Western nations failed to take in Jews before World War II, Welles notes there was no Israel then.

The film also noted that others besides Jews were murdered by the Nazis, although it stresses that it was the Jews who were the main focus of the Nazi extermination plans.

The heroism of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who helped save thousands of Hungarian Jews in World War II is also depicted in the film. Simon Wiesenthal, the Vienna-based Nazi-hunter told the audience at the ceremony that the premier was being shown on the 37th anniversary of Wallenberg's arrest by the Red Army after it liberated Budapest in 1945. Wallenberg, who was made an honorary U.S. citizen recently, is believed to be still alive in a Soviet Prison or labor camp.

### Three Outstanding Scenes

Three scenes stand out in this viewer's mind from the film, in addition to the moving words of the witnesses read by Ms. Taylor. At one point, it is stressed that the Nazis wanted not only to kill Jews but to destroy all remnants of Jewish life. Earlier, in a segment showing the atrocities

against Orthodox Jews in one Polish town, the Jews sing in defiance of the Nazis, "We shall outlive them," a message the Holocaust should carry for all Jewry.

Finally, Wiesenthal is shown at the end of the film putting a message into the Western Wall in Jerusalem. It is: "I am my brother's keeper."

Wiesenthal told the press conference that 60 percent of the people alive today in the world were born after World War II. He said the film is needed to "impress" upon the youth what happened. Hier said the Wiesenthal Center is preparing a study guide to help teachers and young people better understand the film.

"Genocide" will open March 14 in New York City for an extended commercial engagement. It will then be shown in Los Angeles and Chicago and then be seen in other cities in the United States and Canada as well as abroad.

### JEWS ARE STILL SCARCE IN THE UPPER ECHELONS OF BANKS IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18 (JTA) — Despite progress in the number of Jews employed in Philadelphia banks over the past five years, they are still scarce in the upper echelons. That is one of the findings of a survey conducted by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and made public today.

In 1976, there were 2,687 officers in the banks, of which 108, or four percent were Jewish. In 1981 there were 3,177 officers in the same banks, of which 145, or 4.6 percent were Jewish. However, the AJCommittee states progress has been erratic. Three banks still have no Jews in top management whereas only two banks had no Jewish high-level officers in 1976. All banks now have Jews at the vice presidential level.

According to the survey, three banks have lower percentages of Jewish officers than in 1976 while four banks have higher percentages. The figures range from a 28 percent decrease to a 350 percent increase. In total numbers, only one bank had fewer Jewish officers in 1981 than in 1976, and that was one less.

Michael Steinig, chairman of the Executive Suite Advisory Program of the AJCommittee chapter, said regarding the survey: "The rate of progress has been very good at the 'other officer' level and good at the vice presidential level; in top management it has been flat. The gains made previously, from four to seven, were kept, but as a percentage of the total in top management, the figure is down. The banks say they promote from within, and it has only been in the last 12 to 15 years that Jews have been accepted at entry-level management positions." However, Steinig added, there might be some barrier to the promotion of Jews to the very top.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — A student exchange program between Egypt and Israel began Sunday night with the arrival of 60 Egyptian high school students. A similar group of Israeli students is scheduled to visit Egypt next month. Jalam Alam, director general of Egypt's Supreme Youth Council, told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport, that the program will "give the young people of both countries the opportunity to discuss now the people in this region can live in peace."

## ISRAEL CUT INFLATION RATE BY 31 PERCENTAGE POINTS IN 1981

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA) — Israel succeeded in reducing inflation by 31 percentage points last year while increasing its gross national product, boosting exports and raising productivity, it was reported by the Israel Economic Mission in New York.

At the same time, unemployment was kept down to the 1980 level of 5 percent and the civilian balance-of-payments deficit declined by 5 percent, Uri Oren, spokesman for the Mission, announced. The report was issued following the release of the 1981 cost-of-living index of the Central Bureau of Statistics in Jerusalem last Friday.

The December inflation rate was 5.2 percent, bringing the total for the year to 101.5 percent. The 1980 figure was 133 percent and the inflation rate in 1979 was 111 percent. The 1981 decline in the rate of inflation, coupled with strength in other sectors of the economy, was "in keeping with the timetable for economic recovery set by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor when he took office last February and declared his goal to be the reduction of inflation in 1981 to approximately 100 percent," Oren said.

He noted that Israelis are protected against inflation by regular, automatic cost-of-living increases linked to the consumer price index. In addition, Israel's foreign exchange laws permit citizens to hold hard-currencies and invest in savings plans indexed to the inflation rate.

The statistical report also revealed that the "consumption basket" of goods and services, used by the poorest tenth of the population rose by 90.7 percent — less than the rate of inflation. In comparison, the goods and services used by the wealthiest 10 percent of the population went up by 106 percent. This development reversed the trend of recent years, in which the impact of inflation was felt more acutely by the poor, the spokesman said.

### GNP Up Five Percent

According to the report, Israel's gross national product rose five percent in 1981 to exceed \$20 billion, compared to a rise of 2.3 percent in 1980. Industrial output went up by seven percent after a drop of three percent in 1980. Agricultural production increased by four percent, the same rise registered in 1980. Construction, however, declined by three percent after rising four percent the previous year.

In a statement, the Israeli Economic Mission in New York pointed out that major economic indicators rose and inflation dropped last year "without the imposition of drastic measures such as freezing prices and wages or cancelling subsidies. This is the basic policy of Finance Minister (Yoram) Aridor, who also made clear that he would not fight inflation with unemployment," the statement said.

### JDC CONTINUING TO EXTEND AID TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN POLAND

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA) — Jews from all over the world have rallied to the support of the small 6,000-member remnant Jewish community in Poland, according to a report by Ralph Goldman, executive vice president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The JDC report noted that the agency had been in continuous contact with the Jewish community of Poland and was continuing to extend its

aid to approximately 2,000 heads of families, mainly old and ill Holocaust survivors, who are on its social welfare rolls. However, JDC noted that the current shortage in Poland required that aid be augmented by special shipments of food and medicines.

According to the JDC report, a truckload of 925 packages of supplies departed from Frankfurt for Warsaw on January 6. Two other shipments are scheduled, one of 465 parcels for the Jews of Katowice and another of 410 parcels for the Jews of Wrocław. A delivery of supplies for the kosher kitchens JDC supports is also planned, as are a gift of the German Jewish community and other European Jewish communities through the European Council of Jewish Communities and were organized by JDC.

The JDC recently resumed the provision of direct services to the Jews of Poland after a 14 year interruption begun in 1967, following the Six-Day War.

### UJA COLLECTS \$301 MILLION IN 1981

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA) — The United Jewish Appeal collected more than \$301 million in 1981 — a peacetime record — to help provide humanitarian programs and services to Jews in need in Israel and worldwide, Edgar Cadden, UJA national cash chairman, announced today. He described the record campaign total as "a watermark for Jewish humanitarian efforts in this century."

The \$301,179,967 collected, a 14 percent increase over the \$287.5 million collected in 1980, represents an overwhelming response by Jewish communities around the country to calls for cash to meet what UJA leaders called "the greatest cash collection crisis since the Yom Kippur War."

Cadden noted that these funds are allocated to UJA from campaigns conducted in 211 federated and 455 non-federated communities in the United States. He also noted that out of the \$301 million total, \$83,391,801 of the total collected was forwarded to UJA in the month of December, underscoring the continuing problem of an erratic cash flow to the Jewish Agency in Israel and to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, UJA's principal beneficiary agencies.

Cadden pointed out that some major communities have committed themselves to a monthly transmittal of funds in even amounts to UJA in the hope of reversing the uneven cash flow that results from an inadequate flow of money during the year.

### ANOTHER VICTORY FOR SINAI SETTLERS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (JTA) — Ultra-nationalist squatters at Yamit and members of the "Halt the Sinai Withdrawal" movement won another victory over the government last Friday, when the Defense Ministry ordered a contractor to halt work on removing a war memorial to soldiers of an armored corps unit erected on the site of a major 1967 battle at Yamit.

Although parents of the soldiers in whose memory the memorial bears their names agreed to its removal to inside Israel proper, asking merely that the new monument be ready by next Memorial Day in May, Yamit diehards claimed the monument was "theirs" and refused to allow its dismantling to proceed.

The army had planned to use elements of the old statue in the new structure. But the Defense Ministry has again given way to threats of disturbances by Yamit settlers and squatters and ordered a halt to the work. Earlier last week the government reached a compromise with the settlers to halt further dismantling of farm buildings and equipment slated for relocation areas, and to remove only buildings and equipment already dismantled.