## JTA daily news bulletin

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Monday, March I. 1982

No. 40

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the Egyptian reaction to the Cabinet's position.

Earlier today, Israeli and Egyptian officials denied a Voice of Israel Radio report that Premier Menachem Begin had sent a firm message to Mubardk a week ago insisting that he visit Jeruselm or not make the trip. The message was sent prior to Shamir's departure from Cairo, according the radio report, and was also conveyed to Mubarak by Shamir when they meet Inst Thursday.

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Sources here said the initial denial was apparently an attempt to cover up the dispute which now is in the open. I srael has been insisting that Mubarak pay his visit before the April 25 deadline for Israel's withdrawal-from Sinal. I sraeli reporters who accompanied Shamir to Egypt said Aubanak was wary of holding a summit meeting with Begin before that date because it might embarrass him in his efforts to restore Egypt's good relations with other Arab states.

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Mubarak was also said to be concerned that Israel might take pre-emptive military action against the Palestinians in south Lebanon immediately after he meets with Begin. It was recalled that Israel bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor stortly after Begin met with the late President Anwar Sadat at Ophitra in southern Sinal last June, on action which severely embarrassed the Egyptian leader who had no advance knowledge of Israel's plant.

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#### Mubarak Sends Message To Reagan

Mubarak reportedly sent a message to President Reagan today, delivered by the Egyptian Ambassador in Washington, Ashraf Ghorbal. Foreign Ministry sources in Cairo said the message dealt with the Palestinian autonomy issue and other aspects of the Middle East peace process but they did not know if Mubarak's impending visit to Israel was also mentioned.

Shamir said on his return from Cairo late Thursday that he was "much more relaxed and confident." Han he was when he left for Egypt three days earlier. "I am convinced that the peace process will continue," he told reporters at the airport. He also said Mubarak had promised to make his visit to Israel, though no date has been set.

#### BEGIN WARNS YAMIT SETTLERS AGAINST JEOPARDIZING PEACE TREATY WITH EGYPT By Gil Sedon and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA) — Premier Mengchem Begin was embroiled in a major confrontation today with the Yamit settlers and their supporters who are trying to prevent Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, due to be completed April 25.

The Prime Minister to Id a delegation representing the settlers that road blocks set up by the army over the weekend to prevent further infiltration of the region by militants would remain in place and that any attempt to remove them would be in violation of the law and would be dealt with severely. He wamed that the government is determined to prevent lawless acts which are aimed at jeopardiz-

ing the peace treaty with Egypt.
Defense Minister-Ariel Sharon briefed the Cabinet today on measures taken by the army to seal off Yamit. He reportedly has unanimous support among the ministers, including Education Minister Zevulun Hämmer of the National Religious Party. Hammer gave no comfort to Rabbi Haim Druckman, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, who complained that the army desecrated the Sabbath by setting up the road blocks during the Sabbath.

Begin said he endorsed the action as a person! who is sensitive to Sabbath observance because it was "pikua nefesh" — a situation of extreme urgency. Sharon remarked that Sabbath-observing Jews do not embark on a trip to the desert a half hour before the start of the Sabbath.

He was referring to the militants, mainly Orthodox Jews, who have been pouring into Yamit in an attempt to forestall withdrawal. Sharon personally issued the orders for the roadblocks, a move that many in the Cobinet and Knesset considered long overdue.

#### Settlers Build Roadblocks

The Yamit settlers, meanwhile, built their own roadblocks around the town out of tractors and other vehicles to keep the army out. But they removed the barriers after Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan arrived on the scene. He told them that while he did not have the power to change government policy, he would present their point of view to the government.

Some settlers remained near the roadblocks, taunting Israel is aldiers manning them. The soldiers stood by passively awaiting orders. No incidents were reported. There are still a few hundred familier resident in Yamit whose only quarrel with the government is over the amount of compensation they will receive for abandoning their property and relocating. They are playing for time and kept aloof from the demonstrations.

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But the extremists, mainly religious Jews from the West Bank and Israel proper remained determined to stop the withdrawal, by force if necessary. Many of them sewed yellow Stars of David to their clothing to indicate that the government was behaving like the Nazis in sealing off Yamit

#### Druze Villages Still Sealed Off.

Meanwhile, more than 100 miles away in northern Israel, troops continued to man road-blocks around four Druze villages on the Golan Heights where the residents are in the third week of a general strike to protest Israel's annexation of the region. The army said the villagers are fre to move inside the towns but cannot leave or enter them. The press is also banned from the region.

BACKGROUND REPORT MITTERRAND'S HISTORIC VISIT TO ISRAFI By Ben Frank

(Part One Of A Two-Part Series)

PARIS, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- On Wednesday, March 3, history will be made and recalled Francois Mitterrand, the President of France, will be the first French head of state to visit the State ot Israel since it was born in 1948.

Indeed, he may even well be the highest ranking French official to tour the land of the Jev renting rental ortical to tour the land of the Jew ish nation since Napolean who, in his conquest of Palestine in 1799, reached the fortress of Acre only to be turned back by the British and Arabs, In fact, one of the scheduled highlights

of Mitterrand's trip will be a visit to Acre which the French still call St. Jean d'Acre. In a passag of his memoirs about the Egyptian and Syrian campaigns, Napoleon stated: "Had St. Jean d' Acre fallen, I would have changed the face of the world.

In 1982, some historians are also likely to point out that it was during Napoleon's dash through Palestine he issued a proclamation for a Jewish State.

#### Seeks To Improve Relations With Israel

The 1982 sojourn will climax the new french President's policy to improve relations with Israel. Shortly after his election last May, he indicated that a trip to Israel was high on his agenda and he was invited by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who greeted his election warmly.

Mitterrand has, after all, had close ties with the Jewish community of France; he had and still has a number of Jewish advisors, such as Jacques Attali; he has and still maintains close relationships with friends in Israel, especially Israel Labor Party leaders whom the met often and frequently at Socialist International meetings in Israel and Europe during the days when he was head

of the opposition Socialists.

In fact, in December 1980, five months
before his election of President of the Republic, Mitterrand attended the Israel Labor Party conven tion as a fraternal delegate from abroad. Unlike most other foreign delegates, he agreed to take part in the opening session held at the Binyanei Ha'coma in Jerusalem.

Mitterrand's first public act on the day following his election was to visit the grave of his friend, the late Jewish Senator Georges Dayan. He then sent a personal invitation to Israel Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres to attend his indug-uration.

Dispatches from Paris last spring noted that a sign of Mitterrand's interest in Jewry also was his invitation to the noted Jewish writer, Elie Wiesel, who lived in France, and to Pierre Dreyfus, now a Cabinet member but then an industrialist and president of French ORT, to attend the official inauguration.

#### Ties To The Jewish Community

Mitterrand's ties to the Jewish community go back to the dark days of World War II when Mitterrand himself, a resistance organizer, met his future spouse in 1943. Her family was active under the

Nazi occupation in sheltering persecuted Jews.
There are five Jews in the French Cabinet. Three of them -- Justice Minister Robert Badinter, Industry Minister Pierre Dreyfus, and Culture Minister Jack Lang -- have been involved in the French Jewish community.

Despite the rocky road of Franco-Israeli relations. many French Jews generally viewed Mitterrand, when he took office, as continuing the legacy of French Socialist Prime Ministers, such as Leon Blum and Pierre Mendes-France (both Jews) and Guy Mollet, who led France into the alliance with Israel in the 1956 Sinai Campaign.

According to French Jews, Mitterrand is person-ally considered to be pro-Jewish and pro-Israel. As one French Jewish leader put it: "Regarding Jews,

there is no blemish on him, not one at all."

Mitterrand was a member of the Honorary Committee of the LICRA (the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism.) He has even suggested that a law be presented to the Parliament to reinforce measures against racism and anti-Semitism.

Since he took office last May 21, Mitterrand has repeatedly stressed the new Administration's desired to improve ties with Israel. When Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, announced in New York last fall the Presidential visit, Cheyson told reporters that France intends to hold regular dialogues on the political and technical issues with Israel. He noted that the absence of such dialogue during the past years was "an anomaly.

## Approved Of Camp David

Mitterrand is proud of the fact, and he repeats it often, that he was previously "the only French leader of a major political party to approve of Camp David," and France will contribute to the international peacekeeping force in the Sinai. Both French officials and Jewish leaders here in Paris say the Mitterrand government is "even-handed."

Relations at least are warmer and friendlier. Mitterrand's views on Israel and a Palestinian state are well known and he is proud of his consistency, even though parts of that consistency are obviously at odds with the government of Israel

"I have constantly expressed the same position at all times. I would do nothing to endanger Israel's existence nor the means to exist, but I do not think it is realistic to pretend that the Palestinian problem does not exist, "Mitterrand has said.

He has also stated: "I have always told my friends in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv that they would recognize that the Palestinians should have a homeland.... I am not telling them what they should do, because I am in favor of bilateral negotiations between op-

Mitterrand's comments in Israel will be studied. On this trip, too, as before, he will be in Jerusalem where he will meet President Yitzhak Navon and Begin. He is scheduled to address the Knesset and visit Yad Vashem. Symbolically, his itinerary

calls for a visit to Mount Herzl, the resting place of Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, who wrote "The Jewish State" in a hotel room in Paris as a result of the Dreyfus trial.

He will receive an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University, will meet the French colony in Tel Aviv and visit a kibbutz. He is, after all, no stranger to French Jews who live in Israel nor to those who were in the resistance.

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

WEINBERGER DENIES WANTING TO 'REDIRECT' U.S. MIDEAST POLICY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger denied today that he wanted to "redirect" U.S. policy from Israel to the Arab countries and rejected charges that he was anti-Israel or anti-Semitic.

At the same time, interviewed on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" program, Weinberger stressed the "desirability of increasing the number of friends we have in the Middle

East.

Following Weinberger's recent visit to Jordan, a "senior official," who many believe was Weinberger himself, talked about a desire to "redirect" U.S. military policy from Israel to

moderate Arab states.

But the Defense Secretary said today that neither he nor anyone in his party used that word and that he did not favor lessening the U.S commitment to Israel. He added that none of the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Oman or Jordan, the three countries he visited on his Middle East trip, had asked the U.S. to lessen that commitment.

"We can have more friends than one (in the Middle East) without lessening our commitment to Israel, "Weinberger stressed. Asked about charges that he is anti-Israel or anti-Semitic, he replied "No" on both counts.

## Says He Is Not Anti-Israel

"I am not anti-Israel and obviously I am not anti-Semitic," Weinberger said. While he did not explain what he meant by "obviously,' he may have been alluding to the fact that his

paternal grandfather was Jewish.

Weinberger said that although Israeli Premier Menachem Begin Has accused him of being anti-Israel, he does not believe this view is held by many in the Israeli government. He said he had good relations with the former Israeli Ambassador to Washington, Ephraim Evron, and has good relations with the new Israeli envoy,
Moshe Arens. Weinberger observed that he has
never visited Israel but has accepted an invitation to go there and looks forward to doing so shortly.

Deny Jordan Has Requested U.S. Arms

Both Weinberger and King Hussein of Jordan, who was interviewed from Amman on the same program, maintained that Jordan has not yet asked for F-16 jet flighters or Hawk anti-air-craft missiles from the U.S. It was reported here over the weekend that the Administration plans to delay submitting such requests to Congress until after the November Congressional elections.

Weinberger said that while he and Hussei discussed arms during his visit to Amman, there was little discussion of F-lós. He said he was chiefly trying to convince the Jordanians, who

have signed an agreement to purchase SAM-8 mobile missiles from the Soviet Union, that Moscow was "not a very desireable source" of weaponry.

Hussein stressed on the program, however, that his agreement with the Soviets was completed before he visited Washington Tast November and that it will go through.

While Weinberger maintained that neither the Administration nor Congress has yet approved the sale of weapons to Jordan, he seemed to indicate that he supported the sale of mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles. He said that while in Jordan he visited the Hawk missile installations which were sold to Jordan earlier and which were fixed in place at the demand of Congress so as not to threaten Israel. He said he believes that "immobile anti-aircraft missiles are not effective."

### Jordan To Ask For Arms At Upcoming Meeting

Hussein stressed that Jordan needs mobile missiles to meet threats from across its borders, a reference to both Israel and Syria. He said there has been heavy arms supplies to the Middle East from both East and vrest white Jordan has "slipped behind." He maintained that Jordan needs to be strong to "restorant ability to play a constructive role." He said Jordan's weapons requests to the U.S. will be made at the upcoming meeting of the U.S.—Jordan Joint Military Commission. West while Jordan has "slipped behind." He main-

#### U.S. SATISFIED WITH SAUDIS' AGREEMENT ON THE AWACS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- The Reagon Administration is "fully satisfied with the progress made" during Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's recent visit to Saudi Arabia to "implement" conditions President Reagan promised Congress will be fulfilled before five AWACS reconnaissance planes would be turned over to the Saudis, it was announced by the State Department.

But Department spokesman Dean Fischer had "no comment" last Friday on whether the Saudis had signed an agreement to meet these conditions. According to press reports, Prince Sultan, the Saudi Defense Minister, had signed such an agreement during Weinberger's visit, but it had not been announced publicly.

The conditions of the sale are contained in a letter Reagan sent to Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) on October 28, the day the \$8.5 billion sale of AWACS and other arms to Saudi Arabia

was being debated in the Senate.

These conditions included provisions for maintaining the security of the equipment being sold to the Saudis; agreement that the Saudis will share the intelligence information that is obtained through the AWACS with the U.S.; that no third party will be allowed access to the equipment or the information; and "that the Saudi AWACS will be operated solely within the boundaries of Saudi Arabia" except when the U.S. and the Saudis agree it is needed for defensive purposes "to maintain security and regional stability.

Fischer, in a prepared statement, said Friday that Weinberger and the Saudi leadership had discussed "the full range of security issues of mutual interests to our two countries, included were various follow up discussions concerning the details of a series of arrange ments concerning the sale of AWACS, which we view as very much in the interest of both countries. The discussions of this subject as well as all other matters of common interest were conducted in a traditional spirit of friendship and respect for Saudi sovereignty which is fundamental to this relationship.

#### U.S. WARNS ISRAEL AGAINST MILITARY STRIKE AT PLO FORCES IN LEBANON By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration, in an apparent warning to Israel against a military strike at the Palestine Liberation Organization forces in south Lebanon. has denied that the PLO's arms build-up has changed the "balance of forces" in that area.

"We are opposed to any arms build-up in southern Lebanon," State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said last Friday, reading from a prepared statement. "We are not aware of any major infusion of arms from any sources since last July (when the cease-fire along the Israel-Lebanon bor der went into effect) that could be construed as sig nificantly altering the balance of force. Obviously this is something we continue to watch closely.

Fischer denied that his statement contradicted remarks by Secretary of State Alexander Haig at a press conference February 5 in which Haid called Soviet arms shipments to the Palestinians in south Lebanon, including tubed artillery and rock-

ets, destabilizing actions.

Fischer said Friday that the prepared statement he read was a "general" response to Is-raeli Ambassador Moshe Arens' warning in interviews a day earlier that the PLO build-up makes it likely that some provocative action will force Israel to take a military response. "You might almost say it is a matter of time," Arens was quotes as saying.

#### Wams Against Exacerbating Conflict

Fischer, in his statement, warned that "violence from any quarter can only exacerbate th Arab-Israel conflict and perpetuate the difficul-ties faced by all concerned in that troubled part of the world. The JLS. Cannot condone violent at-tempts to solye political problems of any kind. History has proven time and time again that violence begets violence, and no solution can be found through armed attacks in the Mideast."

Fischer also responded to Arens' reported remarks warning that U.S. sale of sophisticated arms to Arab countries might force "Israel into a corner where it would have no choice but to take some kind of pre-emptive action" by quoting from President Reagan's recent letter to Premier Menachem Begin.

"We remain fully committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative edge in the regional balance of forces," Reagan was quoted by Fischer. "Quantitative factors will obviously also continue

to weigh in our deliberations.

Arens said the sale of sophisticated weap ons to the Arab countries is reducing Israel's qualitative edge. The envoy was commenting on a statement by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon that Is rael will not permit Jordan to buy the F-16 jets and mobile Hawk missiles it seeks from the U.S

Reagan, in his letter to Begin, said that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger had not brought back a request for the F-16's and the Hawks from his recent visit to Amman. But Fischer stressed that "Jordan is a good friend of the U.S. and we want Jordan to be secure." He said the U.S. has a long-standing military relationship with Jordan and regularly discusses with Jordan

that country's defense needs.

Meanwhile, President Reagan's spécial envoy Philip Habib is back in the Middle East "to help strengthen the cessation of hostilities" which he helped arrange last July, Fischer said. Habib, who is in Beirut, met yesterday with Lebanese

Prime Minister Shafiq Al-Wazzan. The two men discussed ways of preventing renewed violence in south Lebanon. Wazzan told reporters afterwards that Habib made no specific proposals but appeared determined to prevent further violence between PLO and Israeli forces. He said his talks with Habib concentrated on how to strengthen the ceasefire.

Fischer also noted that the U.S. supported the United Nations Security Council decision last Thursday to send another 1,000 troops to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and that it "welcomes" the strengthening of the UN force. (See related story.)

UNIFIL FORCES TO BE BEEFED UP By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS. Feb. 28 (JTA) -- The Security Council adopted a resolution last Thursday night calling for an "immediate increase" in the number of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) troops from 6,000 to 7,000. The vote was 13-0. The Soviet Union and Poland abstained.

The resolution included the text of Security Council Resolution 425 which established UNIFIL in 1978, and urged Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to undertake a new initiative to reactivate the 1949 armistice accord between Israel and Lebanon which limits men and arms on both sides of the

border.

Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, told the Council: "The cycle of violence that afflicts the area (south Lebanon) is profoundly damaging to the security, peace and well-being of the region. We expect that the reinforced troops will be able more effectively to deal with the incursions and violations of all kinds and from all sources."

According to diplomatic sources here, the beefing up of UN IFIL troops will start this week. UNIFIL is presently composed of troops from France, Nigeria, Holland, Fiji, Ghana, Ireland, Nepal, Norway, Senegal, Italy and Sweden. The additional 1,000 troops, the sources said, will come from countries already participating in the force.

U.S. MEMBERS OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS " PANEL URGE WALLENBERG CASE PROBE

GENEVA, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- The U.S. delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission here has called for an investigation into the case of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg who saved the lives of some 100,000 Hungarian Jews during World War II and disappeared shortly after Russian forces entered Budapest in 1945.

Michael Novak, head of the U.S. delegation, brought up the Wallenberg case during a debate in the Human Rights Commission on persons who have disappeared under circumstances of a political nature. The U.S., backed by Sweden, proposed that the investigation be conducted by a special five-member UN working group. The head of the Soviet delegation, Valerian Zorin, had no immediate reaction to Novak's proposal.

In 1957, the Soviet government told the Swedish government that Wallenberg died in 1947 in prison, probably of a heart attack. But there have been persistent reports since then that he is alive and has been seen in various Russian prisons or mental institu tions. Wallenberg's sister, Mrs. Nina Lagergren, said at a press conference here that the case should be publicized wherever possible but should not become a tool in the cold war.