

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, N.Y. 10036-2574

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Wednesday, April 14, 1982

No. 71

## BEGIN: ISRAEL WILL HONOR ITS PEACE TREATY COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW FROM SINAI BY APRIL 25 DEADLINE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin says that Israel will honor its peace treaty commitment to withdraw from Sinai by the April 25 deadline. But his remarks, in interviews published in *Mpariv* and *Yediot Achronot* today, appeared to be less than an unqualified assurance that the withdrawal would take place on schedule.

According to the interviews, Begin spoke of "certain problems" which have arisen with Egypt. He said "there will be no problem" if they can be resolved satisfactorily by April 25. He added, however, "If we do not achieve full satisfaction, we shall have to consider the situation."

This morning, Begin received a delegation of the "young guard" of his Herut faction who presented him with a petition calling on the government to consider delaying the withdrawal. The petition was signed by about 750 of the 900 delegates to the Herut "young guard" convention yesterday at which Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Deputy Premier David Levy delivered hard-line speeches hinting at a delay unless alleged Egyptian treaty violations are rectified.

A delegation spokesman said later that Begin had promised the group that he would raise the withdrawal issue at next Sunday's Cabinet meeting. He reminded them, however, that there was a binding Knesset decision approving the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt which requires Israel to be out of Sinai by April 25. He also reportedly told the Herut militants that Israel's complaints against Egypt, while serious, should not be exaggerated.

The Premier's newspaper interviews were far more moderate than the speeches by Shamir, Sharon and Levy. Begin said he had not read the remarks by those ministers and that "no such decision" (to delay the withdrawal) has been taken by the Cabinet.

### Hardline Views Advanced

Shamir told the Herut convention yesterday that the Camp David accords must "obliterate all sides if they are to retain any validity." Sharon vowed that Israel would not make the slightest concessions with regard to the peace treaty violations attributed to Egypt. Levy declared, "If the withdrawal has to be postponed, then let it be postponed."

Other Herut MKs took an even harder line. Yosef Rom, a member of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, who visited the Yamit region of northern Sinai yesterday, told members of the movement to stop the withdrawal that he had "recommended to the government that it delay the withdrawal for a month" because of Egypt's behavior. He was warmly applauded. MK Yigal Cohen-Orgad, meanwhile, is trying to rally a caucus of Likud MKs who oppose the peace treaty to pressure the government to consider a postponement. But another Likud MK, Ehud Olmert, told reporters today that this caucus represented a small fraction of the Likud Knesset faction. The majority, he said, firmly believed that the political damage Israel would suffer if it delayed its pull-out from Sinai would far outweigh any

benefits. Some observers here have expressed anxiety over the anti-withdrawal "momentum" gathering force among rightwing politicians not previously sympathetic to the Gush Emunim militants attempting to block withdrawal. They said intense American diplomatic involvement would be required to settle matters between Egypt and Israel and were fairly confident that it would be forthcoming and would succeed.

### U.S. Concerned Over Developments

One ranking American diplomat, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Nicholas Veliotis, arrived here yesterday and has already held meetings with Begin and other top level ministers. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel, the senior State Department official after Secretary of State Alexander Haig, is due here tomorrow and will meet with Begin on Thursday.

The dispatch of both men to the Middle East within a few days of each other indicated the Reagan Administration's serious concern that the Sinai withdrawal be carried out smoothly and on schedule and that Israel refrain from any military action against Palestinian bases in Lebanon. There have been unconfirmed reports that Haig himself may come to the region next week if necessary to keep the peace process from de-railing.

### List Of Complaints Against Egypt

Veliotis, who visited Cairo before coming to Jerusalem, was reportedly given a long list of Israel's complaints against Egypt when he met with Begin. These include: President Hosni Mubarak's refusal to visit Jerusalem which caused his scheduled trip to Israel last month to be shelved; allegations that Egypt has deployed more troops than allowed under the peace treaty in the areas of Sinai it already controls; and charges that Egypt is drawing closer to the Palestine Liberation Organization and is helping the PLO smuggle arms from Sinai into the Gaza Strip.

Israel has also taken offense to the omission of any reference to the Camp David accords and the autonomy negotiations in the speech delivered in Kuwait over the weekend by Ismet Abdel-Meguid, head of the Egyptian delegation to the non-aligned conference there.

Israelis concede that most of these complaints are of long standing and have been made before. But officials here say that by "ignoring" Israel's protests, the Egyptians have created an atmosphere of suspicion and uncertainty which Israel wants dispelled before it quits Sinai on April 25.

### 8-YEAR-OLD ARAB BOY KILLED, FOUR ISRAELI SOLDIERS INJURED AS UNREST CONTINUES ON WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- An eight-year-old Arab boy was killed and several other civilians and Israeli soldiers were injured today as unrest continued on the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. The youngster was killed when a group of Arab youths tried to rush an army encampment in the Gaza Strip, throwing rocks, which injured four soldiers, one of them seriously.

The soldiers opened fire to disperse them. They reportedly aimed at the ground, but the child was hit and died on the way to a hospital. The ambulance summoned for him was detained by rioters who blocked the roadway and would not let it through. Army sources said 21 of the Arab rioters were injured in the melee, many of them by stones tossed by other demonstrators.

In the Marazin refugee camp in the central part of the Gaza Strip, six rioters were slightly wounded when security forces sought to disperse them.

In East Jerusalem an Israeli bus passenger was slightly wounded by rocks thrown at passing vehicles by young rioters who set up a barricade of burning fires near the Lion's Gate to the Old City. In other parts of the West Bank, security forces closed the entrances to five villages to prevent rioters from getting into the countryside to join larger disturbances.

#### ARMY PATROL THWARTS ATTACK BY INFILTRATORS FROM JORDAN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- An army patrol repulsed an attack by infiltrators from Jordan early this morning, a military spokesman said. Two infiltrators crossed the Jordan River, near the spot where two others were captured last Friday, and set up a roadblock of stones across a road.

When an army vehicle slowed down for the barricade a grenade was thrown from a roadside ambush but caused neither damage nor casualties. The soldiers gave chase but the attackers fled back across the Jordan River.

Army sources said earlier that although the infiltrators apparently passed Jordanian army positions on their way from Lebanon via Syria, the Jordanians were trying to prevent infiltration and had foiled several previous attempts.

#### ISRAELI YOUNGSTERS TRY TO STOP DISMANTLING WORK IN YAMIT AREA

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- Israeli youngsters, aged eight to 12, caused the most trouble yesterday in the Yamit area. Jewish Agency workers who tried to uproot palm trees in the region, to replant them in new villages inside Israel, were foiled by the youngsters who climbed the trees and refused to come down.

It took soldiers several hours to get them down -- and even then it was thirst and hunger, which did the job rather than military prowess.

Another group of youngsters, members of a Yamit choir group caused a traffic jam of several miles when their re-entry to the Yamit area was barred by soldiers. The youthful singers had left the area to entertain marchers at a "Halt the Withdrawal" movement march outside the closed-off Yamit area.

When they tried to return home they were told by soldiers that the ban on re-entry to Yamit applied to them, also. They sat down on the road and refused to budge for hours while the traffic jam mounted up behind them.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL SET FOR LONG, EMOTIONAL DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 13 (JTA) -- The Security Council will meet late this afternoon to discuss "the situation in the occupied Ar-

ab territories" following the shooting Sunday on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The meeting was requested by Iraq and Morocco on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Iraq is the present chairman of the Conference and Morocco chairs its Jerusalem Committee.

The Security Council meeting is expected to be long and highly emotional because it touches upon Moslem religious feelings. It is expected, therefore, that most Islamic countries will join the debate to denounce Israel for the eruption of violence at the Moslem holy shrines in Jerusalem.

According to sources here, the Arabs and other Moslem countries will press for a harsh Security Council resolution against Israel to satisfy the strong emotions aroused by the Temple Mount incident among Moslem believers around the world.

Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, is expected to attend and address the meeting tonight. Sources here said the meeting would continue into next week.

#### BUCHWALD AMONG PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- Art Buchwald, who yesterday won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in his syndicated column, said today that he attributes a lot of his humor to the fact that he is Jewish. "It rubs off," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Buchwald is known for his Washington-based column of satire on political and social issues. The 56-year-old Buchwald, described by the Pulitzer board as "an American institution," started in Paris after World War II where he began writing about nightlife for the Paris Herald Tribune and eventually moved into the satirical column for which he is now famous. He moved to Washington during the Kennedy Administration and has since been producing three columns a week for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Buchwald told the JTA that at the age of six he was put into the Hebrew Orphan Asylum in New York and through that institution was placed in various foster homes until the age of 16, when he joined the Marine Corps. He said he never had a Bar Mitzvah because he considered himself a man already. His refusal to have a Bar Mitzvah made his father angry, he noted. However, he stressed he has always considered himself a Jew although he does not belong to a temple or to any Jewish organization, "or any other organizations." He said that he has on occasion spoken at fund-raising functions for Jewish organizations.

#### NEO-NAZI GETS 6-MONTH JAIL TERM

By David Kantor

BONN, April 13 (JTA) -- Friedhelm Busse, a 53-year-old self-styled "fuehrer" of a violence-prone neo-Nazi group, was sentenced to six months imprisonment for anti-Semitic activities by a Munich court yesterday. According to the prosecution, he is under investigation for other offenses, including membership in a terrorist organization, illegal possession of arms and criminal conspiracy. If convicted, he would face up to four years in prison.

Busse, who heads a group calling itself "The Peoples Socialist Movement" was arrested in October, 1981 for alleged connections with a neo-Nazi gang that robbed banks to finance terrorist activities. One member of the gang was killed and four were captured in a shoot-out with police near Munich. They were said to have been about to commit a bank robbery planned by Busse whose apartment served as a base of operation.

An investigation disclosed that two of the gang members had been trained by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon in the use of arms. Busse admitted contacts with the four men but denied he was involved in the aborted bank robbery.

**D'AMATO TO PROPOSE CUTTING ALL AID TO EGYPT IF SHE FAILS TO ADHERE TO CAMP DAVID PACT AFTER APRIL 25**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) declared here last night that should Egypt fail to observe the Camp David accords after Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai April 25, he would propose to the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which he is a member, to cut all aid to Egypt.

Addressing a leadership assembly sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York in conjunction with the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, held at Kehilath Jeshurun Synagogue, D'Amato said that the United States should use its considerable "economic clout" to bring more Arab countries into the Camp David peace process.

He said that if Egypt will be allowed after April 25 to "move back (to the Arab fold) and undercut the peace process" no Israeli leader will be willing to take risks for peace any more.

Referring to the tense situation along the Israel-Lebanon border, D'Amato said that the Palestine Liberation Organization bears responsibility for the destruction of Lebanon. He said that if Israel invaded Lebanon, it will do so "because they are forced to" in the face of the huge military buildup by the PLO in Lebanon which is directed at Israel.

#### Sacrifices Israel Is Making

Howard Squadron, chairman of the Presidents Conference, told the gathering of some 400 people that Israel has not been given credit for the enormous sacrifices it has made for peace. He said that one of the tasks of the American Jewish community is to see to it that Israel is recognized for the risks it undertook for peace and the military, financial and political sacrifices it made by returning the Sinai to Egypt.

Squadron said that the United States should give Israel "support and comfort" at this time, noting Israel's isolation in the world. He warned that a "desperate Israel" without friends and support will probably have no choice but to resort to a preemptive attack in Lebanon.

Another speaker at the meeting was Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Kach movement in Israel and founder of the Jewish Defense League in the United States, who attended the assembly with a large group of his supporters. He was allowed to address the meeting briefly, apparently to avoid a disturbance. Kahane urged American Jews not to trust Egypt or President Reagan and called on them to appeal to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin to act immediately to halt the withdrawal from Sinai.

**U.S. IN FLURRY OF MOVEMENT OVER ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 13 (JTA) -- Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel Jr. was scheduled to confer in London today with Nicholas

Veliotes, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, on Veliotes' talks in Egypt and Israel on the final plans for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, the State Department said today.

Veliotes, who was scheduled to arrive in London from Israel today and then return to Washington, will brief Stoessel who has been sent from Washington to Israel and Egypt. State Department Deputy Spokesman Alan Romberg said Stoessel would meet with senior officials of both countries, including Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. He said the talks in Israel will begin Thursday but the schedule beyond that day was "indefinite."

#### View Of Stoessel's Mission

Romberg continued to maintain that Stoessel's mission was aimed solely at last minute details of Israel's pull-out from Sinai on April 25. Israel reportedly has complained to the U.S. of alleged Egyptian violations of the peace treaty. There is also an unresolved dispute between Israel and Egypt over some sections of the international boundary between Sinai and Israel.

However, it is also reported that Stoessel, the No. 2 man at the State Department after Secretary of State Alexander Haig, was being sent to the Middle East because of concern in Washington that Israel plans to attack Palestine Liberation Organization bases in Lebanon. Romberg said today that Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy for the Lebanese situation, is not being sent back to the region but is being kept in touch with the situation.

The two State Department officials, one enroute to the Middle East and the other returning, presumably have kept in touch with Haig who has been attempting to mediate the British-Argentine crisis over the Falkland Islands this week. Haig was on his way back to Washington from London today.

#### Concern Over West Bank Violence

Meanwhile, the State Department voiced concern about the continued violence on the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem which it said was caused by "sporadic demonstrations and commercial strikes" in reaction to the killing of two Arabs and the wounding of 12 others on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem Sunday by a "deranged gunman."

Romberg said that "everybody should exercise maximum restraint." But he refused to condemn Israel for the actions of Israeli troops which resulted in the deaths of two Arab children in the past 24 hours.

"There have been additional casualties among both Israelis and Palestinian Arabs as a result of rock-throwing and the use of lethal force to disperse demonstrators," Romberg said. He said the State Department had "reports" that a five year-old girl died of gunshot wounds at a refugee camp yesterday and an eight year-old boy was fatally shot in the Gaza Strip today.

"We deplore the action of both these tragic deaths and extend our condolences to the families of the victims," Romberg said. "We again call on all those in a position to do so to exercise maximum restraint to prevent further such serious deaths."

\*\*\*

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Ten local Reform Jewish congregations will hold a religious conference on nuclear disarmament Sunday, April 25, at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue.

## SQUADRON: MEETING BETWEEN REAGAN AND SIX JEWISH LEADERS IS A 'DEEPLY DISTURBING BREAK-IN JEWISH UNITY'

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) — A White House meeting with President Reagan held by six Jewish leaders yesterday was criticized today by Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as "a deeply disturbing break in Jewish unity."

Squadron declared in a statement: "The American Jewish community is past the point where we need or want 'court Jews' to speak for us to our government. The members of this self-appointed group — all but one of them active Republicans — were not authorized by the Jewish community to address the President. Such meetings do not help Israel and do not advance the cause of Jewish dignity and self-respect."

The six Jewish leaders who met with Reagan, in what was described as an effort to improve the access of the Jewish community to the Administration, were: Max Fisher, of Detroit, chairman of the Republican National Jewish Coalition; Albert Spiegel, of Los Angeles; Gordon Zacks, of Columbus, Ohio; Richard Fox, of Philadelphia; and George Klein, of New York, all Republicans; and Lawrence Weinberg, of Beverly Hills, Calif., president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, (AIPAC) a Democrat.

### Jewish Community Itself Must Decide

In commenting further on the meeting, Squadron said: "From the beginning of this Administration, an effort has been made to by-pass the President's Conference so that the White House could designate its own 'Jewish leaders.' The effort was vigorously rejected by the organized Jewish community on the ground that it is not up to the President to select the Jews who represent the Jewish community. It is up to the Jewish community itself."

The "most representative group in Jewish life today is the Conference of Presidents, the one body which by common consent speaks for American Jews on issues affecting the security of our fellow-Jews in Israel and other lands abroad," Squadron said.

"The 34 national Jewish secular and religious organizations in the Presidents Conference represent the overwhelming majority of American Jews: Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform; Zionists and Jewish labor; war veterans and women's groups and members of local Jewish community councils — the whole gamut of organized Jewry."

Squadron noted that for nearly 25 years the Presidents Conference "has served as the acknowledged voice of American Jewry, recognized as such by Jerusalem and Washington, never hesitating to speak out in criticism of our government when criticism was warranted."

### 'We Have No ... Court Jews'

Continuing Squadron said: "Of course, no President likes to hear criticism. That is why some self-appointed Jewish spokesmen, political supporters of the President, have tried to create a new group to serve as a buffer between the President and the organized Jewish community. American Jews reject this concept. We have no intermediaries, no 'court Jews' to represent us in the halls of government. We speak for ourselves."

Surprise was expressed in some quarters at the participation in the meeting of Weinberg, who as president of AIPAC heads the Jewish community's registered lobby in the nation's capital.

Conspicuously absent from the delegation was Jacob Stein, long active in Republican circles, who recently resigned as White House liaison with the Jewish community. It was learned that Stein was not invited to join the delegation. When Stein left the Reagan Administration following the AWACS vote, it was first thought that he would be succeeded in his White House post by Albert Spiegel. Recent reports from Washington indicate, however, that the position itself has been dropped.

### RABBI MORRIS BESDIN DEAD AT 69

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) — Funeral services were held Sunday for Rabbi Morris Besdin, director of the James Striar School of General Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University for 25 years and pioneer in the educational direction of the Baal Teshuvah (Jewish returnee) movement. He died last Saturday at the age of 69.

Born in Poland in 1913, Besdin came to this country in 1921. He was an alumnus of Yeshiva College, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in 1936, and of the university's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he received Semikhah (ordination) in 1936.

Besdin joined Yeshiva University as a lecturer in Talmud in 1946 and later also was an instructor in Bible. He was named director of the School of General Jewish Studies in 1948, a school founded in 1956 in memory of industrialist James Striar of Bangor, Me.

### Pioneered In Baal Teshuvah Movement

Besdin revitalized the school, which is now celebrating the 25th anniversary of its founding and, at the same time, pioneered in the educational direction of the Baal Teshuvah movement. In the 1960's and 1970's this movement generated a widespread revival of interest among Jewish youth in the sources, traditions, and practices of Judaism, and sought to counteract the ongoing process of assimilation threatening the survival of Judaism.

The common denominator among Baal Teshuvah youth is a strong desire to deepen the roots of their Jewish identity. The James Striar School provided these students — some of whom, though born Jewish, came to Jewish studies as to a new and unfamiliar faith, and some of whom were graduates of yeshiva day schools but had not learned the fundamentals of Talmudic study — an opportunity to learn Bible and Talmud texts and commentaries, a process that required learning two ancient languages and two distinct scripts.

Prior to his Yeshiva University directorship, Besdin served for 22 years as a pulpit rabbi, as spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikai Hadas in Scranton, Pa., of Beth Hamidrash Hagadol in Washington Heights, New York, and of K'hal Adas Yeshurun in Kew Gardens, Queens, N.Y. where the funeral services were held, as well as for three years as a U.S. Army chaplain.

Besdin was one of the founders and also served as chairman of the boards of education of Yeshiva Rabbi Moses Soloveichik, New York, and Yeshiva Dov Revel, Queens, NY. He wrote articles that were published in a wide range of scholarly journals and was a member of the Rabbinical Council of America.