

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL DENOUNCES UN COUNCIL SESSION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- The Prime Minister's Office today condemned the current session of the United Nations Security Council which was convened Tuesday in the aftermath of the shooting spree at the Temple Mount last Sunday.

The Office issued a blistering statement which noted that "a human tragedy was used to summon the meeting and voice terrible charges against the people in Israel. This is a blood libel against the Jewish people in its homeland, and the democratic world again stands aside and keeps quiet." The statement added: "The days in which the Jewish people was defenseless and paid with the blood of his sons have passed and will not return."

The statement recalled that the countries that were behind the convening of the Council were the grossest aggressors against innocent people. Syria, it noted, unleashed a blood bath against the people in Hama and has been responsible for killing civilians in Lebanon; Iraq launched an aggressive war against its neighbor Iran; and Iran itself has returned to the dark days of the Middle Ages.

The Security Council session was requested by Iraq and Morocco on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It is expected to be a long and acrimonious session.

## ISRAEL CONFERENCE AT UN DEPLORES ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO PROTECT MOSLEM HOLY PLACES IN JERUSALEM

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 15 (JTA) -- The Islamic Conference circulated among Security Council members today a working paper, the preliminary form for a draft resolution, condemning the "appalling acts of sacrilege" last Sunday at the Dome of the Rock mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and deploring "the failure of Israel" to protect Moslem holy places in Jerusalem.

The draft resolution does not blame Israel directly for the shooting incident on the Temple Mount. It is expected, therefore, diplomats said here today, that the U.S. will support the resolution which refrains from calling for any concrete measures against Israel. In the view of some diplomats, however, the U.S. is still likely to seek some modification of the language of the draft in order to join it.

### Elements In Draft Resolution

The draft resolution requests that Israel "scrupulously" apply the Geneva Convention regarding the military occupation of territories and the protection of holy sites. It declares that any "profanation" of the holy places in Jerusalem would be an act that would endanger "international peace and security." It asks that the Secretary General keep the Security Council informed on Israel's implementation of the resolution.

The Security Council is scheduled to continue its debate tonight but a vote on the draft resolution is not expected until tomorrow at the earliest.

Last night, the Syrian Ambassador to the UN, Dia-Allah el-Fattal, urged the Security Council to impose mandatory sanctions on Israel "and all possible

coercive measures" for the Sunday incident and to deter Israel from "destroying the foundations of the world order."

A UN spokesman said, meanwhile, that the General Assembly will resume next Tuesday its emergency special session on the Palestinian question which was adjourned in July, 1980.

## REPORT THAT NOT ALL SHOTS FIRED ON TEMPLE MOUNT CAME FROM THE SAME GUN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) -- Police sources admit that not all of the shots fired on the Temple Mount Sunday came from the gun of Allan Harry Goodman, the allegedly deranged American-born Israel army reservist arraigned for the crime, Israel Radio reported today. According to the report on radio and in local newspapers, Goodman was responsible for only one of the two deaths and the wounding of some but not all of the dozen Arabs hit in the shooting spree.

The police sources reportedly said one of the Arabs killed was struck by bullets fired from a direction other than where Goodman was and after Goodman had been overpowered by police and soldiers. If correct, this would lend some credibility to charges by Moslem leaders that Goodman was not acting alone.

The police have suggested that the other shots may have been fired by over-zealous soldiers trying to capture Goodman. They say their investigation has been hampered by the refusal of Arab officials and hospital staff to hand over spent bullets for forensic and laboratory examination.

Meanwhile, the general strike by Arab merchants in East Jerusalem protesting the shooting was in its fourth day. Israeli security forces went from shop to shop, forcing their owners to re-open. Israel Radio quoted several shopkeepers as saying they would willingly open for business during the peak Passover and Easter pilgrim season were it not for fear of reprisals from Arab extremists.

## STOESSSEL CONFIDENT ISRAEL, EGYPT WILL SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel Jr. said today he was confident that Israel and Egypt will settle their differences. He made the statement to reporters after a two hour meeting with Premier Menachem Begin but did not elaborate.

Stoessel, the State Department's senior official after Secretary of State Alexander Haig, arrived here last night for talks with Israeli leaders. He will go to Cairo over the weekend and is expected to return to Israel Sunday.

Stoessel said his visit was an expression of U.S. determination to be a full partner to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben Meir, who met him at the airport, said Israel wanted peace but expected Egypt to fulfill all of its obligations. "We demand no more and we can expect no less," he said.

Israel has accused Egypt recently of a series of treaty violations. There is also an ongoing dispute between Cairo and Jerusalem over

several points along the Sinai-Israel border. Defense Minister Ariel Sharon who flew to Cairo yesterday in an attempt to resolve the dispute returned to Israel today after meetings with Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Defense Minister Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala. Sharon declined to talk to reporters upon his return and drove straight from the Atarot airfield near Jerusalem directly to Begin's office to report on his visit.

Reports from Cairo today quoted Hassan Ali as saying that no agreement had been reached with respect to the location of the border in the Taba region near the Israeli port of Eilat and that Egypt would seek international arbitration. In the interim, he said, according to the reports, the Egyptians would advance only to the line designated by Israel when they take over all of Sinai on April 25. The dispute involves about a kilometer of territory on which Israel is building a luxury resort complex.

The Israelis are said to prefer a bilateral settlement to arbitration. Sharon reportedly declined to make any statement as he left Cairo except to say he was returning to Jerusalem to report to his government.

Meanwhile, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) published a statement yesterday affirming that Egypt would abide by the letter and spirit of its treaty with Israel. At the same time, the statement said Egypt would not bargain over the Sinai boundary which, it insists, must conform to the international line drawn in 1906 by Great Britain and the Ottoman empire.

#### FORMER HIGH COURT JUSTICE ACCUSES ISRAEL OF VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS OF GOLAN HEIGHTS DRUZE VILLAGERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- Former Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohen accused the Israeli authorities today of violating the human rights of Druze villagers on the Golan Heights. He referred to the 40 days of military blockade of the villages during which the population was confined to the immediate area, deprived of basic services and allegedly subjected to physical abuse for refusing to accept Israeli identity cards.

Cohen, speaking at a press conference here called by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, noted that Israel applied its law to the Golan Heights last February 14. But "there is no similarity between Israeli law and what is happening (to the Druze) on the Golan -- this is barbaric law," he charged.

The military blockade was imposed February 25 after Druze leaders called a general strike to protest Israel's annexation of the territory. The strike is in its ninth week. The blockade was lifted April 5 after four days of curfew during which the inhabitants allegedly were forced to accept Israeli civilian identity cards in place of their military ID cards which were withdrawn. Villagers without cards had their telephone and postal services cut off and their movements restricted.

#### Complaints Lodged By Druze

A delegation of the civil rights group visited two Druze villages on the Golan last Sunday to interview the residents. "If only a small percentage of these stories is true, then it is quite shocking," Cohen said.

According to the delegation, Druze were arrested and speedily tried for illegal assembly, receiving prison terms of 1-6 months; a Druze boy died on the way to a clinic because he was held up at an army road block; Israeli soldiers went from house-to-house to distribute ID cards and in some cases beat up people who refused to accept them; soldiers opened fire on villagers two days before the blockade was lifted, wounding several people who were hospitalized.

Even now, villagers who do not carry Israeli ID cards cannot leave the area, have no telephone service and cannot pick up their mail, the civil rights group charged.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel is a non-political body affiliated with the International League for Human Rights. It is demanding an immediate end to travel restrictions on the Golan Druze, restoration of public services and an impartial investigation of the charges. An army spokesman had no comment today.

#### HENRY MONTOR DEAD AT 76

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- Henry Montor, who worked closely with David Ben Gurion and Golda Meir in the years prior to and immediately after the founding of the State of Israel and who was one of the most influential Jewish leaders in the United States during that period, died of leukemia today in Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem. He was 76 years old. For the past 25 years he made his home in Rome and Jerusalem.

A dynamic and sometimes controversial figure on the American Jewish scene, Montor was a prime mover in the establishment of the United Jewish Appeal and the chief architect and founder of the Israel Bond Organization.

Although he was widely respected for his vision and innovative methods, Montor was at times considered a thorn in the side of the Jewish establishment because of the zeal with which he sought increased funds for Israel. His effectiveness as an advocate of the primacy of Israel as a new home for the survivors of the Holocaust often placed him in the role of a leading spokesman for Israel as it stood on the threshold of independence.

#### Example Of Montor's Influence

Montor's influence was frequently felt. One example of this took place in July, 1945 when Ben Gurion, who was later to become Israel's first Premier, was in the United States, and called on Montor to help him obtain support for the Haganah, the Jewish community's defense organization. Within 24 hours Montor assembled some 40 of the foremost Jewish business leaders from across the country.

They met with Ben Gurion at the home of New York industrialist Rudolf Sonneborn. Out of that meeting emerged an organization informally known as the "Sonneborn Group" which channeled supplies and equipment for the nucleus of Israel's defense industry.

Born in Nova Scotia, he was brought to the United States at the age of two. He grew up in Pittsburgh and in Steubenville, Ohio. A scholarship gained him admission to the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College (the school for Reform rabbis).

In 1925 Montor moved to New York where he was hired as assistant editor of the New Palestine, the official organ of the Zionist Organization of America. He subsequently joined the United Pales-

tine Appeal as its publicity director. In 1937 he was named executive director of that organization which raised funds for immigration, settlement and land purchase in Israel.

Monitor retired as chief executive officer of the Israel Bond Organization in May, 1955. He moved to Rome shortly thereafter where he established a consumer finance company, Finanziaria Popolare, with branches in Milan and Turin.

#### VELIOTES: U.S. HELPING ISRAEL, EGYPT OVERCOME SUSPICIONS AND CONCERNS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA) -- Nicholas Veliotes, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, said today that the U.S. is presently trying to help Israel and Egypt overcome their "suspicions" and "concerns" as they implement the final stage of their peace treaty.

But Veliotes stressed that he is "very confident" that April 25, the day Israel is scheduled to complete its withdrawal from Sinai, will "mark a new beginning" for Israeli-Egyptian relations. He said he is also confident that the peace treaty will be "fully implemented," stressing that the U.S. is the "guarantor" of the treaty.

Veliotes, who was testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs on the Reagan Administration's proposed foreign aid for the Middle East and South Asia in fiscal year 1983, said the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is the "basis for U.S. policy for peace and security in the Middle East" and is also accepted by Israel and Egypt as the basis for their policies.

#### Says Difficulties Have Been Exaggerated

The State Department official who just returned from Israel and Egypt, said the attempt to ease the concerns of the two countries was the reason for his recent trip there and why Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel Jr. is in Israel now and will later go to Egypt.

But he stressed that the last minute difficulties between the two countries had been "exaggerated," an assessment with which Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.), the subcommittee chairman who conducted the hearings, was in agreement.

Veliotes stressed that no one should "be surprised there are concerns" in Israel and Egypt with the implementation of the peace treaty. He said that although Israel has already established diplomatic relations with Egypt and has begun the normalization process, it still feels it is taking "a step into the unknown."

Boschwitz noted that Israel is giving up strategic depth for a treaty in an area where treaties have not always been as "meaningful" as they are for the U.S. But he expressed the hope that the peace process will be expanded to include Jordan and other Arab countries.

Veliotes agreed that treaties have not been "worth much" in the Middle East. "But this is the first treaty between Israel and a major Arab country, any Arab country," he said. He stressed that the U.S. did not only play a role in achieving the treaty but is "really the guarantor" of the treaty.

Boschwitz expressed concern over the arms race going on in the Middle East in which not only the U.S. but many other countries take part. He said many low population countries in the Middle East were accumulating more arms than

NATO. "This adds to the military and economic strains in the region," he said.

Veliotes replied that arms sales are part of the overall approach but "by no means the only element" of U.S. foreign policy. He said the Middle East is a "volatile and potentially dangerous place" and the countries there believe they need weapons. He said that outside the Israel-Arab conflict, many of those countries see threats to themselves from neighboring countries which receive huge supplies of arms.

Throughout his testimony, Veliotes stressed that the U.S. aid program is aimed at maintaining Israel's "technical" and "qualitative edge," two terms he said are synonymous. He said in the foreseeable future, Israel has a qualitative edge over the Arab countries.

#### Arab Edge Over Israel Diminished

Francis West, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security, said the Arab quantitative edge over Israel has diminished. He said it is now 5-1 against Israel instead of 6-1 as previously. He said one reason is the cost of weapons is so high that many countries cannot afford to buy as much as they might want. He also observed that with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Israel no longer has to worry about its southern flank.

West also made a pitch for arms sales to Jordan. He noted that there were difficulties with Jordan since it was a confrontation state with Israel. But at the same time, he pointed out that Jordan is considered a friend of the U.S. and faces the danger of attack from Syria.

Both Boschwitz and Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D. Md.), the only other Committee member at the hearings, were critical of the Reagan Administration's decision to change foreign aid appropriations for fiscal 1983 even though they had been already approved by Congress. Last December, Congress approved a foreign aid bill for both the current fiscal year and fiscal 1983 which begins October 1, something it had never done before.

#### Critical Of Cutting Aid

The two Senators were particularly critical of the Administration's proposal to decrease the amount of aid that will be given to Israel and Egypt as grants in fiscal 1983. Veliotes said the reason was to "balance" efforts to supply Israel and Egypt with the Administration's "general budgetary problems."

Joseph Wheeler, Deputy Administrator of the Agency for International Development (AID), said this year Israel is getting \$785 million in economic aid and Egypt \$750 million, all of it grants. But in 1983, only two thirds of the amounts for the two countries will be in grants.

Israel will receive in 1983 \$1.7 billion in military assistance, a \$300 million increase over this year. But Wheeler said the amount to be a grant to Israel in 1983 will be \$500 million, \$50 million less than in the current budget. The Administration has proposed \$1.3 billion in military assistance for Egypt in 1983, a \$400 million increase. Of that amount, \$400 million will be a grant, twice the amount as last year.

David Sadd, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, denounced what he called the "disproportionate amount of foreign aid going to Israel." He said that although Israel has the highest per capita gross national product of any country receiving U.S. aid in the Middle East, it "will receive a higher amount of aid than any other recipient nation." He urged increased funding for programs the U.S. supports on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## RALLY HELD TO BRING PLIGHT OF FALASHAS TO PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- Noting that 40 years ago the international community, "including most" of the Jewish world, "closed its eyes and ears" to the Nazi slaughter of European Jewry, a leading activist in the efforts to rescue Ethiopian Jewry from oppressive conditions and treatment, charged that once again there exists an "almost universal silence."

"With a few notable exceptions, Jewish organizations and Jewish leaders have placed the cause of Ethiopian Jewry near the bottom of their list of priorities, and have remained silent," Menachem Rosensaft, chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, told some 300 people attending a rally last weekend to bring the plight of Ethiopian Jewry to the "public consciousness." Held at the Lincoln Synagogue here, the rally was sponsored by the Network.

"The government of the United States pleads helplessness, and is silent. The United Nations is too busy defaming Israel to concern itself with the fate of persecuted Jews ..." Rosensaft declared. He added: "Only the State of Israel exists as a refuge for the Jews of Ethiopia."

### Thousands Killed, Many Sold Into Slavery

The Falashas numbered 250,000 in the 19th century and today their number has dwindled to an estimated 20,000. They live in the northwestern province of Gondar which has been the center of civil war since the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1972. Thousands have been killed, many sold into slavery and an estimated 7,000 are refugees, according to reports.

The present regime in Ethiopia is strongly pro-Soviet and anti-Zionist. Diplomatic relations with Israel have been severed. Ethiopian Jews are arrested, accused of being Zionist ringleaders and CIA agents, and tortured, according to reports. Further reports indicate that Falasha schools have been closed and their villages have been cut off from contact with the outside.

In 1972, Israel's Chief Rabbis recognized Falashas as Jews, and in 1975, an Israeli mini-ministerial committee ruled that Falashas were Jews, and, as such, were entitled to admission to Israel with full citizenship rights under the Law of Return. In the past few years, some 1,200 Falashas are reported to have reached Israel and as few as a dozen have arrived in Israel since May 1981.

### Situation Further Deteriorates

The plight of Ethiopia's Jews further deteriorated when last year, the governor of the Gondar province, Major Malaku, revoked permission of what was a combined ORT-Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) relief program. The program had been in effect since 1976.

It set up schools and classes, and had a student enrollment of 3,000; also provided by the ORT-JDC program were training programs in agriculture, and the establishment of Jewish education and some synagogues. But the governor of the province closed down the program for fear that it was encouraging the Falashas to emigrate to Israel. Emigration is illegal in Ethiopia.

While eyewitness reports over the past years have outlined the desperate situation facing the Falashas, others claimed that the reports of a potential Holocaust are "exaggerated" and a "disservice" to the memory of those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

### Says Israel Is Doing All It Can

Naphtali Lavie, Consul General of Israel in New York, made a point of this at the meeting last weekend when he indicated that labeling the plight of Ethiopian Jewry as a Holocaust was an abuse of the term. Noting that he was speaking not as a representative of the government of Israel but as a private citizen and a Holocaust survivor, Lavie said Israel was doing all it can to help the Falashas and explained that Israel does not have control over the actions of the Ethiopian government and conditions inside that country.

The Israeli diplomat noted that the date of the meeting he was addressing, April 11, was significant to him because it was on the same date 37 years earlier that he was liberated from the Buchenwald concentration camp.

### Must Get Falashas To Israel

Rep. Bill Green (R. N.Y.) said of the Ethiopian Jewry situation that any effort to get the Falashas to Israel must "be conducted in subterranean atmospheres." He noted the Ethiopian government is closely aligned with Libya, and the United States government therefore does not have great influence within the Ethiopian government.

Green said he has brought the issue of the Falashas to the attention of the State Department in a letter this past February. In a reply, the Department, it was reported, indicated that although it does not have the proper influence, it continues to work through the refugee assistance program in the Sudan where Falashas have fled to in past years.

Noted author Elie Wiesel, who was unable to attend the rally but has been at the forefront of the Falasha issue, sent a letter which was read at the beginning of the meeting. It stated: "For years and years the Jews of Ethiopia wanted to join their people, our people and regretfully, shamefully, little was done to enable them to do so. Public opinion must be alerted to their plight. We must not abandon them as we must not abandon other Jewish communities. If the word equality has a meaning, then Jews in Ethiopia and Jews in New York are equally entitled to the duties and privileges of being Jewish."

### Expects Jewish Leadership To Lead

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Rosensaft said he felt the rally achieved a significant goal. "We have reached a greater number of people than before ... and this will have the impact that this is a concern to the Jewish community as a whole and not just to some elements within it," he said.

But he added that he was "disappointed" that some leaders in the Jewish community have paid "lip-service" to the cause of the Falashas. He recalled that similar to the Falasha issue, was the long period of time it took for some to react to the situation facing Soviet Jewry. "We expect the Jewish leadership to lead, rather than be pushed by events," he asserted.