

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## EVACUATION OF SQUATTERS, SETTLERS FROM YAMIT IS TEMPORARILY HALTED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 20 (JTA) -- "Operation Red Dove," the forced evacuation of militant squatters and die-hard settlers from Yamit, was temporarily suspended today because of Yom Ha-Shoah, a day of remembrance for the Holocaust victims. But the army was kept busy tracking down and ousting Israeli and foreign reporters determined to cover the events in northern Sinai despite a military order severely limiting media access to the region.

The Supreme Court today rejected an appeal by the Foreign Press Association to overrule army and government measures which prevent reporters from exercising their right to keep the public informed. The court accepted the government's contention that a pool arrangement limiting coverage to 16 selected journalists was sufficient for media needs.

The government argued that the presence of hundreds of reporters and television cameramen representing hundreds of newspapers, radio and television stations all over the world would only encourage the militants and make the army's evacuation task doubly difficult.

### Journalists Defy Ban

Even though the government backed away from its initial total ban on press coverage in the Yamit area, journalists saw the pool arrangement as an attempt to muzzle the media and would have none of it. Members of the Israel Editors Committee and the Israel Journalists Association went to Yamit today in defiance of army orders. Busloads of editors and reporters attempted to break through the army road blocks around Yamit but were turned back by troops.

But some journalists, adopting the tactics of the "Halt the Withdrawal" movement, managed to infiltrate the town. Twelve Foreign Press Association journalists representing media outlets in nine countries are reported to have barricaded themselves in an abandoned house in Yamit. Others were said to have donned skullcaps to pose as Orthodox Jews who make up the majority of the Yamit resisters.

The army, which completely surrounds Yamit, is expected to resume the forced evacuation before dawn tomorrow morning. In preparation for the final showdown, army bulldozers are digging deep ditches around the buildings occupied by squatters. The intention is to remove the squatters forcibly and demolish the structures immediately thereafter, burying the debris in the ditches.

MK Geula Cohen of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction, who is in Yamit, told a reporter today that the government would "not be burying the houses but burying itself." Yamit and the rest of the Israel-occupied portions of Sinai must be handed back to Egypt this Sunday.

### Trouble Expected From Some Extremists

Most of the die-hards have said they would offer only passive resistance when the troops come to get them. But trouble is expected from followers of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement who have barricaded themselves in an air raid shelter and reportedly are armed. They have threatened suicide if approached

by Israeli soldiers. They said they would shoot themselves at half-hour intervals when the army enters Yamit.

Many of the Kach members are American-born Orthodox Jews and their threat has alarmed relatives in the U.S. Israel Radio today broadcast appeals from the mothers of some of them and the mothers of Israeli Kach members begging them to "give up this foolishness and come home."

Meanwhile, the media continued to protest what it sees as the government's infringement on freedom of the press. Israeli newspapers today appeared with blank spaces on their front pages symbolizing the ban. Radio and television observed one minute of silence last night.

## ABU-HATZEIRA INTENDS TO RESIGN FROM THE CABINET BUT WILL REMAIN IN THE KNESSET PENDING HIS APPEAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 20 (JTA) -- Aharon Abu-Hatzeira said today that he intends to resign from the Cabinet but will remain in the Knesset pending the outcome of his appeal to the Supreme Court against his conviction yesterday on three counts of larceny, fraud and breach of trust. He told reporters, as he emerged from a meeting with Premier Menachem Begin, that he was sure the high court would overturn his conviction because he is innocent.

Abu-Hatzeira, Minister of Labor, Welfare and Absorption heads the three-member Tami faction, a partner in Begin's coalition government. He said he told the Prime Minister his decision to resign would have to be approved by Tami. But that seemed unlikely in view of the massive show of support he received when he appeared at the party's center last night.

Abu-Hatzeira said he thought he should resign from the government because his ministerial responsibilities required full time attention but he will be busy for the next few months preparing his appeal. He did not say what Begin's comments were.

Israeli law does not require a Cabinet minister to resign if he is convicted of a criminal offense, though he must if the Prime Minister demands it. A resigned minister may be reappointed to the Cabinet. A Knesset member who resigns cannot return to his seat which is immediately assigned to the candidate next on the party list.

Abu-Hatzeira's decision to remain in the Knesset apparently stemmed from that consideration. But the Knesset can oust any member whose conviction stands after the appeals process and who is sentenced to more than one year's imprisonment. Abu-Hatzeira faces a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment.

His intention to hold on to his Knesset mandate indicated that the Tami faction will stay in Begin's coalition for the time being. Should it leave, however, the government would lose its pre-vote parliamentary majority. That outcome appeared likely to other Tami members. Deputy Absorption Minister Aharon Uzan predicted yesterday that "the government would not long survive." Tami Secretary General Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said there would be new elections within 6-12 months.

## U.S. EXPECTED TO MOVE DIPLOMATICALLY TOWARD SYRIA AFTER APRIL 25

BONN, April 20 (JTA) -- Diplomatic circles here expect the United States to launch a major diplomatic offensive aimed at Syria after Israel completes its evacuation of Sinai on April 25. Information to that effect reportedly comes from sources in the European Economic Community (EEC) which maintains close contacts with Washington.

West Germany officially views the final withdrawal of Israel from Sinai this Sunday as a decisive day in Middle East diplomacy and expects new diplomatic initiatives to follow. Bonn has kept silent on this point so as not to wrangle Israel. But the visit to Jerusalem by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, planned for May, has been postponed.

## GERMANY AIRING 8-PART TV SERIES ON EXPERIENCES OF A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

By David Kantor

BONN, April 20 (JTA) -- The first of an eight-part German-made television film based on the experiences of a Holocaust survivor was broadcast on the national TV network, ARD, this evening. It is titled "Ein Stueck Himmel" (A Piece of Heaven), adapted from the book of the same name by the Jewish author, Janina David (Davidowicz), who is the only member of her family to survive the Holocaust.

The press, which previewed the series, termed it "the German Holocaust film," an allusion to the American-made NBC-TV film "Holocaust" broadcast in West Germany in January, 1980. Unlike that production, the German series is commanding prime time, beginning at 8:15 p.m. just after the popular evening newscast. It is carried on the nationwide channel rather than the regional outlets as was the case with "Holocaust."

The story is autobiographical, following the life of the author who experienced the persecution of Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland, beginning in the Warsaw Ghetto when she was eight years old.

German press commentators are speculating as to whether the new series will have the same impact on the German public that the NBC-TV "Holocaust" had two years ago. Although the reaction was intense at the time, shattering German indifference and silence over the persecution of Jews, the effects wore off quickly, according to follow-up public opinion polls.

Mrs. David lives in London where her book was published in 1965. The film adaptation was written by Lea Lehman. Since then, several West German publishing houses have indicated interest in the book. The film part of Mrs. David as a young girl is played by the German actress Dana Vavrona.

## U.S. VEToes ARAB-SPONSORED MEASURE IN UN COUNCIL WHICH CONDEMNED THE APRIL 11 SHOOTING ON TEMPLE MOUNT

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 20 (JTA) -- The United States today vetoed an Arab-sponsored resolution in the Security Council strongly condemning the April 11 shooting on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The vote was 14-1 in favor of the draft which was introduced by Jordan and Morocco.

U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick explained afterwards that although her government condemns the incident, it could not support the resolution because it was not objective and contained implications that responsibility for the crime lies with the Israeli government.

Israel's UN Ambassador, Yehuda Blum, speaking before the vote, said the resolution "seeks to associate Israel with the crime of a single individual acting on his own." He was referring to the American-born Israel

army soldier who opened fire on Moslem worshippers killing two and wounding 30. The suspect, Allan Harry Goodman, originally from Baltimore, has been arraigned for the crime.

## Elements In The Draft Resolution

The draft resolution declared that the Security Council "condemns in the strongest terms these appalling acts of sacrilege" and called on "Israel, the occupying power, to observe and apply scrupulously the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the principles of international law governing military occupation and to refrain from causing any hindrance to the discharge of the established functions of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem."

It deplored "any act or encouragement or profanation" of holy places and shrines in Jerusalem "as tending to disturb world peace." The resolution also called on the Secretary General to keep the Security Council "fully informed on the implementation of this resolution."

Kirkpatrick objected to that part of the resolution which alleged that Israel was hindering the work of the Moslem Supreme Council in East Jerusalem. In reality, there is no evidence for that, she said. She added that the resolution as a whole does not serve any constructive purpose and will not stop the violence in the area.

Blum, in his remarks before the vote, said Israel "would have been prepared to consider supporting the terms of a draft resolution that would have spoken also of the 95 mosques and many churches destroyed in Hama by the Syrian army; of the necessity to study the lesson to be gleaned from the attack on the Great Mosque in Mecca; of the destruction of many churches and holy shrines in Lebanon; and of the 58 synagogues destroyed by the Jordanians in Jerusalem up to the reunification of the city in 1967."

Meanwhile, the General Assembly opened its emergency debate this afternoon on the "Palestinian Question." Israel is on the list of speakers and will address the session this evening. The debate was begun in July, 1980 and subsequently adjourned.

## WEST BERLIN MAYOR HAILS WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

BONN, April 20 (JTA) -- Mayor Richard Von Weizaecker of West Berlin hailed the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of April, 1943 as a courageous struggle against brutal dictatorship. He said it was an outstanding symbolic action that will live in history.

The Mayor spoke today at a memorial event organized by the West Berlin Jewish community to mark the 39th anniversary of the uprising by Warsaw Ghetto Jews against their Nazi oppressors. He reassured the community of the city's commitment to their security and well-being.

He warned at the same time that the inhumanity and brutality which characterized the Nazi era, continues to exist. "In the framework of what seems to be a normal society, there are many people who tend to intolerance," he said. Weizaecker visited Israel several weeks ago and met with Premier Menachem Begin.

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TORONTO (JTA) -- More than 500 Moslems shouting death to Premier Menachem Begin of Israel held funeral prayers here Sunday for two Arabs who were fatally shot on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem April 11.

REAGAN, CONGRESS MARK YOM HA-SHOAH; PRESIDENT SAYS AMERICANS MUST BE SENSITIVE TO A PEOPLE WHOSE COUNTRY WAS BORN FROM ASHES OF THE HOLOCAUST  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 20 (JTA) -- President Reagan declared today that the United States has a "firm commitment to Israel's security" and that the Holocaust reminds Americans that Israel is "a country that rightfully never takes its security or survival for granted."

In a White House ceremony marking Yom Ha-Shoah, Holocaust remembrance day, Reagan noted that Israel will complete its return of the Sinai to Egypt on Sunday. "We fervently pray that the return of the Sinai will be accepted for what it is -- a magnificent act of faith by Israel for the sake of peace; a noble expression by a people who suffered so much," the President declared. "The United States is grateful for this step which reinforces our firm commitment to Israel's security."

Reagan noted that "today we are reminded that we must be sensitive to a history of a people whose country was reborn from the ashes of the Holocaust; a country that rightfully never takes its security for granted. With this in mind, all peace-loving people should applaud Israel and Egypt for what they have done."

The White House ceremony followed a Holocaust remembrance program in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Both were part of the week-long Days of Remembrance ceremonies which are being conducted throughout the country under the sponsorship of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

#### Ceremonies At White House And Congress

At both ceremonies today, El Moleh Rachamin was sung and Kaddish was recited. Cantor Isaac Goodfriend of Atlanta, Ga., sang El Moleh Rachamin at the White House and Rabbi Joseph Asher of San Francisco, recited Kaddish. At the Capitol, Robert Agus, acting director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, recited Kaddish and Cantor Joseph Malovany of New York City sang the El Moleh Rachamin. Also singing at the Capitol was the Atlanta Boys Choir conducted by Goodfriend.

At both ceremonies, six candles were lit in memory of the six million Jews who died during the Holocaust. At the Capitol the candles were lit by Holocaust survivors and at the White House by children of survivors. Several hundred persons attended each ceremony. Many of them were at both and were taken by bus from the Capitol to the White House.

#### The Nature Of The Tragedy

Reagan noted that the "magnitude of what has brought us together" at the Capitol and the White House is a "tragedy of such proportion" that even now many cannot grasp the full horror of it.

Elie Wiesel, chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Council, noted that last year at a similar ceremony at the White House, Reagan strongly attacked those who want to deny that six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. But he said the effort continues, by rightwing fascists in the United States and leftwing intellectuals in France. "They all join in this insane need they have to deny that what we went through didn't happen."

Reagan noted that the number of persons killed was so large there is a need to look at the "humanity behind the numbers." He listed the names of several persons who died in the Holocaust and wondered what they would have contributed to the world if they had survived.

In noting Israel's impending return of the Sinai, Reagan mentioned Moses Flecher who, he said, was a 16-year-old Dutch Jew who died in the Holocaust. He said that Flecher had written that he wanted to go to Israel and into politics and would study Arabic because he knew Israel had to live in peace with its neighbors. Reagan said that one could only wonder what kind of contribution Flecher could have made to the peace process if he were still alive.

#### Stresses The Commitment Of Congress

At the Capitol ceremony, House speaker Thomas O'Neill (D. Mass.) also urged Americans not to think of Holocaust victims as numbers but as individuals. O'Neill also stressed the commitment of Congress to the creation of a national Holocaust museum and living memorial to the Holocaust, one of the tasks of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Sen. Ted Stevens (R. Alaska), the Senate Majority Whip, said this nation will not remain indifferent to human suffering and human misery.

Wiesel, who spoke at both the White House and the Capitol, warned the legislators that the Nazis had used the law to carry out their crimes against Jews and others. "The Nazis had corrupted the law themselves," he said. "They made it into a weapon against humanity."

#### Notes U.S. Failed To Save Jews

Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and novelist, also pointed out that during the Nazi period the U.S., which has a record of taking in people from other countries, failed to take in Jews. He also stressed that the crimes of the Nazis were known before the war ended and that Auschwitz was known to American Jews before it was known to him and other Jews in Hungary.

Sigmund Strochlitz, chairman of the Holocaust Council's Days of Remembrance Committee, said the knowledge of the Holocaust is increasing in the United States partially through the effort of Congress in establishing the Holocaust Council and setting the Days of Remembrance Week. He said the need now is to know how the Holocaust happened and why. Mark Talisman, vice chairman of the Holocaust Council, praised the Reagan Administration for continuing the effort to find and prosecute Nazi war criminals in the United States.

In addition to programs in more than 40 states this week, public television stations throughout the country are running programs on the Holocaust this week. Exhibits of 21 photographic posters depicting life before, during and after the Holocaust are on display in the lobbies of several government buildings in Washington.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel Air Force planes on a reconnaissance flight near Sidon Lebanon were attacked by anti-aircraft missiles Tuesday but were unharmed, an army spokesman said. Missiles were fired at Israeli planes from Syrian territory Monday, also without damage or casualties, the spokesman said. He said the planes had been on a routine reconnaissance flight in the Sidon area Tuesday when a number of missiles were fired at them from shoulder-held launchers. The spokesman said that a surface-to-air shoulder-held missile was fired at a plane on a routine reconnaissance mission over the Golan Heights Monday. The missile, fired from Syrian territory, missed its target, the spokesman said.

## THWART EFFORT TO UNDERMINE STATUS OF JEWISH NGOs AT THE UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS, April 20 (JTA) -- A concerted effort, which ultimately failed, was made by the Soviet Union and several Arab countries to undermine the accredited status of international Jewish organizations at the United Nations during a committee meeting of the Economic and Social Council last Friday. The effort emerged at what was scheduled to have been a routine review of activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) affiliated with the UN.

When the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations began its session, the delegates from Costa Rica, Chile and Sweden pointed out that the Committee could determine the positions of the NGOs but not speculate on the organizations themselves, that the organizations could not be strait-jacketed with regard to their spheres of activities and that distinctions should be made between the nature of the NGOs and governmental bodies.

### Groundwork Laid For Line Of Questioning

The first monkey wrench in the review was tossed by the Soviet representative, Eduard Sviridov, who demanded to know why these proposals were not made at the beginning of the Committee's session which had begun two days earlier rather than at this point when Jewish organizations were due to appear.

Ali Nahi Hassan of Iraq followed by stating that he wanted information on the relations between several of the organizations and Zionism and also wanted information on their relations with Israel, in view of the fact that the UN had adopted a resolution in 1975 which equated Zionism with racism.

The organizations involved in the review were the Agudas Israel World Organization, the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, the International Council of Jewish Social and Welfare Services and the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO). The Committee avoided challenging the consultative status of the World Jewish Congress.

### 'Ties To Zionism' Sought

The NGOs were subjected to repeated questioning about their "ties to Zionism" and their refusal to adhere to the appeal of the recent General Assembly resolution calling on all UN bodies to sever their links with Israel. The NGOs were also asked to detail their activities in support of the human rights of the inhabitants of the "occupied Arab territories."

Some of the Committee members expressed concern over this line of questioning and wanted to know why only those organizations with the words "Jewish," "Zionist" or "Israel" in their titles were being subjected to this treatment.

Jaime Lagos of Chile said he was concerned that the Committee had no difficulty with reviewing the activities of those organizations which had the words "Arab" or "Moslem" in their titles. Why then, he asked, did the Committee have such difficulty with those whose organizations had a reference to "Jewish" or "Israel" in their titles. He expressed hope that this was merely coincidental.

When some of the Arab members of the Committee insisted on knowing whether the NGOs adhered to the various political resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including those which were anti-Israeli, a number of Western delegates pointed out that not even every member of the Assembly agrees with all the resolutions adopted.

Rodolfo Piza Escalante of Costa Rica pointed out that an NGO could criticize UN resolutions, so long as it did not undermine the UN. Iain Mathewson of

Great Britain said there was no mandate for the NGOs to be public relations agents for the UN, although they were expected to support the aims of the UN. He noted that the Secretary General had last year awarded the Agudas Israel World Organization a peace medal and Mathewson said he interpreted that act as supportive of Agudas Israel.

Jean Fernand-Laurent of France also pointed out that NGOs need not defend every political resolution of the General Assembly and said that a distinction has to be made between Zionism, Judaism and Israel. He defined Zionism as a form of patriotism and rejected the view that it was racism.

The Committee on NGOs comprises Chile, Cuba, France, Ghana, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Sweden, the Ukraine, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. Its chairman is Sajjad Ali of Pakistan and the vice chairman is Vladamir Lapiitski of the Ukraine.

### BEGIN PROPOSES AMNESTY FOR PRISONERS TO MARK 15th YEAR OF THE LIBERATION OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, April 20 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin has proposed that the government mark the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem this year by an amnesty for prisoners in jail. At the weekly Cabinet meeting he asked Justice Minister Moshe Nissim and Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir to study the idea and report back to the Cabinet next Sunday.

In the past, there were amnesties in the form of reduction of sentences for some crimes -- to mark Israel's Independence Day and on certain other major national occasions. The amnesties are usually in the form of Presidential pardons or reductions, but on two past occasions -- one in the 1950's and one immediately after the Six-Day War -- they took the form of special Knesset laws introduced by the incumbent government.

### POLISH GOVERNMENT PLANNING TO COMMEMORATE THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

WARSAW, April 20 (JTA) -- The Polish government plans to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising next year with impressive ceremonies on the site of the former ghetto. Polish officials said the commemoration will be one of the most important ceremonies held in Poland in recent years and Jewish survivors from all over the world will be invited to attend.

The Association of Polish Jewish War Veterans as well as the various associations of ghetto survivors will be asked to participate in drawing up the plans for the ceremonies which will last several days.

Most of the ceremonies will center around the impressive monument erected on the ghetto site. Several of the former ghetto buildings still stand and Polish officials are taking necessary measures to preserve them for historical purposes.

PARIS (JTA) -- The 39th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was marked by a small ceremony at the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr. It was attended by the Chief Rabbi of France, Rene Sirat, Israel's Ambassador Meir Rosenne and the heads of the various Jewish organizations.