

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## U.S. ASKS ISRAEL FOR MORE TIME TO NEGOTIATE PLO'S DEPARTURE; ISRAEL IMPATIENT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA) -- The U.S. has asked an increasingly restive Israel for more time to negotiate the withdrawal of Palestine Liberation Organization forces from west Beirut. The request was made today by Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, at a meeting here with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Draper is assisting President Reagan's special envoy for the Lebanese crisis, Philip Habib, who has been in Beirut for over a week negotiating with the PLO through Lebanese mediators. He was told flatly by Shamir that Israel is running out of patience and demands that the terrorists leave Beirut immediately.

Draper, who came here from Beirut this morning, said more time was needed because the negotiations were proving difficult. He attributed the difficulties to differences between the various terrorist groups under the PLO umbrella and the fact that the U.S. does not talk to the PLO directly but through intermediaries. However, he reportedly believes that the PLO can be prevailed upon to leave Beirut by political means.

### 'Symbolic Retreat' Denied

A senior political source said here today that Israel has not received any conditions from the PLO to move its forces back some distance from Beirut. If it had "Israel would have rejected it outright," the source said. He denied reports from Beirut that Israel has agreed to a "symbolic retreat" by the PLO. He said such reports were not related to the reality of the negotiations presently under way.

The reports said the Israelis would pull back from Beirut simultaneously with the PLO's departure, that the terrorists would be allowed to take along heavy weapons and would be permitted to retain a small military unit within the Lebanese army after all foreign elements have left Lebanon.

Premier Menachem Begin said during the Knesset debate Tuesday that Israel would permit the PLO to leave Beirut under safe conduct with their personal weapons but they would have to leave their tanks and artillery behind. It was not known if that offer was made official and conveyed to the Palestinians through Habib.

### PLO TAKING DEFENSIVE POSTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 1 (JTA) -- Remnants of the Palestine Liberation Organization are taking up defensive positions in west Beirut in anticipation of an Israeli attack on the city, Israel Radio reported today. It quoted refugees arriving in south Lebanon from Beirut as saying the PLO was occupying mosques, churches and abandoned foreign embassies on the supposition that the Israelis would refrain from attacking such buildings.

Foreign reporters in west Beirut reported chaos in the besieged western sector. They reportedly

told colleagues in Christian-held east Beirut that there were clashes between rival groups within the PLO and a danger of epidemic disease because garbage and sewage have not been removed for two weeks and fester in the sweltering heat.

Other sectors of the Lebanese front remained quiet today except for artillery exchanges in the central sector between the Christian Phalangists, allied with Israel, and Syrian forces. Israeli troops were not involved and continue to observe the cease-fire established last Friday.

Three non-Palestinian guerrillas among the PLO fighters captured by the Israelis were interviewed on television last night under guard by the Israeli army. They were identified as nationals of Iran, Iraq and Yemen. They said they were recruited by the PLO with the promise of civilian jobs in Lebanon or Syria but when they arrived in Lebanon they were forced to join El Fatah fighting units.

### BURG SEES HOPE FOR AUTONOMY TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA) -- Interior Minister Yosef Burg said today that Israel's invasion of Lebanon might create better conditions for the successful pursuit of the autonomy negotiations.

Burg, who heads Israel's autonomy negotiations team, said in an Army Radio interview that many residents of the West Bank have concluded that the war in Lebanon proved the Palestine Liberation Organization and its political line to be worthless. They recognize that the path chosen by the PLO has resulted in "a tragedy for the Arabs, for the people in Lebanon," Burg said.

He suggested therefore that the Palestinians in the occupied territories now see the autonomy negotiations as their best hope. Now that the PLO has been defeated, there is a better chance to find Palestinian moderates willing to negotiate, Burg said.

### REAGAN DENIES BEGIN GAVE HIM PROMISE NOT TO ENTER BEIRUT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 1 (JTA) -- President Reagan denied last night that Premier Menachem Begin had promised him that Israeli military forces would not go into Beirut, directly contradicting a statement made last week by his deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes. Instead, Reagan said that Begin told him when the two met in the White House June 21 that Israel did not want to go into the city.

However, the President, answering questions in a press conference nationally televised from the White House, denied that he had given Israel a "green light" to enter Beirut or for the original invasion of Lebanon. He said he believed before the Israelis launched the "Peace for Galilee" operation and still believes the situation can be handled through diplomatic methods.

Speakes' statement last Thursday that Begin had given assurances on west Beirut and a report that a similar message had been sent to Saudi Arabia by Vice President George Bush and National Security Advisor William Clark are

believed to be one of the reasons for Secretary of State Alexander Haig's resignation last Friday. Haig reportedly accepted the Israeli view that such a signal would encourage the Palestine Liberation Organization to continue fighting and thus prolong the conflict in Lebanon.

But when he was asked about the Speakes statement last night, Reagan replied: "I think also his (Speakes) not having heard the original -- the conversation between Prime Minister Begin and myself, that what he (Speakes) called a promise actually was in a discussion in which, to be more accurate, the Prime Minister had said to me that they didn't want to go into west Beirut, and that they had not wanted to from the beginning."

#### Denied 'Conflicting Signals'

The President, while refusing to give any explanation of Haig's resignation, denied there had been "conflicting signals" on the Mideast. "We have been in constant communications through the State Department with Phil Habib (his special envoy for the Lebanese situation), and taking much of our lead from his reporting of what's going on there and what we can do that would -- might be helpful."

Reagan said that when he speaks to ambassadors privately he always informs the State Department and others of the discussion. "There has never been any dual track or confusion with regard to our communications," he said.

He stressed that there will be no change of policy when George Shultz becomes Secretary of State. The President refusing to condemn Israel's action in Beirut, stressed that "We were not warned or notified of the invasion." But he noted that "there had been a breaking of the cease-fire which had held about 11 months" and for which he praised Habib highly for establishing and helping to maintain.

But he noted that "We have a situation in Lebanon, in which there was a force, the PLO, literally a government within a government, and with its own army. And they had pursued aggression themselves across the border by way of rocket firing and artillery barrages."

#### U.S. Has 3 Goals

Reagan added that for seven years Lebanon has been "divided into several factions, each faction with its own militia -- not a government in control." He added that the PLO has been in the country as well as an "invasion of other forces, the presence of the Syrians."

Reagan listed three goals the U.S. has in Lebanon. The first is for the Lebanese factions to "come together" and form a central government and "have control of their own country and to have a single Lebanese army."

The second "would be the guaranteeing of the southern border with Israel; that there would be no longer a force in Lebanon that could, when it chose, create acts of terror across the border."

The third goal listed by Reagan "is to get all foreign forces -- Syrians, Israelis and the armed PLO -- out of Lebanon." The President added that he differentiates between the PLO and Palestinians. "When these other things are accomplished once and for all to deal with the problems of the Palestinians, and settle that problem within the proposals and the suggestions that were made in the Camp David accords" is another goal.

Asked about the Israeli use of cluster bombs in Lebanon, Reagan said "it concerns me very much" and "we have a review going now, as we

must by law, of the use of weapons and whether American weapons sold there (to Israel) were used offensively and not defensively. And this situation is very ambiguous." He explained by ambiguous he meant that "prior to this attack Soviet-built rockets and 180-millimeter cannons were shelling villages across the border in Israel and causing civilian casualties."

However, Reagan said he does not have an official report yet and only knows about the newspaper reports of Israeli Gen. (res.) Aharan Yariv's briefing admitting that cluster bombs were used.

#### BOND LEADERS RENEW PLEDGE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA) -- A team of 30 Israel Bond leaders from 24 communities overseas who came to Israel to study the impact of the war in Lebanon on Israel's economy, concluded their 42-hour stay by renewing their pledge to Premier Menachem Begin today to raise an additional \$100 million between now and September so that Israel's development will not suffer.

"We know Israel can be secure only if she is economically strong," said Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, who headed the delegation. "We spent the first day of our visit visiting Israel army camps in Lebanon where we were briefed by the Deputy Chief of the Israel General Staff, and several brigadier generals."

"What amazed us," he said, "was the repeated expression of enthusiasm by Lebanese we met at having the Israel Defense Forces clear out both the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Syrians."

"We heard this at Beaufort Castle. We heard it in the streets of Damour in Lebanon. We have difficulty reconciling much of what we have been seeing on U.S. television with the reality of what the Lebanese themselves are saying," Rothberg said.

The Israel Bond drive presented Begin with a "down payment" of \$35 million in New York on June 18. "We are now returning to our communities to raise the balance of an additional \$100 million which we feel is the minimum needed to maintain Israel's necessary rate of economic development," said Melvin Ross, a member of the delegation from Boston.

The delegates laid wreaths at the tombs of Israel's soldiers recently fallen in the Lebanese war, officially designated "Operation Peace for Galilee." Prior to leaving Israel, they visited several injured soldiers at a Jerusalem hospital.

At a briefing session with Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, the delegation was told that a major part of the war's economic burden was the economic dislocation of the civilian economy resulting from mobilization of the reservist army. Aridor said both the direct and indirect economic costs of the war will amount to billions of dollars. He cited the price of one air-to-ground missile -- \$400,000.

Aridor estimated that the war will cost Israel 10-15 percent of its 1982 gross national product or between \$2-3 billion.

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NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- Ida Nudel, the Jewish emigration activist who returned to Moscow recently after serving a four year sentence of internal exile in Siberia, is moving to Riga tonight, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews reported. Nudel, who owns a flat in a Moscow cooperative, indicated she was not making the move voluntarily.

# REFORM RABBIS BACK ISRAEL'S OPERATION IN LEBANON, DEPLORE LOSS OF LIVES ON BOTH SIDES

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- Delegates to the 93rd annual conference of the Central Conference of American Rabbis endorsed unanimously yesterday Israel's incursion into Lebanon against terrorism and the Palestine Liberation Organization, simultaneously expressing their "deep concern" at the loss of life on both sides.

The 525 Reform rabbinical delegates called on the Reform movement's 1.2 million congregants to join in efforts under Jewish and non-Jewish auspices to raise funds to provide food, medical supplies and shelter for the people of Lebanon who are the victims of the war. The four-day conclave ended today.

The delegates rejected an attempt by a CCAR member, Rabbi Israel Dresner, who is also president of the Association of Reform Rabbis of Greater New York, to condemn the Israeli military action. The delegates rejected an effort by some delegates to introduce a resolution that would have criticized the Israeli action in Lebanon.

Dresner, stressing he was speaking for himself and not for the association he heads, said he was a lifelong Zionist "dedicated to a democratic and just Israel" but that "what is happening in Lebanon today has nothing to do with that kind of Israel." He made his statement at a news conference sponsored at the United Nations Church center here by a newly-formed National Emergency Committee on Lebanon. A CCAR spokesman said Rabbi Dresner's views were "most definitely" in the minority in American Reform Judaism.

## Defer Rule On Jewish Father

The delegates, after three hours of debate, deferred for further study a proposal for acceptance of children of a mixed marriage as Jewish if either the father or mother is Jewish. Rabbinic law holds that progeny is Jewish only if the mother is Jewish.

The proposal emerged from a two-year study by a CCAR Committee on Patrilineal Descent. Presented to the delegates as a motion, the proposal was that "where only one of the parents is Jewish, the Jewishness of a child is derivable from the Jewish parent, and is expressed by participation in Jewish life."

Rabbi Herman Schaalman of Chicago, who was elected to a second one-year term as CCAR president, said he believed that 179-168 vote which referred the issue back to committee, was partly due to the fact that for many Reform rabbis this was the first exposure "to a discussion of the many facets of this problem." He said many of the delegates felt uncomfortable to bring such a complex issue to a quick conclusion.

Rabbi Joseph Glaser, CCAR executive vice-president, said, after the vote, that "a general feeling existed that there should be equalization between maternal and paternal descent. However, at this time, many of the CCAR members do not want a flat equalization between the two because of the weight of tradition and the general break that such a dramatic action would mean to the rest of the Jewish world."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, who recommended the move to the CCAR in 1979 said that the vote demonstrated that the Reform movement had accepted "overwhelmingly," the

idea that Jewish fathers "are no less equal than Jewish mothers in determining the Jewishness of their offspring. There are however, strong differences" on the criteria "for accepting a child into the Jewish faith," he said.

## CHAIM GRADE, DEAD AT 72

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- Private funeral services were held yesterday for Chaim Grade, a Yiddish novelist and poet on the Holocaust, who died of a heart attack in Montefiore Hospital here at 72.

The novelist-poet, whose writings have become more widely available in English only in recent years, died Saturday, survived only by his second wife, Inna Hecker Grade. He wrote deeply moving poems on the loss to the Nazis of the civilization in which he grew up in his native Vilna, often called "the Jerusalem of Lithuania," because of its international Jewish reputation as a center of piety and intellectual life.

In 1967, Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor whose writing on the Nazi genocide brought him fame, paid tribute to Grade in a review of the Grade novel, "The Aguna." Wiesel wrote that "the work of Chaim Grade, by its vision and scope, establishes him at the age of 64 as one of the great -- if not the greatest -- of Yiddish novelists. Surely, he is the most authentic."

Grade published, in English, in the late 1970s, a two-volume novel, "The Yeshiva." It told the story of a religious Jew, torn between adherence to his unrelenting faith and to his ties to his own feelings. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. said it will publish in November "Rabbis and Wives," three Grade novellas, and "My Mother's Sabbath Days" at a later date.

Critics said his poetry had a poignancy and power which made him a leading poet on the Holocaust, a seeker for meaning in an event of massive human evil which destroyed a third of his people.

## Born In Lithuania

Raised an Orthodox Jew in Vilna, he turned to a secular life and the start of his writing career in the early 1930s. When the Nazis smashed into Lithuania in 1941, Grade fled to the Soviet Union at the insistence of his mother and his first wife. When he returned to Vilna after the war, he found that the Nazis had murdered both of them, along with his ancestral civilization.

He told friends that, at that point, he felt compelled to change his secular, skeptical outlook for an urgent effort to keep alive the memory of what the Nazis had wiped out. He emigrated to France. In 1948, he came to the United States, to settle with his second wife in the Bronx, and continued writing frequently in Yiddish for Yiddish newspapers, ultimately the Jewish Daily Forward.

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WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The State Department said Thursday that the U.S. has made "no threats" to Israel should it decide to invade Beirut. The Department's deputy spokesman, Alan Romberg, gave that reply when asked if the U.S. might consider sanctions such as the cut-off of American aid and arms deliveries should the Israelis break the present cease-fire and send their forces against the remnants of the Palestine Liberation Organization in west Beirut. (By Helen Silver)

## CONSERVATIVE JEWISH FOUNDATION ORGANIZED IN U.S. TO HELP MOVEMENT SURVIVE IN ISRAEL

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- A Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel has been established in the United States to seek financial help from the American Conservative movement for the Conservative movement in Israel, according to Dr. Gerson Cohen, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the major American Conservative educational institution. He said the projected annual budget for the Foundation is \$1 million.

"We have established many institutions in Israel, all affiliated with the Mesorati (traditional) Movement," the Conservative-sponsored movement in Israel, Cohen said. He said Israeli Jews "in overwhelming numbers have flocked to these organizations -- synagogues, camps, schools -- demonstrating their need for precisely what we offer."

Dr. Cohen said that "American support for these institutions is essential if they are to survive. Certain pressure groups in Israel, who try to deny qualified non-Orthodox professionals the right to function there, place our institutions in jeopardy and threaten Jewish solidarity." This was understood to be a reference to the official status of Orthodoxy as the only recognized religious group in Israel and the rejection by the Israeli Orthodox rabbinate of the authority of Conservative and Reform rabbis to function as such.

"Therefore, Conservative Jews in this country must increase support for our program in Israel, and strengthen those institutions which offer Israelis a valid religious choice between rigid Orthodoxy and rampant secularism," Cohen said.

### Gordis Named Executive Director

He said Dr. David Gordis, vice-president of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, the Seminary west coast affiliate, has been named executive director of the new Foundation. Rabbi Morton Leifman, Seminary assistant chancellor, has been named executive secretary of the Foundation, he said.

Cohen said the Foundation "is charged with providing that support. Gordis and Leifman will be working with a board of directors which I will chair, and on which all branches of the Conservative movement will be represented."

A Seminary spokesperson said the Foundation office will be located temporarily in Los Angeles, pending choice of a permanent site. She also told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that 101 Conservative rabbis have made aliyah of whom 15 are retired. She said the other 86 rabbis were active as pulpit rabbis, camp counselors, teachers and administrators.

### Hope To Train Sabra Rabbis

Gordis said he hoped that "we shall soon be training native Israelis for the rabbinate, using as our model the same high standards of scholarship and the same dedication to authentic interpretation of Jewish tradition which have always characterized both the New York Seminary and its west coast affiliate."

He said another project with a "high priority" in the Foundation program is establishment of a kibbutz "with a Conservative religious orientation which would provide 'an educational center serving Conservative Jews in Israel and visitors from the Diaspora.'"

## STUDY SHOWS DROP IN NUMBER OF JEWISH STUDENTS IN USSR

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 1 (JTA) -- The number of Jewish students at Moscow's institutions of higher education is roughly half what it was ten years ago, says a report by the Institute of Jewish Affairs (IJA), research arm of the World Jewish Congress.

Analyzing the figures, Dr. Lukas Hirsztowicz, senior research officer, says that although demographic decline and the age structure of Soviet Jewry partly explain the fall, the figures "certainly provide statistical evidence that discrimination is also a cause."

The fall in numbers paralleled the decline of the Soviet Jewish student population as a whole. Hirsztowicz estimates the 1980 figure for all USSR Jewish students at 50-55,000, compared with almost 112,000 in 1968-9.

### Jewish Population Decline

The Soviet Jewish population declined by 15.8 percent and by 13.2 percent in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR), which includes Moscow, in the period between the census of 1970 and 1979.

But in what the IJA calls a roughly comparable period, Moscow Jewish students declined by almost 41 percent, "about three times the decline of the general Soviet Jewish population."

On the other hand, the number of Jews in specialist education did not decline in the 1970s at the same rate as those in higher education.

Finally the report shows that in the USSR as a whole, the Jews were the only nationality other than the Georgians to suffer an absolute decline in the number of students in higher education.

### JEWISH MUSEUM OPENS IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, July 1 (JTA) -- Forty-four years after the Nazis closed down the first Jewish Museum in the world, built in Vienna at the end of the last century, a new Jewish museum was opened last month in Austria's easternmost province of Burgenland. The Austrian Jewish Museum opened its doors with a large exhibition called "1,000 years of Austrian Jewry."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Theodor Kery, the Governor of Burgenland, expressed his gratitude to the Jewish community for its contribution to Austria in the fields of art, medicine, politics and economics. "My thanks may come late," Kery said, "but they should never be too late." Quoting the German philosopher and social scientist Theodor Adorno, Kery added, "Anti-Semitism is the rumor about Jews. And this museum is intended to do away with such rumor."

The museum, which was opened by Hertha Firnberg, Minister for Science and Research, came into existence through active lobbying by the Association for the Jewish Austrian Museum, a group closely linked with the Institute for Judaic Studies at the University of Vienna. Located within the old Jewish ghetto of Eisenstadt, capital of Burgenland province, the museum was financed by the Austrian Government, and by that country's nine provinces.

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REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated July 5, due to the July 4th postal holiday.