

# JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

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

Vol. LX - 65th Year -

Tuesday, December 7, 1982

No. 230

## INQUIRY PANEL CLEARS HADDAD, HIS MILITIA OF REFUGEE CAMP KILLINGS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre has cleared Maj. Saad Haddad and his Christian militia of involvement in the mass killings of Palestinians September 16-18. Haddad, who testified before the panel on November 17, had requested that he or his representative be allowed to re-appear to examine evidence which might pertain to him.

The commission rejected that request stating that it had "not resolved that Maj. Haddad is liable to be harmed" by whatever conclusions are reached by its investigation. The commission also specifically dismissed suggestions that the term "Lebanese forces" which the Cabinet used in its official letter appointing the three-member panel last September had referred to Haddad's militia.

The Cabinet's letter held "Lebanese forces" responsible for the killings in the Sabra and Shatila camps. They are generally conceded to have been units of the Christian Phalangists, a faction long at odds with Haddad.

The commission created a stir in Israel and abroad on November 24 when it issued formal warnings to Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and six other senior military and government officials that they "may be harmed" by conclusions reached as a result of their testimony before the panel.

In accordance with the 1968 Commissions of Inquiry Law, the men were given 15 days to reappear before the commission to present further testimony and examine witnesses and evidence. The 15 days will be up this Thursday.

### Begin Won't Reappear Before Panel

Sources close to Begin have said repeatedly that he will not avail himself of the opportunity to reappear but would send a letter to the commission clarifying the original points of his testimony given on September 8. Shamir is expected to make the same response but Sharon will probably reappear before the panel in person or through a representative, according to a report in Haaretz today.

Meanwhile, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor who is an attorney is reportedly examining relevant evidence and other material before the commission on Begin's behalf. The Premier apparently relies on Meridor for legal counsel although there is no formal lawyer-client relationship between them.

Most of the other officials warned by the commission have sought legal assistance. Some are consulting lawyers within the defense establishment and others have engaged outside attorneys. Under the law, the government pays part of the legal fees in such cases.

Amnon Goldenberg, a prominent Tel Aviv lawyer, was reportedly hired by the chief of Mossad, the intelligence agency, whose identity is an official secret. Goldenberg, a leading figure in Begin's Likud Party, was one of the strongest voices raised in favor of a judicial inquiry into the massacres when Begin and other government officials initially refused to authorize an investigation.

Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, chief of military intelligence, is represented by another Tel Aviv lawyer, David Libai. Libai was drafted into the army reserves for that purpose.

## CIVIL SERVANTS STRIKE IN ISRAEL

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry was virtually deserted today as more than 1,000 diplomatic and administrative staff members observed a 24-hour strike in a dispute over wages and working conditions. A two-day general strike by some 400,000 civil servants in all government departments will begin tomorrow following the collapse of wage negotiations between the Treasury and Histadrut today.

Civilian employees of the Defense Ministry observed a one-day strike yesterday, the first to hit Israel's defense establishment since the State was founded.

Only Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Director General David Kimche were at their offices in the Foreign Ministry today. Everyone else stayed home, according to staff committee activists who toured the premises this morning and reported with grim satisfaction that "the place is desolate."

(Many employees of the Israel Embassy in Washington and of Consulates and various Israeli missions in the U.S. also stayed away from their jobs today in response to the strike call by the Foreign Ministry's staff committee.)

### Demands By The Strikers

The Ministry employees are demanding that their pay and working conditions be equalized with those at the Defense Ministry. They also demand extra remuneration for specialists who work odd hours.

The employees have threatened additional action such as a daily shutdown at 3 p.m. and a general refusal to handle classified material if their demands are refused. Those sanctions, if carried out, would affect Israeli diplomatic establishments abroad.

Finance Minister Yoram Aridor had a lengthy meeting yesterday with Histadrut Secretary General Yehoshua Meshel in a last minute effort to avert a general strike by civil servants. The Treasury wants to put a ceiling on wage increases by law. Histadrut insists that wage agreements must remain a subject of bargaining between workers and employers.

The trade union federation also opposes a Treasury plan to spread out the payment of cost-of-living increase increments. It would pay a monthly increase of five percent instead of the lump sum payments now made twice a year.

According to the Treasury, its proposals are aimed at fighting inflation. Histadrut retorted that this cannot be done on the backs of the workers. It is insisting on a new general wage hike to compensate employees for the erosion of their real wages in 1981.

The impasse makes a general strike tomorrow virtually certain and labor strife is rampant in other sectors as well. University teachers are on a week-long strike. Court functions were disrupted yesterday when State-employed lawyers resorted to job actions. Postal workers, however, postponed a scheduled strike yesterday.

## ARAB STUDENTS AT BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY GO ON STRIKE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- About 1,200 Arab students at Bethlehem University went on strike today to protest orders by the civil administration to eight foreign lecturers to cease their teaching activities immediately.

The orders were issued last Friday to four American and four British instructors who refused to sign a commitment not to "aid the Palestine Liberation Organization or any other hostile organization." The pledge is a requirement for renewal of work and resident permits on the West Bank.

So far, 21 foreign lecturers at three West Bank universities have been forced to give up their jobs and leave the country because they would not sign what they regard as a political document which compromises their academic freedom. Israel has drawn a sharp rebuke from Washington for demanding the commitment as a condition of employment.

Apparently in response to that and to protests from academic circles in Israel, the civil authorities dropped the special pledge form last week but incorporated its text into the application for a work permit. The civil administration insists that the pledge is an essential part of the overall fight against PLO influence in the territory.

## ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WEST GERMANY HARASSED BY HECKLERS

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to West Germany, Yitzhak Ben Ari and another member of the Israel Embassy staff were severely harassed by hecklers at separate speaking engagements in Munich and Marburg last week.

Ben Ari, addressing a group in Munich on the prospects for peace in the Middle East, was repeatedly shouted down by young members of the audience who hurled anti-Israel slogans at the envoy. Despite the interruptions he was able to complete his prepared speech. But Embassy aide Dan Ashbel fared less well in Marburg where he appeared before Protestant students in a building owned by their church.

Hours before Ashbel's arrival, several thousand youngsters marched through the city carrying anti-Semitic banners and proclaiming their support for the Arab cause. Later, they occupied the meeting hall and refused to let Ashbel speak. Police were on hand but did not intervene. The meeting was moved to a private home where some 70 students gathered to discuss Middle East problems with the Israeli diplomat.

Both incidents were typical of a pattern that has developed in West Germany since the war in Lebanon. Ambassador Ben Ari has been prevented from speaking on several other occasions.

Meanwhile, Frankfurt police have accused the Cologne-based WDR television station of deliberately organizing a neo-Nazi demonstration to protest a recent re-broadcast of the American-made Holocaust series. According to the police, WDR paid the neo-Nazis to demonstrate in a crowded street for the benefit of its cameras. A WDR spokesman has denied the charge.

## STATE DEPT. PUZZLED OVER ISRAEL'S REACTION TO U.S. AID POLICY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The State Department maintained today that it was "puzzled" that Israel could see the Reagan Administration's

opposition to increased aid for Israel as a change of U.S. policy. "Frankly, in light of the President's proposed aid level to Israel, we are puzzled that Israel could call into question U.S. good faith over this issue," the Department's deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said.

The Israeli Cabinet said yesterday that it was astonished by the Administration's actions in seeking to convince the Senate Appropriations Committee last week not to add \$125 million in economic aid and \$350 million in military assistance to the \$2.5 billion the Administration has recommended for Israel in the current fiscal year which began October 1. The Appropriations Committee adopted the extra aid as part of the total foreign aid package of \$11.5 billion which was approved by voice vote.

## Tries To Explain U.S. Position

Romberg repeated some of the assertions he had made last Friday in which he maintained that the \$1.7 billion in military aid and \$785 million in economic aid recommended by President Reagan was proof that "the Administration has no higher priority than meeting Israel's needs." He noted that the amount proposed for Israel is 28 percent of the U.S. security assistance budget.

He added that the additional money proposed for Israel "comes at a time when other U.S. friends are desperately in need of U.S. assistance to help deal with ongoing military conflicts. The add-ons to Israel would make it more difficult to address those needs," Romberg said.

In his remarks last Friday, which came after the Senate committee acted late Thursday, Romberg noted that "any increase could imperil the strenuous effort we are making to find a settlement in Lebanon and to make progress in the broader peace process."

Those were the points reportedly stressed by U.S. special Middle East envoy Philip Habib in his telephone calls to committee members urging them not to vote for the additional \$475 million for Israel. Romberg would only confirm that Habib had telephoned Senators. He would not say what the envoy said to them.

## Confirms Return Of Habib, Draper

However, Romberg did confirm that Habib and the other U.S. special envoy in the Middle East, Morris Draper, would be returning to Washington, probably this week, to confer with President Reagan. He said that Habib, who is in Morocco today and whose mission is not only the Lebanon negotiations but the President's entire Mideast peace initiative, had completed his "preliminary discussions" and it is felt it would be "useful" for him to report to the President.

Romberg said that while Habib's report would cover the entire Middle East situation, it would concentrate in particular on Lebanon "so that these very important negotiations can be advanced as quickly as possible."

Although Habib was originally due back in Washington this week, his return along with Draper, who is in Beirut today, is viewed as a sign that the U.S. cannot achieve its goal of withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon by the end of the year. Romberg had no comment on reports that the Administration was blaming Israel for this delay.

\*\*\*

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- The General Assembly was scheduled to begin its debate on the Middle East late Monday. The Assembly concluded its debate on the question of Palestine last Thursday but decided to vote on various draft resolutions before it at a later time.

## AJCONGRESS TO LAUNCH PROGRAM TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF MIDEAST LOBBYING ACTIVITIES BY U.S. FIRMS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- An extensive program designed to ascertain the extent of efforts by 23 corporations in lobbying Congress on behalf of the Reagan Administration for the sale of the \$8.5 billion AWACS arms package to Saudi Arabia, was announced here by the American Jewish Congress. Congress approved the arms package in November, 1981.

In making the announcement today Howard Squadron, AJCongress president, pointed out that lobbying by corporations on behalf of policies it determines to be in its best interests are not illegal. He suggested, however, that actions on behalf of the corporation taken without consent of the Board of Directors of major corporations or without notification to its shareholders is "improper."

According to Squadron, the program, which will work through shareholders resolutions asking management to report on the nature and cost of the lobbying efforts, seeks an agreement "that they will not in the future spend corporate funds for efforts of this kind." This reference, Squadron noted, was for a possible Administration effort to have corporations lobby on behalf of an arms package sale for Jordan, which is expected to be introduced in the 98th Congress when it takes office in January.

### Targets Of The Lobbying Inquiry

The AJCongress said the lobbying inquiry will cover corporations that have been identified as actively lobbying in favor of the sale of AWACS and other sophisticated American weaponry in 1981. The lobbying efforts by many of these corporations whose business ties to Saudi Arabia were clear, became a significant concern to the American Jewish community.

Among those corporations involved in the shareholders resolution campaign is Boeing, which according to one report, had "flooded Capitol Hill with telegrams and information packets to support" the arms sale. Another is United Technologies, which makes the engines for the AWACS aircraft. The Saudis are scheduled to receive five AWACS beginning in 1985.

The shareholders project will be carried out by leaders of the AJCongress who are shareholders of substantial amounts of stock in the 23 corporations that have been targeted. Originally 25 were announced as targets in the campaign but two -- Whitaker Corporation and Owens-Illinois were dropped prior to today's announcement.

### Elements Of The Resolution

According to the AJCongress, the resolution, which is identical for each corporation, will ask management to report to stockholders on the following: what concrete steps were taken to influence congressional debate and public opinion on AWACS; the estimated amount of company funds spent on AWACS lobbying during 1981 and lobbying on general Mideast issues during the past year; what part of these lobbying expenses will be claimed as tax deductible because they are legitimate business expenses; projected management plans for additional lobbying activities on Mideast matters in the next 12 months; and how lobbying on Mideast issues has advanced the interests of the corporation?

"What we are questioning is an unusual lobbying effort that ultimately resulted in approval of the proposed AWACS sale," William Maslow, general counsel for the AJCongress, explained. "It now appears that the AWACS sale was saved from Senate defeat by massive, unprecedented corporate lobbying."

He contended that many of the corporations involved had no stake in the sale of the AWACS or had no business links to Saudi Arabia. They involved themselves in the lobbying, he explained, "because they were led to believe by the Administration and others that appeasing the Saudis on the sale was critical to the U.S. economy. This resulted in the most far reaching effort by American companies to influence foreign policy since World War II."

Maslow said corporate efforts to influence public opinion on foreign policy issues "usually constitute a waste of corporate funds," especially since the Internal Revenue Code does not allow the deduction of such expenditures as ordinary business expense. "What is worse," he said, "corporations take positions on controversial issues without consulting their shareholders and often in contradiction to their views."

According to the AJCongress "Boycott Report," under the proxy rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), a corporation receiving a timely resolution from a shareholder is required to include the text of the proxy statement it distributes to its shareholders in advance of the annual meeting.

The corporation is also required to allow the shareholders to vote on such resolution by marking appropriate proxy cards. SEC rules, according to the report, also require the corporation to allow the originator of the resolution to argue in its behalf at the annual meeting.

The shareholder resolution will be submitted to, among the 23, the following companies: AMR Corporation (American Airlines), Boeing Co., Eastern Airlines, Ford Motor Co., Mobil Corporation and Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

A similar campaign was initiated by the AJCongress in 1976-77 designed to reveal company policy toward participation in the Arab boycott of Israel. Fifty companies were involved in the AJCongress effort at that time which helped toward the establishment of anti-boycott regulations by Congress.

### POLL SHOWS LABOR WOULD GAIN NINE SEATS IN KNESSET IF RABIN RUNS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- A public opinion poll conducted for the Monitin monthly magazine by the Dr. Mina Zemach team in the Dahaf Research Institute says that if former Premier Yitzhak Rabin headed an Alignment list in Knesset elections now, the Labor Party list would gain nine seats giving it 56 in the 120-member house while the Likud would lose seven seats, dropping it to only 41 seats. The poll shows that Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's popularity as possible Prime Minister has dropped from 22 percent to 12 percent. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's popularity for the Premiership rose from 13 percent in July/August to 16 percent now. President Yitzhak Navon's chance rose from 12 to 15 percent.

\*\*\*

MEXICO CITY (JTA) -- Maria Esther Zuno de Echeverria, wife of former President Luis Echeverria, said she enjoyed seeing a performance in Spanish of the play "Yentle," by Isaac Bashevis Singer. The play was performed by a group of young amateur actors at the Jewish sports center here.

## 30TH WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS OPENS TUESDAY NIGHT IN JERUSALEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) — The 30th World Zionist Congress will open tomorrow night in Jerusalem as scheduled, and end December 16. It will be "an important gathering of the entire Jewish people," World Zionist Organization Executive chairman Leon Dulzin announced here today.

Wrangling over the number of delegates from each Zionist party following disputed elections in Britain and France and the failure to hold elections in the United States altogether are to be resolved by the Congress' Zionist Court. A decision to this effect was taken by the requisite 75 percent majority of the Zionist General Council in a special session here yesterday — and this enabled the Congress to convene as scheduled.

Kalman Sulzantnik, head of the Congress organization committee, said there would be 550 delegates representing political parties and an additional 200 delegates representing non-party Jewish-Zionist organizations such as synagogue bodies and Maccabi.

Dulzin said he would submit a detailed proposal to the Congress for the "thorough reorganization" of the WZO so that it will henceforth be based on "a regional basis not a party basis." Another proposal Dulzin said he intends to submit will be for the immediate doubling — from 8,000 to 15,000 — of the number of youth the WZO brings to Israel for study periods each year.

The new target will include a doubling of foreign Jewish university students, Dulzin said. At present there are some 2,000 in Israeli universities. Dulzin said he wanted to see the figure increase to 4,000 by the 1983 academic year if possible, and consultations with university deans seemed to show this was possible.

### Key Theme Is Anti-Semitism

The key theme of the 30th Congress will be anti-Semitism, with entire days devoted to discussions on this topic in the wake of what is widely seen as a revival of crude anti-Semitism this year in many and disparate countries. Aliya will also be stressed, with the Zionists spearheading a new effort to open up the gates of the Soviet Union again to Jewish emigration.

Dulzin took the opportunity of a pre-Congress press conference to reiterate his oft-stated view that "neshira" (Jews who opt to go to countries other than Israel once they emigrate from the Soviet Union) had caused the closing of the gates this past year or two.

He warned that if the gates were reopened — which he believes would happen — and the dropout rate increased, the gates would again be closed. Since the State of Israel came into being there are no more Jewish refugees, Dulzin said by way of rejecting the view among some American Jewish leaders that Soviet Jewish emigrants are refugees. Soviet Jewish emigrants are not refugees because they have visas to go to Israel and they ought therefore to go there, Dulzin asserted.

He said frankly he did not envisage massive aliya from the West but nevertheless believed that the rate of 10,000 annu-

ally over the past decade could certainly be "doubled and tripled." He called — as he has so often in the past — for a unified aliya-absorption system operated jointly by the government and the WZO, and said that the dearth of rental housing in Israel was one key obstacle to immigration from the West.

Dulzin said he discerned a new interest in Zionism among Israel's youth, thanks in large measure to the work of the Zionist Council in Israel in the schools and in the youth movements.

### SLEPAK RETURNS HOME AFTER 5 YEARS IN EXILE IN SIBERIA

TORONTO, Dec. 6 (JTA) — Vladimir Slepak of Moscow, known as the father of the Jewish emigration effort in the Soviet Union and one of the leading Jewish refuseniks, returned to his home last Saturday from exile in Siberia where he had served a five-year sentence for "malicious hooliganism," Genya Intrator, chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry, reported today.

Slepak's wife, Maria, received a three-year suspended sentence, at the same time her husband was sentenced, for the same offense. Her sentence was suspended for medical reasons, Ms. Intrator said. Although Ms. Slepak did not have to go to Siberia, she nevertheless spent the five years in exile with her husband near the Chinese border in Tzochto-Changil.

Ms. Intrator reported that Slepak was visited by friends upon his return home to Moscow and they said he did not look too bad, except that his hair and his beard had turned completely white. The Slepaks are each 57 years old. Ms. Intrator said the Slepaks' family in Israel hopes the couple will join them soon. At present living in Israel are Maria's sister and her family.

### SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL, FRANCE CONTINUE UNHAMPERED

PARIS, Dec. 6 (JTA) — Scientific relations between Israel and France have continued unhampered even at "the worst moments" in the relations between the two countries, according to Israel's Ambassador to France, Meir Rosenne.

Speaking at a fund raising dinner for joint scientific projects conducted by Israel's Weizmann Institute for Science and France's Pasteur Institute for Scientific Research, Rosenne said scientists and researchers have continued working together on a large number of subjects throughout the years.

Former Israeli President Ephraim Katzir, himself a research scientist at the Weizmann Institute, told the meeting that Israel hopes these undertakings between the two countries will continue. Several prominent French scientists attended the gathering as well as the scientific seminar which preceded it.

### DRUZE, CHRISTIANS CLASH IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, Dec. 6 (JTA) — The mountainous Shouf area which forms the hilly backbone of Lebanon was reported quiet but tense today, following a curfew imposed by the Israel army to halt fighting between local Druze and Christians.

Eight local Lebanese were reportedly killed in these ethnic clashes during the past week. Two Israeli soldiers were injured in the incidents.

Israeli officers have been meeting with representatives of the two sides in an effort to calm tempers. But the vendetta between the two ethnic groups is difficult to halt as it has a history of several hundred years. Druze and Christian leaders in Israel met in Haifa yesterday to try to work out a plan for ending the strife in Lebanon. But no agreement was reached on how this was to be done.