

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## IDF SOLDIER WOUNDED, 2 LEBANESE SOLDIERS KILLED IN BEIRUT SHOOTOUT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was wounded and two Lebanese soldiers were killed when an Israeli army vehicle was fired upon near a Lebanese roadblock in east Beirut today, an army spokesman announced. Israeli forces returned the fire and Israel Defense Force units scoured the area for the attackers. The incident was described as an "unfortunate accident" by IDF sources.

Lebanese soldiers manning a checkpoint at the eastern approaches to Beirut were said to have opened fire, possibly by accident, at two Israeli cars and an army ambulance approaching the post. One of the Israelis was wounded in the leg and his comrades opened fire in the direction from which the shots had come, killing two Lebanese soldiers at the checkpoint. Lebanese media in Beirut accused the Israelis of having fomented the incident by seeking to break through the roadblock to avoid being searched.

## U.S. SAYS CLASH IN LEBANON SHOWS NEED FOR RAPID TROOPS WITHDRAWAL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration stressed today that the clash between Israeli and Lebanese troops at an east Beirut checkpoint this morning, demonstrates the need for the rapid withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

Noting that the Israelis said the clash occurred as a result of a "misunderstanding," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said: "Nonetheless, this latest incident serves to illustrate the urgency for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon so that the government of Lebanon can assert its authority and control over all of Lebanon."

At the White House, President Reagan was quoted by his spokesman, Larry Speakes, as saying that one of the reasons it was "urgent" to "move forward" with the withdrawal of troops as rapidly as possible was the danger of violent occurrences. Speakes said Reagan will meet soon with the two U.S. special envoys to the Middle East, Philip Habib and Morris Draper, who returned to Washington last night.

## Habib, Draper Brief Officials

The two envoys briefed senior Administration officials at the White House this morning, including Vice President George Bush, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, National Security Advisor William Clark, Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, and CIA director William Casey. Secretary of State George Shultz is in Europe.

Romberg said Habib and Draper reported on the "progress" in the Middle East and particularly on the efforts for the "rapid withdrawal" of Israeli and Syrian troops and Palestine Liberation Organization forces from Lebanon. He did not elaborate on what he meant by "progress."

The U.S. is reportedly upset by the lack of progress on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and is blaming this on Israel for insisting that its negotiations with Lebanon be held in Jerusalem.

Romberg said Habib returned here as scheduled to report on his "round of consultations" and that Draper was asked to accompany him to join in the discussions with Administration officials. Reagan sent Habib back to the Middle East last month, not only to deal with the situation in Lebanon but with the overall Middle East efforts, including Reagan's September 1 peace initiative. Speakes stressed today that the President remains "fully committed" to his peace initiative.

## At The 30th World Zionist Congress: NAVON SAYS ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO BE DIFFERENT IS SOURCE OF STRENGTH

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- An emotional candle-lighting ceremony, angry demonstrations of partisan politics and a strong affirmation by President Yitzhak Navon that Israel's desire to "be different" is "the source of our strength and resilience," enlivened the opening session of the 30th World Zionist Congress at the Binyanei Ha'ooma convention hall here last night.

In addition to Navon, who greeted the Congress delegates as chief of state, the principal speakers were Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, who delivered the keynote address. (See JTA Bulletin of December 8). This morning's session was addressed by Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the WZO's American Section who stressed that the Zionist establishment must be reorganized to achieve its goals.

## Shamir Heckled Repeatedly

Shamir was heckled repeatedly while delivering what was billed as a major political address. He blamed President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative for the lack of diplomatic progress after Israel's successful campaign against the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon.

According to Shamir, the trend in Lebanon favored good relations with Israel. Israel had hoped after the destruction of the PLO in Beirut that the U.S., Egypt, and possibly even Jordan would join in renewed autonomy negotiations.

However, Shamir claimed, because of the Reagan plan, the Arabs are now discussing how to get Israel out of Judea and Samaria and how to establish a Palestinian state, led by the PLO. Israel will never accept such a state, Shamir declared. At that point, Labor Zionist delegates and members of the Peace Now movement leaped to their feet waving placards reading "Shamir, This Is Not The Way" and "Zionism Is Not Occupation."

## Fisticuffs Break Out

Several delegates hurled epithets at the hecklers and in a few cases fisticuffs broke out. Ushers separated the fighters and when order was restored, WZO chairman Dulzin apologized to Shamir. The Foreign Minister continued his speech. But shortly afterwards a huge banner was unfurled from the balcony by Peace Now followers. It read, in Hebrew, "Shamir: Lama? -- Kacha," roughly translated, "Shamir: Why? -- Because that's the way it is."

The banner was a reference to a recent statement by Shamir that Israeli youth must be taught clearly and simply that the Jewish right to "Eretz Israel" is not a subject for questioning but a self-evident right. "Why?" he asked rhetorically at a Herut convention earlier this week, "Because that's the way it is."

However, the Foreign Minister called for unity. "I know that there are some people in this hall who do not want Menachem Begin to be Premier or Yitzhak Shamir Foreign Minister," he said. "But there is no room for words and expressions of hatred despite political differences. Israel is a democratic state which chooses its government on election day. If you want to change the government, do it through the Knesset," he said.

#### Navon Cites A Danger

Navon's speech was in a different vein. He devoted much of it to the recent wave of anti-Semitism in the wake of the war in Lebanon. He said that from reports he received it was unprecedented in scope and intensity, beyond anything the Jewish world has known for "many years."

However, Navon spoke out strongly against "Those who say the whole world is against us." He warned that "it is easy to be swept away by this sentiment" but it is dangerous. "We must not fall into such a mood." In the first place, Navon observed, the assertion that "the whole world is against us simply is not true. Thank God Israel has many friends." Secondly, this sentiment "frees us from our own responsibility." Thirdly, it inevitably breeds depression. "We live on this planet, not on some other world," Navon declared.

"It is vital not to make such generalizations," he said. Granted, there has been intemperate criticism of Israel, even from its friends, and they have applied a double standard. "But let us remember: it is we who want to be treated differently ... who seek to be different from other nations in our area ... to be the People of the Book, to build a just, equitable society ... We can't have it both ways," he said.

Navon added that this desire to "be different" is "the source of our strength and resilience."

Navon also endorsed a statement made earlier in the evening by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef who urged the Zionist movement to inculcate "the values of our ancient heritage" into the young generation in the diaspora because this was the key to future aliya. Navon repeated this, adding, "You can ask the young to keep their identity, but how can they keep it if they know nothing about it?"

#### A Profoundly Moving Session

The most profoundly moving session at the Congress came at its opening when a large seven-branch menorah was kindled. The honor of lighting the first candle went to a Soviet Jewish emigre, Yosef Mendelevich. He performed the ceremony "in the name of my brothers and sisters and all of the Soviet aliya activists, the olim, the prisoners of Zion."

The Shehechyanu blessing was recited by the oldest delegate, Rabbi Israel Goldstein, a prominent American Zionist leader and rabbi who has lived in Jerusalem for many years.

The ceremonials, conducted in an atmosphere of reverent silence, were preceded by near chaos as the overflow audience of delegates, dig-

nitaries and other invited guests were caught in a crush of thousands of "ordinary folk" filling the aisles. The Congress organizers could not cope with the huge crowd and some prominent guests were unable to reach their seats.

One of them, Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, stalked out of the hall in protest. But most of the others bore the discomfort with good humor and seemed genuinely surprised and pleased that the Congress attracted such broad interest.

#### Jacobson Focuses On Practical Action

Mrs. Jacobson, who will shortly complete her term as chairman of the WZO-American Section, called today for more practical action in the areas of immigration and absorption. "We must not let our vision be clouded by our past achievements," she said. "If the Zionist movement is to play a major role in Jewish life, it simply must face reality."

According to Jacobson, today's reality indicates that the present structure of the WZO is breaking down. She suggested that confrontations on issues should be avoided. Instead, efforts must be made to create the necessary pre-conditions for change. "The Zionist movement needs its own 'Project Renewal,'" she said, referring to the project undertaken by Israel in partnership with American Jewry to eliminate slum neighborhoods.

#### Plight Of Falashas

Another issue raised was the plight of the Falashas, Ethiopian Jews. The Public Committee for Ethiopian Jews held a press conference yesterday at which its leaders complained of inaction on the Falashas. Committee chairman Michael Korinaldi charged that Israel and the Zionist movement have so far failed to rescue Ethiopian Jews and proposed that the Zionist Congress appoint a commission of inquiry into that failure.

Korinaldi noted that at the turn of the century there were some 250,000 Jews in Ethiopia, they number only 25,000 today. "What are we waiting for, that all of them should perish?" he asked.

#### HIGHLIGHTING OF JABOTINSKY'S ROLE STIRS POLITICAL PASSIONS AT THE 30th WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- A seemingly innocuous event stirred deep political passions at last night's opening of the 30th World Zionist Congress in the Jerusalem convention hall.

It was a pageant depicting Zionist history in slides, music performed by the Israel Defense Force orchestra and choral pieces. Not surprisingly, each mention of Vladimir Jabotinsky, founder of the Zionist Revisionist movement and spiritual father of Herut, was greeted with wild applause from his latter-day disciples.

Labor Zionists were equally clamorous at the mention of the late David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister and long time leader of the Labor Party. But the Laborites were irked because Jabotinsky's name was mentioned four times before there was any reference to Ben Gurion.

Yehiel Leket, chairman of the Labor Zionist movement, walked out to protest what he said was "falsification of Zionist history and Zionist truth." The role of the Revisionist leader was exaggerated and that of Israel's first Prime Minister diminished, he charged.

Zvi Eyal, a spokesman for the World Zionist Organization, said later that the pageant had been commissioned for the Congress from the Information Center, a unit within the Prime Minister's office.

The battle continued today when the Labor Zionists issued a statement condemning "the re-writing of Zionist history at the Congress." The statement charged that there was an attempt to minimize the contributions of the Labor movement which carried the burden of establishing the State of Israel, and to advance the role of the Revisionists, which the Laborites called "a marginal movement" in its historical impact.

#### PENTAGON ANNOUNCES NEW CENTRAL COMMAND TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE MILITARY DANGERS IN THE MIDEAST

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The Department of Defense announced today a new central command to deal with the possibility of military dangers in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean which includes Egypt but excludes Israel. Israel along with Syria and Lebanon will continue to be dealt with under the European command which is headquartered in West Germany.

A Pentagon spokesman explained that Israel was excluded because it is considered part of the Mediterranean area. He said the new command is basically a Southwest Asia command and Egypt was included because it borders on the Red Sea and Sudan.

The new command, which will have its headquarters at the MacDill Air Force base in Tampa, Florida, will have 230,000 people from all branches of the U.S. military in the United States available for use in case of danger in the area it will cover. This is in addition to the Rapid Deployment Force which is also headquartered at the Tampa base. The new command covers Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, and the Persian Gulf countries, Iraq, Iran, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

#### BLUM: ISRAEL HAS NO INTEREST IN REMAINING IN LEBANON BUT IS ENTITLED TO SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, declared today that Israel does not want "to stay in Lebanon or in any part thereof." But, he said, "we are entitled to demand that proper arrangements be made so that Lebanon should not serve again as a staging ground for terrorist attacks against Israel's civilian population."

Blum, who made this statement during the course of the Mideast debate in the General Assembly, reaffirmed Israel's stated position that its forces will not pull out from Lebanon until concrete arrangements are made that would stop hostile actions from Lebanon against Israel.

"No one in the Middle East is more eager than Israel to see Lebanese sovereignty restored, its internal strife resolved, the Syrian occupiers removed, the PLO subdued and freedom and tranquility returned to that war-torn land," Blum said.

Charging that the General Assembly, by its "repetitious and distorted presentation of the Arab-Israeli conflict" has no intention of coming to grips with the reality in the Mideast, Blum claimed that "the problem of the Palestinian Arabs is clearly not the central issue of the area or indeed of our times. Bitter and complex as it is, the Arab-Israel conflict is but one focus of Mideast tensions and violence among many, and as such, is far from being the most crucial."

The Assembly was expected to conclude tonight its Mideast debate. But it will vote on draft resolu-

#### STRIKE OF CIVIL SERVANTS CONTINUES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The more than 400,000 civil servants who went on strike yesterday were in a festive mood today, the second day of the 48-hour general strike, as they enjoyed an unusual free day in the middle of the week. Shops and department stores were crowded with shoppers and massive traffic jams developed as the strikers took their families on sightseeing trips and shopping expeditions.

The work stoppage today, as yesterday, brought the public work sector to a virtual halt and very few of the civil servants broke rank with the strikers. Some of those on strike nevertheless expressed doubts about its drastic nature. But all agreed that the government had dragged its feet for too long a time on the issue of salary increases.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut's government employees strike committee met today to discuss what next steps to take if the government refuses to reopen negotiations immediately on new labor contracts to include salary increases to make up for the erosion of incomes due to triple digit inflation, now at 140 percent. Late this evening Histadrut announced that the strike would end at midnight, as originally planned, but would begin again after Chanukah if no agreement was reached by then.

#### WCC OFFICIAL SAYS IT IS TIME FOR THE PLO TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- An official of the World Council of Churches (WCC) declared here that the time has come for the Palestine Liberation Organization to recognize Israel.

According to Ninan Koshy, international affairs director of the WCC, "a declaration of intention" by the PLO to recognize Israel's right to exist as a state would strengthen the present political momentum for a genuine peace in the Middle East. Koshy spoke on occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

He said the urgency of the situation demanded that the PLO take advantage of the favorable factors in order to capitalize on the good will it has earned and to take bold steps. Those remarks by a representative of an organization that has always been sharply critical of Israel's policies came as a surprise.

The WCC represents more than 300 Protestant denominations in 100 countries. Koshy said that it supports the efforts of the peace movements in Israel and among sections of the Jewish people around the world who also affirm the rights of the Palestinian people and appeal for co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians in two mutually recognized states.

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GENEVA (JTA) -- The International Committee of the Red Cross announced Wednesday that its representatives in Syria have visited three Israeli prisoners of war held in that country and delivered to them letters and parcels from their families in Israel. The visit took place last Monday, according to the Geneva Convention, the announcement said. That means that the soldiers were visited by the Red Cross delegates without witnesses.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Israel Aliya Center has reported a 25 percent increase in the number of North Americans emigrating to Israel in October, as compared to the same month last year.

## WOMEN RABBINICAL STUDENTS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- There are 12 women rabbinical students in the final year of their Reform studies and two women candidates currently in their final year at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) whose ordination next June will bring to 75 the total number of women ordained as rabbis since such ordination began a decade ago, according to an annual Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey.

Twelve women also were ordained as Reform rabbis last May and two as Reconstructionist rabbis last June, according to officials at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), the Reform seminary, and of the RRC. Those 1982 ceremonies brought to 61 the total number of women rabbis ordained since the first woman rabbi, Sally Preisand, was ordained as a Reform spiritual leader in 1972. The RRC is located in Philadelphia. The HUC-JIR has campuses in New York, Cincinnati and Los Angeles.

One unique element of this academic year's enrollment at the seminaries is that more women -- 19 -- than men -- 18 -- are studying for the rabbinate at the RRC. A total of 69 women and 120 men are studying for the Reform rabbinate at the HUC-JIR.

A majority of the women rabbis hold posts as assistant rabbis and a few have been advanced to associate rabbis, a generalization that applies to newly-ordained male rabbis as well. No woman has achieved the post of senior rabbi at a congregation but, in recent years, a growing number of women have been designated "solo rabbis," a reference to pulpit positions in congregations which are too small to either need or afford more than one rabbi.

A few of the women rabbis have chosen to take posts as Hillel Foundation rabbis, while others have chosen teaching, administrative and organizational staff jobs.

## UNICEF SAYS IT NO LONGER CHANNELS AID TO PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON THROUGH THE PLO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- UNICEF, the United Nations international children's fund, has assured the International Council of B'nai B'rith that it has stopped channeling aid to Palestinians in Lebanon through Palestine Liberation Organization affiliates and will refrain from doing so in the future.

B'nai B'rith said it questioned the procedure of using PLO constituents as a conduit for relief efforts because the stated aim of the PLO is to destroy Israel and because it engages in terrorism.

The world Jewish service organization raised the issue with UNICEF after learning that such assistance had been funneled through the Palestinian Red Crescent, headed by PLO leader Yasir Arafat's brother, Fathi, and the Palestinian Women's General Union, both of which are PLO constituents.

Pamela Hollingworth, director of communications for the United States Committee for UNICEF, informed the director of B'nai B'rith's UN office, Dr. Harris Schoenberg, that UNICEF "has never supported the PLO" and that any aid that might have been distributed via PLO affiliates was of an "emergency humanitarian" nature. The United States is the principle source of funding for UNICEF.

Hollingworth told the B'nai B'rith Executive, "You not only have my assurance, you have my guar-

antee" that PLO groups will not participate in any future funding. This was confirmed to Schoenberg by Vincent O'Reilly, program officer of the UNICEF emergency desk in charge of Lebanon. O'Reilly said "a very small portion of the total 90-day, \$5 million Lebanon relief program, and nothing of the UNICEF-funded \$32 million Lebanon reconstruction program was channeled through PLO affiliates."

B'nai B'rith has been a strong supporter of UNICEF since its establishment. In 1980, the Jewish organization honored the UN agency and Danny Kaye, one of its most ardent and successful promoters, at a special program during the B'nai B'rith International convention.

## HAIM LASKOV DEAD AT 63

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Gen. (res.) Haim Laskov, a former Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff, died of cancer here today. He was 63 years old. Laskov began his military career in the Hagannah at the age of 16 when he served as runner and messenger for the Hagannah Chief of Staff and the IDF's first Chief of Staff, Yaaqov Dori.

Laskov volunteered for service with the Palestine unit of the British army during World War II, rising to the rank of major in the Jewish Brigade in Italy. With the establishment of the IDF in 1948 Laskov formed and commanded its first tank brigade, placing the army's subsequent emphasis on armor.

Despite the fact that he was not a pilot, the second IDF Chief of Staff Yigael Yadin appointed Laskov to head the fledgling air force. His other commands included the southern command, before his appointment as the fifth IDF Chief of Staff. He was later appointed the army ombudsman, and served as a member of the Agranat Committee investigating the errors of the Yom Kippur War.

As one who had spent his entire life in the army, Laskov expressed regrets that the Agranat Committee had concentrated entirely on the military leadership in the 1973 war while downgrading the responsibility of the political leadership. Yadin referred to him in a brief radio obituary today as "possibly the most professional soldier the IDF has ever had."

## INQUIRY PANEL GIVES 9 OFFICIALS EXTRA WEEK TO RESPOND TO WARNINGS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre has given Premier Menachem Begin, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and seven other top officials an additional week to decide if they want to reappear before the panel to present further testimony and examine witnesses and evidence or exercise other rights following the panel's warning that they "may be harmed" by the commission's findings. The nine officials had originally been given 15 days to decide, and the deadline for it had been tomorrow. The new deadline is December 16.

The extension came, according to Israel Defense Force Radio, after several of the nine said that more time was required as their attorneys were still studying the mass of material made available to them by the commission.

Another reason for the extension, according to the IDF Radio, was that several of the officials were abroad on business. This particularly applied to Sharon who is currently visiting the United States and Honduras, and to Maj. Gen. Amos Yaron, the divisional commander of the IDF in Beirut, who was on a United Jewish Appeal speaking tour when the commission issued its warning two weeks ago.

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A happy, joyous and peaceful Chanukah to all our readers.