

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL AND LEBANON BEGIN TALKS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE RELATIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Israel and Lebanon began their long awaited negotiations today, with the United States as an active participant, aimed at establishing a framework for future relations. The delegates of the three countries met at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khalde, a seaside resort just south of Beirut. The talks will shift Thursday to Kiryat Shmona, an Israeli town close to the Lebanese border.

Lebanon is the second Arab state to enter into formal negotiations with Israel. The heads of each delegation made opening statements for the benefit of the world news media, after which the session was closed to the press and both sides began working on an agenda. Discussions of substantive matters are expected to begin at Thursday's meeting.

The chief of the Lebanese delegation, Antoine Fatale, a senior aide to President Amin Gemayel, stressed, in his opening remarks, his country's desire for the early withdrawal of all foreign forces from its soil.

David Kimche, Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who heads Israel's negotiating team emphasized Israel's desire for a relationship of "good neighborliness" with Lebanon and its hopes that the current talks would result in an accord "but a step away from a full, final, formal peace treaty. Sees Basis For Optimism

U.S. special envoy Morris Draper spoke of his government's "sympathy and support for many of the key objectives of the parties." He mentioned specifically the restoration of Lebanon's territorial integrity and Israel's insistence on security arrangements.

Draper, who holds the rank of Ambassador, said there was a good basis for optimism since Israel has declared repeatedly that it has no territorial claims on Lebanon and wants to pull its forces out of that country. Lebanon for its part, has pledged not to allow its territory to become again a base for hostile actions against Israel, Draper said.

### Substantial Differences Appear

But substantial differences between the Israeli and Lebanese viewpoints were apparent from the outset, though they were expressed in polite and friendly terms. Fatale made it clear that his country could not step out of line with the rest of the Arab world and take separate initiatives in establishing a relationship with Israel.

He spoke of Lebanon's strong desire for peace, security, sovereignty and integrity. "The first step" toward this goal must be the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country as speedily as possible, he said. But he also spoke of Lebanon's "historic mission within the Arab nation."

Kimche hailed the meeting as "an auspicious occasion" for the Middle East and, for him, personally, the culmination of several years of close involvement in developments in Lebanon. He said he was sure that all three delegations and their governments "want to see the two peoples (Lebanese and Israelis) living in peace."

Israel wants to see Lebanon restored to full sovereignty, integrity and security, Kimche said. Israelis have "no feelings of enmity" towards Lebanon, a country with which it had never engaged in military hostilities. He said the recent "military effort" by Israel was not against Lebanon but against the "terrorists" who had used Lebanon as a base for aggression against the will of the Lebanese people.

The Palestine Liberation Organization military infrastructure in Lebanon had been "a danger" to both Lebanon and Israel, he said. Now that it has been removed, there is "nothing to prevent ... good neighborliness ... friendship and security."

### Issue Of 1949 Armistice Accord

The discord that arose between Kimche and Fatale concerned the issue of whether the 1949 armistice agreement between Israel and Lebanon is still valid. Fatale insisted that it was. He read from Article 8 which states: "This agreement ... shall remain in force until a peace settlement between the parties is achieved."

Fatale refuted the claim made in 1967 by Israel's then Foreign Minister Abba Eban that Lebanon had voided the armistice by warlike statements before and during the Six-Day War.

Kimche, in response, digressed from his prepared text to "take issue with the honorable delegate from Lebanon." He claimed that Lebanon, in 1967, had "declared its association with the Arab armies" and had refused to meet with Israeli representatives "saying a state of war exists." Worse still, according to Kimche, Lebanon later signed the Cairo agreement with the PLO "allowing the terrorists to establish a state within a state."

In any event, Kimche said, Israel hoped the present negotiations would produce an agreement that would render the 1949 armistice accords irrelevant. Israel hoped for an accord that would be "but a step away from a full, final and formal peace treaty which we would wish to see come about" in the future.

Observers noted that the legalistic argument over the validity of the 1949 armistice could have an important bearing on the current talks. Israel wants them to produce a declaration of non-belligerency by the two states. The Lebanese appeared to be saying that there is no need for such declaration since the armistice is still in effect and its key article pledges the two sides not to resort to armed force.

### U.S. TERMS ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS 'A HISTORIC FIRST STEP'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- The United States, calling the start of "formal negotiations" between Israel and Lebanon "historic," declared today that it was "extremely pleased" that the talks had opened in the Lebanese town of Khalde today.

"The meeting today represents a historic first step in efforts to arrange the departure of all external forces from Lebanon, to restore the full sovereignty to that country and to insure the security of northern Israel," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said.

Romberg omitted again any mention of Israel's desire for normalization of relations with Lebanon. The Reagan Administration has made clear that it would like for the talks to concentrate on troop

withdrawal, Romberg refused to comment today on any of the issues raised at the opening session. At the same time, he stressed that the U.S. remains "fully engaged in the negotiating process as an active participant."

Romberg could give no information on when talks would begin between Lebanon and Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization for removal of these external forces from Lebanon. He said this is up to the parties involved.

Meanwhile, Romberg stressed the Reagan Administration continues to oppose Israeli sovereignty or permanent control over the West Bank. His remarks were made when asked to comment on an article in the Washington Post today by Ben Netanyahu, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Israel Embassy here, in which Netanyahu argued that Israel must retain control of Judea and Samaria for its own security.

"Peace is the issue," Romberg said. "It is our continuing conviction that Israeli security can best be assured through genuine peace between Israel and all her neighbors. As the President said on September 1, that peace cannot be achieved either by the formation of an independent Palestinian state or on the basis of Israel sovereignty or permanent control over the West Bank and Gaza."

In his article, the Israeli official said that "given modern technology and advances in warfare, he who controls the heights of Judea and Samaria controls Israel." He maintained that Israel continues to be viewed by "most Arabs" in the region as an "intolerable affront."

"Israel's current superiority over the Arabs could be transformed overnight into extreme vulnerability if Israel were to lose military control over Judea and Samaria," Netanyahu wrote. He ruled out demilitarization of the West Bank and said: "Where hostility is so deeply rooted, arms so readily available and distances so compressed, 'demilitarization' is wishful thinking. No country can take such a risk with its national security."

#### GERMANY TO LEND ISRAEL 140 MILLION MARKS FOR PROJECTS AGREED ON BY BOTH NATIONS DESPITE ARAB PRESSURE

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- The West German government has signed an agreement to lend Israel 140 million Marks in fiscal year 1982-83 for infrastructure projects agreed on by the two governments.

Although the same loan has been granted yearly to Israel since diplomatic relations were established between Bonn and Jerusalem in 1965, the agreement this year was signed without ceremony and without any official announcement, a clear deviation from the practice of the past 15 years.

This reflected intense pressure applied by the pro-Arab lobby in Bonn and by powerful elements within Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition government to deny financial aid to Israel.

Juergen Moelleman, one of the two Deputy Foreign Ministers, only recently urged the government to exert massive pressure on Israel and "the immediate withdrawal by the Western world of all financial and military aid for Israel until Israel becomes more reasonable." He specifically urged the government to withhold the yearly 140 million Mark loan.

The decision to grant the loan was taken by Kohl personally. Since he took office, Kohl, leader of the Christian Democratic Union, has sought to demonstrate good will toward Israel and improve bilateral relations which had deteriorated during the tenure of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of the Social Democratic Party. Kohl has announced he will visit Israel next year.

Because of the political pressure, the loan agreement, which normally is signed in October, was delayed until this week. The loan carries a relatively low rate of interest and is repayable in 20 annual installments. It comes from government funds allocated for developing countries.

#### DISPUTE FESTERING OVER TABA

By Judith Kohn

CAIRO, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Egypt has requested an explanation from the Israeli government of a statement attributed to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon that the disputed area of Taba in northern Sinai would remain under Israel's control.

In an official memo submitted to the Israeli Ambassador here, Moshe Sasson, the Egyptian government also protested what it charged were Israeli violations of the agreement concluded between the two sides last April for maintaining the status quo in that area until the dispute was resolved. A similar protest was submitted several weeks ago.

Sharon told reporters during a visit to Taba last week that there would be no compromise over the territory south of Eilat. This prompted an angry reply from the Foreign Ministry spokesman here, who called Sharon's statement "a further complication of the situation." He added at the time that "Taba is and will remain an integral part of Egypt and we shall not relinquish any of it."

The issue of Taba has been taken up with renewed vigor by the press here over the last few days, and some of the commentary has been particularly biting. In an editorial published yesterday, Al Akhbar asserted that "there is nothing which gives (Israel) even an issue or the right to differ on this subject."

#### SAMUEL MELLITZ DEAD AT 91

FAIRFIELD, Conn., Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Judge Samuel Mellitz, a distinguished jurist and prominent communal leader in Connecticut and an active member of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University in New York City for more than 40 years. He died last Sunday in Yale-New Haven Hospital at the age of 91. The late Dr. Samuel Belkin, who was president of Yeshiva University, once described Mellitz as "an image of survival of Judaism in this country."

Born in Bridgeport, Conn., Mellitz was educated in the city's public schools and, in 1911, earned his law degree from Yale University. From 1912 to 1935 he practiced law privately and in 1936 he was appointed to the bench by the then Governor Wilbur Cross. The jurist served on the Court of Common Pleas and was appointed to the State Supreme Court of Errors, the state's highest judicial body. In 1963 he retired as associate justice.

In addition to his activity in community organizations, Mellitz was also state chairman for Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, a vice president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and president of Congregation Ahavat Achim in Fairfield.

He was also the first president both of the Bridgeport Jewish Community Center and that city's Jewish Community Council, and was a member of the Zionist Organization of America, Mizrahi, the American Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith. Mellitz was also a member of professional, fraternal and philanthropic societies.

#### ARMY AND TV AT LOGGERHEADS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- The army has told the Israeli Broadcasting Authority that it will no longer cooperate with television's military cor-

respondent Dan Scemama and will cancel a scheduled interview program with outgoing Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. David Ivry if Scemama takes part.

The ban on the military correspondent -- similar to an earlier attempt by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor to bar TV's financial correspondent for "anti-Aridor sentiments" -- followed a television report on soldiers serving in Lebanon.

Scemama's program opened with a shot of soldiers singing a parody of a popular children's song, with the words rewritten to say: "Airplane come down to us/Fly us off to Lebanon/We will fight for Sharon/And return home in a coffin."

A majority of the government-appointed Broadcasting Authority Board joined in criticism of the broadcast. But the television and radio management has informed the army that it will not accept dictation from anybody as to which correspondent should cover any news story or take part in an interview program.

#### ARAFAT MIGHT VISIT CAIRO By Judith Kohn

CAIRO, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- PLO chief Yassir Arafat will visit here next month, it was reported today in the Egyptian news daily Al Gomhuriyya. But a source at the Foreign Ministry told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that no such visit had been scheduled, but added that the PLO chief "would be welcome here at any time."

The report cited a Palestinian official in Cairo as saying that Arafat would visit Cairo following the upcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council scheduled for February 14 in Algeria. Among the items on the Council's agenda is the restoration of PLO relations with Egypt, the official reportedly said.

The PLO had announced during a recent meeting of its Council in Damascus that resumption of relations with Egypt could be achieved without Egypt's reneging on the Camp David accords. Rumors of a rapprochement between Egypt and the PLO have been rife over the past few months, but have generally come from Palestinian sources.

#### Baghdad Ready To Talk To Cairo

In related news, Iraqi Deputy Minister Tareq Aziz was quoted today as saying he was prepared to discuss the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between his country and Egypt.

In an interview with the semi-official news daily Al Ahram, Aziz said: "I am personally prepared to meet (Foreign Minister) Kamal Hassan Ali or (Minister of State for Foreign Affairs) Boutros Ghali in Cairo or Baghdad to hold direct talks on this issue." He added: "As an Arab, I say the resumption of Cairo-Baghdad diplomatic relations should be made now."

#### CEAUSCESCU, IN MEETING WITH SCHNEIER, JUSTIFIES EDUCATION REPAYMENT LAW ON THE BASIS OF 'BRAIN DRAIN'

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, met recently with President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania in Bucharest.

They reviewed U.S.-Rumanian relations, international issues including the Middle East situation and discussed at length the new law requiring Rumanian nationals seeking to emigrate to repay the government for the free secondary and higher education they received, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation announced today.

Schneier, who is spiritual leader of the Park East Synagogue here, said Ceausescu justified the law on the basis of "brain drain" and stated that "while the law cannot be repealed, any diplomatic solutions that will take into account the principles of our sovereignty will be considered."

In that connection, President Reagan has named Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, as a special envoy to Bucharest to discuss all aspects of U.S.-Rumanian relations, including most favored nation status, Schneier reported. According to U.S. law, MFN for East European Communist bloc countries is linked to their emigration policies.

#### Application For Reunification

Schneier said Ceausescu showed appreciation for the reunification of Rumanian Jews with their families in Israel. The new education tax law, published last November 6, primarily affects Rumanians of German descent who wish to emigrate to West Germany, Rumanians seeking to go to the U.S. and Rumanian Jews who wish to go to Israel.

Schneier told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that "Jews who are leaving at this point have not been affected by the new law." Ceausescu did not refer, in his hour-and-40-minute meeting with Schneier on December 9, to the assertion by Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania on November 24 that Jews seeking to immigrate to Israel will be exempted from the education repayment law.

Rosen said at the time that the Rumanian authorities made a distinction between emigration and "aliya." A Jew who goes to Israel to be reunited with his family is not an "emigrant" and "his problem was treated in a totally different way," the Chief Rabbi said.

Schneier flew to Jerusalem after meeting with Ceausescu to report on his conversations to Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He has only recently returned to the United States. He said today, "It is my clear impression that President Ceausescu was not interested in a collision course on this issue," referring to MFN status. "If anything, he seeks an improvement in the U.S.-Rumanian bilateral relationship that has seen some strains in the last year."

#### MODAI DECIDES IN PRINCIPLE TO BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai announced yesterday that he has decided in principle to build a nuclear power plant in Israel. He said he would present his proposal to the Cabinet shortly, after completion of a feasibility study by a committee of experts.

The committee, headed by Amos Horev of the Haifa Technion, has already concluded that nuclear power will be cheaper than that produced by coal-fired plants. But it will not be feasible for Israel to build a nuclear plant until the mid-1990s. The committee is recommending that in the interim, Israel purchase a nuclear power plant overseas. Modai reportedly has begun preliminary negotiations for such a purchase.

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GENEVA (JTA) -- An organization called "Zomo", set up in Poland to fight the Solidarity movement, told its recruits that Solidarity was created and manipulated by Jews, according to Vito Grudski, a Polish political refugee living in Germany. Grudski said in an interview in a Swiss newspaper that he had been a member of "Zomo" and heard of the alleged Jewish connection with Solidarity during his training period. Asked if he believed it, he replied, "In my whole life I have never even met a Jew."

## SYNAGOGUE BOMBINGS IN PERU AND COLOMBIA ARE SEEN AS PART OF A GROWING WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA) — Recent attacks against a synagogue in Peru and one in Colombia were the latest in a growing wave of anti-Semitic violence that has alarmed Latin American Jews in recent months, according to Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of Latin American Affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He warned that terrorism inspired by the Palestine Liberation Organization and other Arab groups is sharply on the increase in Latin America.

Both synagogues were attacked on the evening of December 3. In Lima, Peru, the Great Synagogue was bombed, leaving windows shattered, moments after several hundred worshippers had vacated the premises. It was the first time that a synagogue had been attacked in Peru, a country where violence has never been directed against houses of worship, Rosenthal said.

The attack was denounced by Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, who said it was linked with organized international terrorism. Peruvian Jewish leaders subsequently issued a statement declaring that since the opening of a PLO office in Peru, that country has been flooded with anti-Semitic and hate-filled propaganda inciting Peruvians to acts of violence.

### Pro-PLO Slogans Smeared On Walls

In the second attack, six masked persons wielding machine-guns invaded a synagogue in Medellin, Colombia. The attackers ordered a small group of elderly Jews to line up against a wall.

Then they proceeded to desecrate the synagogue, Rosenthal said, burning and scattering Torah scrolls, setting the reader's desk on fire, splashing acid on draperies and smearing pro-PLO slogans on the walls with red paint. One of the worshippers was burned by the acid.

The terrorists swore "vengeance" for the Beirut camps massacres and proclaimed, "Death to Israel and Yankee imperialism," according to Rosenthal. Then they unfurled two flags which they had brought with them — an Israeli and an American — and burned them before the horrified worshippers.

The hand of the PLO was also evident in another attack, two months earlier, on the Jewish center of Maracaibo, Venezuela, Rosenthal said. In that attack, bus loads of university students shouted "Zionists, murderers" as they scrawled "PLO" in black paint on windows, walls and floors of the building.

Rosenthal pointed out that PLO-inspired vandalism of Jewish institutions has also taken place in Mexico, Bolivia and Ecuador, and bomb attacks have been directed against Israeli embassies in Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala.

### Clandestine Network of Terror

Arab terrorists and native Latin Americans linked to them, Rosenthal said, have established a clandestine network of terror in Latin America which they are willing to acknowledge publicly.

A Colombian terrorist who identified himself as "Commander Four" told a reporter for the Colombian magazine "Cromos" late last year that he was organizing a guerrilla force to oppose "Jewish and North American imperialism."

Rosenthal said the incursion into the synagogue in Medellin "may well be linked to the formation of such a guerrilla force." He added: "Not only do

these terrorist groups pose a danger to Jewish communities but they create additional instability in nations which are already beset by social and political unrest."

### NEW LAW PREVENTS BIGOTRY IN L.A. MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 28 (JTA) — Appeals to bigotry will no longer be allowed on election ballots of the city, it was announced by Louis Fox, chairman of the Civil Rights Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith here.

"As a result of an ordinance drafted by members of the ADL Civil Rights Committee, the City Council has passed and Mayor Tom Bradley has signed a law which will prevent references to the race, religion, or national origin of candidates for municipal office on Los Angeles ballots," Fox said.

He pointed out that the ADL's interest in this matter was prompted by a recent primary ballot here in which a candidate for mayor described himself as a "Christian businessman."

Fox said that at the time, the ADL inquired of the City Clerk as to why such a designation was permitted. "We were informed that Los Angeles was exempted from the California Election Code section barring such designations in state elections," Fox said. "We then proceeded to draft a statute which was introduced by Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky." The ADL officials said the law will take effect in time for the April, 1983 Los Angeles primary election.

### MORE WORKERS JOINING GENERAL STRIKE OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) — A general strike by nearly 200,000 civil servants, which began Sunday, spread today to employees of the Jewish Agency, the World Zionist Organization and other institutions.

Employees of nurseries run by various women's organizations will join the work stoppage tomorrow. Kindergarten and elementary school teachers are planning a one-day strike Thursday and the non-teaching staffs at universities said they would strike for an indefinite period, beginning next Monday.

The strike, originally limited to municipal workers and employees of town councils and rural and urban agencies, was called by Histadrut to force the Finance Ministry to agree to wage increases to compensate for the erosion of real income by triple-digit inflation. Histadrut is also demanding increased cost-of-living allowances.

The labor federation warned Sunday that the strike will be "open-ended," meaning that it would continue "until the government signs new wage contracts." A two-day warning strike two weeks ago was observed by some 400,000 civil employees, about a third of Israel's work force.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — Film star Elizabeth Taylor has begun a 10-day "peace tour" of Israel and Lebanon. While in Lebanon she will meet with Israeli soldiers and Lebanese residents. Miss Taylor called on Ofira Navon in Jerusalem Tuesday. After congratulating each other on their dresses, the two talked about a subject of interest to both — children affected by the stress of war. The film star later told reporters: "I care about people, I care about Israel, I care about peace." Miss Taylor's trip was arranged by Phil Blazer, publisher of the Los Angeles-based American-Jewish bi-weekly, Israel Today.