

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Monday, January 17, 1983

No. 11

## ISRAEL, LEBANON AND THE U.S. TO HOLD PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The negotiations between Israel, Lebanon and the United States switched to a double track over the weekend. The official talks being held alternately in Kiryat Shmona and Khalde will continue on the basis of the agenda agreed to last Thursday. But parallel negotiations involving U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib with Israelis and Lebanese -- apparently in shuttles between the two countries -- will proceed apace.

Premier Menachem Begin, who announced the scheme at today's Cabinet meeting, appointed Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry, to comprise the negotiating team with Habib. Their first meeting was scheduled for late this afternoon. Kimche is also head of the Israeli negotiating team that has been meeting with the Lebanese and American delegations at Khalde and Kiryat Shmona for the past month.

Begin explained that the Shamir-Sharon-Kimche team would seek to reach agreements in principle with Habib. The details would be worked out at the official talks at Khalde and Kiryat Shmona.

### A Number Of Rumors Are Denied

The reasons for the plan are not clear. Begin told the Cabinet today that Habib had brought him a letter from President Reagan in which the President asked Begin to speed up the negotiating process with Lebanon. Begin denied that Habib had suggested specific dates for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. He also denied rumors that Israel and Syria had reached an understanding to partition Lebanon into spheres of influence.

Begin's media spokesman, Uri Porat, said the talks with Lebanon would continue in the two countries and would not be moved to Washington or some other venue as rumored. Shamir and Kimche told the Cabinet today that the agenda agreement with Lebanon, announced last Thursday, was not final and that the Lebanese tended to interpret it differently from Israel.

According to the Foreign Minister and his aide, the Lebanese were meeting with Israel and holding simultaneous consultations with Arab countries, notably Syria. Their policy is to maneuver so that the talks with Israel continue without antagonizing Damascus.

For that reason, Beirut is stressing that the agenda item which calls for an end of belligerence between Israel and Lebanon is an agreement to talk about the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the need to return to the 1949 Armistice agreement. Israel has insisted that the 1949 agreement has long been null and void.

Against that background, the Israelis appear to consider their discussions with the U.S., through Ambassador Habib to be more important than the parallel talks with the Lebanese.

But some Israeli sources expressed concern today that the U.S. appeared to be placing obstacles in the way of three key Israeli goals in Lebanon. One is the placement of early warning systems in that country until the Lebanese army gains full control of its own territory. Another is to keep the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) out of the 25-mile security zone in south Lebanon, and the third is to preserve the special status in the south of Israel's principal ally, Maj. Saad Haddad and his Christian militia which is armed and financed by Israel.

The Americans have made it clear that Israel's insistence on early warning stations in south Lebanon would raise a similar demand by the Syrians in their zone. The U.S. wants the status of UNIFIL preserved. Haddad would lose his special status as a consequence.

## BOLIVIA MAY KICK OUT THE 'BUTCHER OF LYON'

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The Bolivian public prosecutor, Hernando Acha Siles, has asked the Supreme Court to extradite Klaus Altmann, who as Klaus Barbie was known as the "butcher of Lyon" during the Nazi occupation of France, to West Germany, according to French radio reports from La Paz.

Acha Siles told the court that West Germany had demanded his extradition for war crimes and genocide and that the extradition request should be honored because the two countries have an extradition treaty.

Barbie, who fled to South America after the war and obtained Bolivian citizenship under the name of Altmann, has been accused of the deportation and death of thousands of Jews and French resistance fighters.

The French government, which sentenced him to death in absentia after the war for crimes he committed while he served as gestapo chief in Lyon, has several times asked for his extradition. The Bolivian Supreme Court has rejected France's demand, arguing that the two countries have no mutual extradition treaty. Barbie is also charged by the French with the murder of war-time resistance leader Jean Moulin.

## INQUIRY PANEL HOLDS FINAL SESSION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- The commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre held its final session today. The panel, meeting behind closed doors, heard attorneys for six of the nine witnesses who had been warned last November that they might be harmed if certain conclusions were drawn on the basis of their original testimony.

Since the warning was issued, six of the nine senior political and military officials either reappeared before the commission, were represented by legal counsel or submitted written responses to questions posed by fellow witnesses.

Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and chief of army intelligence

Gen. Yehoshua Saguy did not avail themselves of the opportunity to reappear, examine evidence and question witnesses. Each submitted letters to the commission essentially reaffirming their original testimony without explanation or embellishment.

The commission will now have to sift through 12,000 documents and other evidence collected over the past 2 1/2 months. There was no indication today when its final report and recommendation will be ready. Since its appointment last October 1, the panel has heard 49 witnesses present testimony on 58 occasions. Only 24 of those occasions were in open session with the media present. The bulk of the testimony presented was closed to the public.

#### SHARON POSTPONES TRIP TO ZAIRE 'FOR A FEW DAYS'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, under fire from several quarters, has postponed his trip to Zaire "for a few days."

Sharon was to have left last night for Kinshasa on a five-day official visit. Aides said he delayed his departure "because he had to be in Israel to deal with current matters" and that he had cabled President Mobutu Sese Seko to explain and apologize for the change of plans.

Informed sources here said Sharon postponed his trip because of rising tension with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and between their respective ministries. Foreign Ministry sources have accused Sharon of an "unwarranted attempt to gain personal publicity from the Israel-Lebanon talks."

They were referring to the surprise press conference Sharon called at Kiryat Shmona last Thursday at which he claimed personal credit for the agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon on an agenda for their negotiations. According to Sharon, the terms of the agenda agreement were almost identical with an agreement he claimed he worked out weeks ago at secret talks with high Lebanese officials in Beirut.

#### Widespread Criticism Of Sharon

His hastily called press conference surprised journalists and irked the Foreign Ministry inasmuch as it was held almost simultaneously with the official press conference elsewhere in Kiryat Shmona at which the terms of the agreement were announced to the world media. The Israeli negotiating team is headed by David Kimche, Foreign Ministry director general and senior aide to Shamir.

Sharon was also sharply criticized by Knesset members for taking about 100 Herut party members on a tour of Israeli military positions in Lebanon last Thursday as guests of the Defense Ministry. Israeli civilians are presently barred from Lebanon. Reporters allowed into Lebanon by the army must wear flak jackets. It was not known whether the Herut politicians escorted by Sharon were required to wear the uncomfortable protective garments.

Further criticism of Sharon stems from his offer to take Israeli journalists free on his scheduled flight to Zaire. The critics recalled that journalists who accompanied Foreign Minister Shamir on his visit to Kinshasa last month all paid their own fare. Sharon said he offered a free flight after journalists complained of the high cost of air fare to Kinshasa -- about \$800.

#### PANEL RECOMMENDS RELEASE OF 150 PALESTINIAN PRISONERS DETAINED AT ANSAR CAMP IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- A special appeals committee recently set up by the Israel army has recommended the release of 150 Palestinian prisoners of the 5,400 detained for the past eight months at Ansar camp in south Lebanon.

Army sources said some of the detainees have already been turned over to the International Red Cross for return to their homes. The appeals committee so far has heard the cases of only 1,100 detainees.

Leah Tzimet, a Jerusalem lawyer who frequently defends members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, charged that the army established the appeals committee only under international pressure and just a day before the Israel Supreme Court was to hear an appeal against the Ansar detentions last November, six months after the war in Lebanon started.

The army's chief military prosecutor, Gen. Dov Shefi, said the committee was established at the army's initiative without outside pressure. He attributed the delay to the unexpectedly large number of detainees. The commission was set up under the Fourth Geneva Convention governing the treatment of civilians in war zones.

Israel contends that the detainees at Ansar are members of a terrorist organization which makes them neither civilians nor soldiers. The PLO claims its men are soldiers and should be treated as prisoners of war. Israel insists that the distinction is clear under the Geneva conventions. Soldiers wear recognizable uniforms and insignia and bear arms openly. PLO terrorists conceal their weapons and place bombs in supermarkets or buses and therefore cannot be recognized as soldiers, the Israelis say.

Under the Geneva Conventions, soldiers cannot be interrogated. Civilians can be but must be allowed visits by relatives. The Palestinians charge they have been allowed no such visits.

#### THOUSANDS RALLY AGAINST SETTLEMENTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- Thousands of demonstrators protested yesterday against settlements in Judea and Samaria. The protest rally took place in the brand new partially completed town of Efrat, halfway between Bethlehem and Hebron.

Peace Now activists joined forces for the first time with activists from poverty neighborhoods who charged that the government was taking money away from public housing projects and investing it in West Bank settlements.

The demonstrators arrived in about 20 buses and more than 100 private vehicles from all over the country. Organizers kept the protest top secret and staged a diversionary demonstration in Elkana near Nablus to prevent pre-emptive action by the security forces. The Efrat protest ended without incident.

\* \* \*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- High-priced sweet water prawns a large type of shrimp -- are being grown in Israel and have become a fast-growing export -- though none are sold locally because of the kashrut laws. Israel grows and markets locally some 10,000 tons of fresh-water fish in fish ponds annually. The prawns were first introduced to diversify the fish population, and exports began two years ago, when 3.5 tons were sent abroad. The exports doubled last year to seven tons, and this year the breeders plan to export 16 tons, at \$6,000 a ton. The prawns are hatched in laboratories, introduced to the ponds in April and grow to marketing size of 45 grams by November.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF SPAIN

By Milton Jacoby

MADRID, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- For the first time since 1492, Spanish Jewry is on the eve of a major breakthrough: the forging of an historic concordat with the government of Spain, which will ensure total religious freedom, rights and privileges on a par with those enjoyed by their Catholic neighbors.

A State Commission on Religious Liberty has recently been formed, comprising seven representatives of the various ministries -- seven from the religious faiths and seven professional experts. A member of the Standing Commission of four is Samuel Toledano, a Madrid industrialist and an ardent Zionist. The remaining members of this important working group are two Catholics and one Protestant.

Toledano considered it most significant that, although there are only 10,000 or 12,000 Jews out of a population of 38 million, one of the four Commission members is a Jew. He saw it as "a matter of historic vindication after centuries of suppression," and added that "whereas doors have been closed to Jews in several countries in the Mediterranean area, the fact that the door has been reopened in Spain reflects the vitality of Judaism, and indicates that Jews can still play a vital role in ameliorating the social and religious life of the nation."

A first and important step was taken in 1980, he pointed out, with the passage of a law dealing with religious liberty and non-discrimination, and the Jewish community was consulted in the drafting of this progressive legislation.

### The Role Of The Federations

Toledano is the secretary of the Federation of Communities. There are 11 Federations in Spain. Five have permanent offices -- Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga; and in Ceuta and Melilla, which are two Spanish enclaves in Morocco. The remaining six each comprise a number of Jewish families which gather together for services in towns such as Sevilla, Valencia, Alicante, Majorca, and two cities in the Canary Islands. The role of the Federation is to coordinate the interests of the 11 communities and to act as spokesman in relations with the government.

Toledano is now busily engaged, together with the three other members of the standing commission, in the drafting of the historic Concordat with the government, containing a broad spectrum of specific issues to be resolved.

These involve marriage, the status of rabbis, the observance of Jewish holidays, programs of Jewish studies in state schools, facilities for kosher meat and ritual slaughtering, the purchase of land for Jewish cemeteries, tax exemption for Jewish instruction, access to the state radio and television networks for programs of Jewish interest, and other matters of importance to the Jewish community.

### Seeks To Strengthen Ties With Israel

Toledano is also working quietly and steadfastly to broaden and intensify the acceptance of Israel by the new Socialist government of Spain. Although Spain now has trade and cultural relations with Israel and has accepted a permanent representative of Israel, with the rank of Ambassador, accredited to the World Tourist Organization, a specialized body of the United Nations with its headquarters in Madrid, it is Toledano's

earnest hope -- and he is doing all he can to foster it -- that there will be full recognition by the new government and the exchange of Ambassadors between Israel and Spain in the not too distant future.

It is interesting to note that the government's reluctance to do so up to now is partly based on the fact that in 1951, the then Prime Minister of Israel, Moshe Sharett, instructed his UN delegate to vote against Spain's admission to that body.

Although the leftist elements in the new government are committed to Third World causes, favor the PLO, and are somewhat antagonistic to the United States, there are other elements within the Socialist Party which are definitely pro-Israel, including three Ministers who have visited Israel and will work toward improved relations.

### Renaissance Of Spanish Jewry

The renaissance of Spanish Jewry, of such recent origin, bodes well for the future of Jews throughout the Mediterranean region. It is interesting to discover that the 3,000 Jews in Madrid, the 2,000 in Barcelona, and the remaining 5,000 to 7,000 in other areas, returned to Spain not too long ago, primarily from Morocco, with a small contingent of Ashkenazi Jews who fled from Germany and Eastern Europe, and even a smaller number from the Balkans and Turkey.

Toledano disclosed that there are hundreds of Argentinian Jews who have migrated to Spain, but who profess no religion, and indeed refuse to identify as Jews or to show any interest in Zionism or in Israel.

It was his opinion that these South Americans had turned against the religion and the traditions of their parents because of their own leftist tendencies, and that there was no hope of bringing them into the fold, despite repeated attempts by the official Jewish body.

### A Touching Experience

It is a touching experience to visit the Jewish community center in Barcelona, maintained by the 500 Jewish families in the region. It is an imposing, well-kept building containing two synagogues, the larger one on the main floor for the Sephardim and a smaller one upstairs for the Ashkenazi members.

In another part of Spain's largest city is the beautiful Jewish day school, opened 12 years ago, where some 120 students pursue an eight-year program of Hebrew studies. Like the impressive school in Madrid, which cost more than \$1 million, the operating costs are enormous and a severe financial drain on the limited financial resources of both communities.

### Ensuring A Jewish Heritage

One can only admire the tenacity of Spanish Jewry in their efforts to ensure a Jewish heritage for their children and for generations yet unborn. For the American-Jewish tourist, it is a treat, for heart and mind, to visit these proud bastions of Sephardic Spain, as well as to wander through the narrow, twisting streets of the ancient Jewish quarters of Toledo, Sevilla, Granada and Cordova, and to recall Maimonides and other great Jewish scholars of the past, who were among the great glories of the land before Ferdinand and Isabella set to work.

Toledano points with pride to the fact that the Jewish community has sponsored, in conjunction with the Center for Judeo-Christian Studies (a church body), an annual meeting of Israeli and Spanish university professors, alternately in Spain and in Israel, who hold seminars on the bible, history, sociology, the humanities, medicine and law. Such exchanges serve to heighten the prestige and influence of the community, which exerts a national influence far in excess of its numbers.

Toledano does not foresee any substantial growth of the community, "for Spain is traditionally a country of emigration, not immigration. Our Jewry will remain fairly stable, with some aliya either just before or after (attending) university. We strive for an acceptable common denominator, neither super-orthodox nor super-liberal."

One cannot help but be impressed by this man who is making history on behalf of the Jews of Spain; his blend of driving intelligence and unwavering idealism stands him in good stead as he helps repair the ravages, five centuries afterward, of the infamous Inquisition.

#### NAVON SAYS UN CHIEF PROMISED TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF SHCHARANSKY By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon of Israel reported here last week at the conclusion of an 11-day visit to the United States that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had assured him that he would do all he can to intervene with the Soviet authorities on behalf of imprisoned Soviet Jewish activist Anatoly Shcharansky.

The Israeli President explained that Shcharansky, who has been on a hunger strike for the past three months, was recently denied a visit from his 77-year-old mother Ida Milgram who had travelled to the Chistopol Prison where he remains interned. Navon said that his request on behalf of Shcharansky, that he receive mail and visits from relatives, was a simple humanitarian request with no political implications.

During their half-hour conversation at the United Nations on Thursday, part of which was conducted in Spanish, Navon and Perez de Cuellar discussed the situation in the Middle East, the prospects for a peaceful solution in Lebanon and bilateral relations between Israel and Egypt. Also discussed was the imminent extension of the UN Security Council mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

#### Says Reagan Is Sincere

Navon would not expand on the content of the meetings at a press conference later that afternoon here at the Plaza Hotel. But the Israeli President elaborated on other topics of interest, including familiar themes he had spoken about during his visit to the United States. These included Jewish education and what Navon termed "consensus issues" within Israel.

Navon, who met with President Reagan at the White House at the outset of his visit, a meeting which Navon said was by an invitation Reagan had forwarded to the Israeli President, called Reagan a sincere and warm man who is firmly committed to his peace initiative of September 1. He said Reagan believes the peace initiative, although rejected by Israel, will bring peace to all the states in the region and also security for the State of Israel.

Navon said that during his meetings with Reagan and other Administration officials, he relayed what the consensus issues within Israel were and where the various political parties shared similar views. He said these points included that Jerusalem remain the undivided capital of Israel, that there will not be a withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders, that the PLO is a terrorist organization with which Israel will not negotiate, and that a Palestinian state established on the West Bank would present a danger to the security of Israel.

Furthermore, at his Thursday press conference, Navon said he had told several groups with which he met in the U.S. that Israel will not accept the view that the settlement policy in the occupied territories is illegal. "You can't be illegal in your own homeland," he said.

The Israeli President said he was disturbed at the status of Jewish education in this country. He noted that 400,000 of the 750,000 Jewish students in the U.S. receive no formal Jewish education and that only about 96,000, or 25 percent, attend Hebrew day school.

#### Warm Welcome On Return To Israel

Navon and his wife Ofira returned today to Israel where he received a warm official welcome from Premier Menachem Begin and most Cabinet and Knesset members. Speaking to reporters at Ben Gurion Airport, Navon said he found Reagan to be "frank and open and a real friend of Israel."

Navon said he had stressed in his talks with the Jewish community in the U.S. the need for immigrating to Israel. "We must talk to them of aliya. For too long we have been appealing to American Jews and world Jewry for funds to help send other Jews to Israel," he said.

\* \* \*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was slightly wounded north of Tyre Sunday when his vehicle was ambushed by terrorists, an army spokesman announced. The attackers opened fire with light arms and Israeli troops returned the fire and launched a search for the attackers. The vehicle that was ambushed was travelling in a convoy, which has become mandatory for all Israelis travelling in Lebanon because of the increase in the number of armed attacks.

\* \* \*

MONTREAL (JTA) -- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will visit Ottawa January 31 and February 1 for talks with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and government officials, the Prime Minister's office announced. Mubarak will be the first Egyptian President to visit Canada and his talks will focus on finalizing an agreement to purchase a Canadian reactor and other bilateral matters. Trudeau will also talk to Mubarak about Canada's role in helping to maintain peace in the Middle East.

\* \* \*

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose by 5.5 percent during December, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced. The increase brought the total inflationary rate during 1982 to a near-record 131.5 percent -- marginally below the all-time high of 132.9 percent in 1980. The 1981 rate was 101 percent -- close to the two-figure rate promised by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. Last year's figure was considerably above the 99 percent he had hoped for, despite great efforts to keep prices down during the latter months of the year.

\* \* \*

PARIS (JTA) -- Israel has formally asked France to close the PLO office in Paris and to expel its representative, Ibrahim Suss. Ambassador Meir Rosenne of Israel handed this request to the head of the Middle East desk at the Quai d'Orsay, Marc Bonnefous, himself a former French Ambassador to Israel. French sources said it was "highly unlikely" that the government would close the PLO office. They said it was the third such Israeli request in recent months.