

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN EXPECTS REAGAN'S MIDEAST PLAN TO EVENTUALLY 'DISAPPEAR'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin implied today that he expects President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative to eventually "disappear."

Opening a political debate in the Knesset, Begin reiterated his total opposition to the Reagan plan which, among other things, called for a freeze on Israel's settlement activities while peace negotiations are under way.

Declaring that "One cannot freeze the settlements just as one cannot freeze life itself," Begin suggested that there are plans which existed and disappeared, there are positions which exist and will disappear. The only agreement signed was the Camp David agreement and this is the only agreement that should be negotiated," he said.

He repeated his recent invitation to King Hussein of Jordan to join the peace talks, but only without preconditions. "We shall face the present difficulties and we hope that eventually the negotiations will bear fruit," Begin said.

With respect to the negotiations over the pullout of Israeli forces from Lebanon, Begin said Israel was demanding security arrangements "not on paper but in reality." He predicted that there too an agreement would be reached that guaranteed Israel's security.

## Peres Calls For 'A Compromise'

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, speaking for the opposition, rejected the "uncompromising" policies of the government. "One must seek a compromise. One must try to talk to King Hussein," Peres said. But he added, "under no condition negotiations with the PLO."

According to Peres, the problem with the Palestine Liberation Organization was not the "biography" of Yasir Arafat and its others leaders but the fact that in order to avoid a split in PLO ranks, its leaders refrain from making a clear political choice. "One should distinguish between public relations, inviting somebody for a photo session, and a clear decision in favor of peace," Peres said.

He appeared to be referring to a recent meeting, believed to have been held in Tunis, between Arafat and leaders of the Israeli peace movement who were photographed with the PLO leader.

## SPECULATION RENEWED THAT NAVON'S MOVE NOT TO SEEK A SECOND TERM MIGHT SPARK CALL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon's announcement yesterday that he will not seek a second term has renewed speculation that early elections may be called for.

Political pundits reason that Likud may want to take advantage of Premier Menachem Begin's current popularity with the electorate and the fact that Navon, also an extremely popular public figure, intends to stay out of politics, at least for the time being. If elections are held, possibly

next November, the Labor Party will not have had time to resolve the internal power struggle between Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin by inviting Navon to run for Premier, the political observers say.

But Likud's coalition partner, the National Religious Party, poses an obstacle to early elections. The NRP lost half its Knesset mandates in the last elections and is not anxious to go to the polls this year, especially since it too is riven by internal strife. Without the NRP, the Likud coalition would lose its Knesset majority.

Likud sources have expressed hope that if Interior Minister Yosef Burg, the NRP's veteran leader, is elected President to succeed Navon, he would support early elections. But Burg's resignation would strengthen the moderate factions in the NRP headed by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir.

This could spell trouble for the hard-line policies on the West Bank pursued by Likud; Hammer has frequently indicated he would like to extricate the NRP from its association with the Gush Emunim extremists and return to the middle-of-the-road policies that characterized the party before the Six-Day War.

## BRONFMAN SAYS ISRAEL IS STRONG ENOUGH TO ACCEPT CRITICISM BY DIASPORA JEWRY; HIS VIEW IS CHALLENGED BY ARENS AND DULZIN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, faced challenges from two Israeli spokesmen today to his contention that Israel was strong and secure enough to accept criticism of its policies from diaspora Jewry.

Moshe Arens, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, and Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, uttered their criticisms after Bronfman delivered the keynote address to the biennial meeting of the WJC's Governing Board. Some 100 delegates from 25 countries are attending the four-day meeting which ends Thursday.

In his address, Bronfman said that "mutually respectful questioning is vital if there is to be a real partnership" between Israel and diaspora Jewry. He argued that Jewish leaders "risk our credibility" with their governments, with non-Jews and "most serious of all ... with our children" if they never seem to disagree with Israeli policy.

"When our children ask us about policies that seem inconsistent with the Jewish ideals they have been taught, can we expect that we must not question, only obey?" Bronfman asked. "I think they expect more from us."

## Dulzin Calls For Self-Restraint

But Dulzin, while not challenging the right to dissent, stressed that there must be some "self-restraint." He said it was "chutzpah" for Jews in the diaspora to call for the resignation of Israel's Prime Minister and other officials, as, he noted, some of the delegates at the meeting have done.

Arens focussed his criticism on Bronfman's statement that Israelis could no longer argue against dissent on the grounds of security. "Given the peace with Egypt, given the destruction of the PLO's military capability, given the now apparent superiority of the Israel Defense Forces over any combination of Arab forces in the region, the security of the State issue can no longer be the ultimate premise," Bronfman said.

Arens said that despite efforts to depict Israel as the new "Goliath," it is still "little David" and has become a military power only by "strengthening every fibre of our muscle." He explained that 30 percent of Israel's Gross National Product is devoted to defense and all Israelis must spend years in the reserve.

#### Warns Against Living In A 'World of Fantasy'

Bronfman, in his remarks, said that while anti-Semitism is still a threat, 1983 is not 1938. "We can never--nor should we -- forget our nightmares," he said. "But we must look beyond the dim recesses of our anxiety." The WJC leader warned against living in a "world of fantasy" in which a Middle East peace is expected without sacrifice or concessions.

"It does us no good to fantasize that our enemies will suddenly disappear," he said. "It does no good to think that three million Jews can live among 120 million Arabs without some political accommodations and somehow prevail."

#### Arens Cites The Real Danger

Arens seemed to be addressing this when he noted that "50 years ago world Jewry did not realize the Holocaust was approaching; 40 years ago most of world Jewry did not know the Holocaust was occurring; and 35 years ago many did not realize that Israel's War for Independence was the last chance the Jewish people had to assure their survival."

He said the real danger is that "we see the world around us as we want it to be and not as it really is." Jews are allowing "wishful thinking combined with the chorus of criticism that accompanies every one of our actions to sway us into agreeing to take upon our shoulders risks that we have no right to assume," he warned.

The envoy stressed that Israel has "sacrificed for peace" and "will continue to do so. But always remember that it is Israel's strength that continues to be the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Middle East," he said.

On Lebanon, Arens stressed that Israel, in the current negotiations, wants to be certain that when it leaves that country it will not be a return to the situation before the "Peace for Galilee" operation in which terrorist shells and artillery rained down on northern Israel.

He also said that Israel was seeking peace with Lebanon and scoffed at the argument that if Lebanon made peace with Israel it would be isolated in the Arab world. According to Arens, Lebanon would be together with Israel and Egypt and the Arab rejectionists would be isolated.

#### No Kind Word For Reagan's Plan

None of the participants today had a kind word for President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative. Dulzin said it resembled the Rogers plan, suggested by William Rogers when he was Secretary of State in the first Nixon Administration. Dulzin recalled that it was a Labor-led government in Israel that rejected the Rogers plan.

He said the Labor opposition today rejects many of the proposals offered in the Reagan initiative.

Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the Administration proposed the President's initiative last September 1 because it was under the impression that King Hussein of Jordan would join the negotiations with Israel and Egypt. But apparently Saudi Arabia will not support it in this, Berman suggested.

He said that since the plan was proposed by the President, unlike the Rogers plan, it is "very difficult to acknowledge a possible error." Therefore, Berman said, someone has to be blamed and Israel is being depicted as "intransigent" and its settlements on the West Bank are called an "obstacle" to peace.

Berman noted that at recent meetings with Secretary of State George Shultz and with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Jewish leaders who represented divergent views on a final settlement for Judaea and Samaria were united in saying that the settlements were not an obstacle to peace. He said they stressed that the Reagan initiative has not been successful because the Arab confrontation states have refused to come to the negotiating table without preconditions.

Arens noted that what Israel wants is the type of peace negotiations established by Premier Menachem Begin and the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, "direct, face-to-face negotiations without preconditions." But he said, Israel cannot accept a peace in which no Jews are allowed to live in Judaea and Samaria just as no Jew is allowed to live in Jordan.

The four-day meeting will discuss the condition of Jews in the Soviet Union and other countries throughout the world. Members of the WJC and other Jewish leaders are scheduled to meet with President Reagan at the White House tomorrow.

#### POLL SHOWS MORE ISRAELIS FAVOR GIVING UP OCCUPIED LAND FOR PEACE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A Jerusalem Post public opinion poll today shows an increase in the number of Israelis ready to exchange occupied land for peace. Those firmly opposed to any territorial compromise declined from 52 percent in September to 42.4 percent in the last week of December and the first days of January.

The percentage of those ready to give up parts of the West Bank rose from 34.2 percent to 39.8 percent, while those ready to give up all the West Bank, apart from East Jerusalem, rose from 8.5 to 11.8 percent.

There was a drop in those ready to give up the entire West Bank, including East Jerusalem, from 2.7 to 1.8 percent and an increase in the "undecided" from 2.6 to 4.2 percent.

#### EMIGRATION FROM USSR AT LOWEST POINT

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, reported today that Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union hit its lowest monthly figure in history as only 81 Jews arrived in Vienna in January.

According to Jacobson, "more than half of those visas were granted in only two cities -- Riga and Odessa -- which indicates that hundreds of thousands of Jews throughout the USSR were unable to emigrate to Israel, their homeland."

"The first month of the new year has shown that the Soviet authorities have not relented in their strangling of Jewish emigration; in fact, they have tightened their grasp."

## WIESENTHAL URGES HISTORIANS TO PUBLISH THEIR FINDINGS ON NAZI GERMANY TO COUNTER REVISIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal called on historians and archivists to publish their findings on the rise of Hitler and the Third Reich in order to counter various propaganda campaigns to misinform the public about the true magnitude of the Holocaust and to raise doubts that it even took place.

Wiesenthal, who heads the Nazi war crimes documentation center in Vienna, addressed a two-day conference here on the Third Reich and its crimes. The conference, attended by Alan Pöher, President of the French Senate and Simone Veil, former president of the Parliament of Europe, was convened on the 50th anniversary of Hitler's ascension to power. He was appointed Chancellor by President Paul Von Hindenberg on January 30, 1933.

Wiesenthal declared that the appellation "war criminals" was "far too noble and too good" for the Nazis still at large. They should be called what they are, "plain assassins," he said. He also maintained that current legislation is inadequate to deal with the hundreds of surviving "Nazi murderers who spilled the blood of countless innocent victims without actually dirtying their own hands."

Wiesenthal referred to one of the most wanted Nazi killers, the notorious Auschwitz doctor, Josef Mengele. He said Mengele's whereabouts have been located. He was hiding on the Uruguay-Paraguay border as recently as last December, Wiesenthal said. He would give no further details but said the facts have been brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

## DEBATE OVER HISTADRUT'S HOUSING CONSTRUCTION ON THE WEST BANK STOPS SHORT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Verbal violence that nearly escalated to a physical clash marked a debate here over whether the Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, a Histadrut holding company, should continue to participate in the construction of housing for new settlers on the West Bank.

The Hevrat Ha'Ovdim Council met to consider the issue after Histadrut decided reluctantly last week to continue construction work on the West Bank in order to avoid unemployment for its members. The matter was referred to the trade union federation's Central Committee which was urged to take a final stand within two months.

But disorder reigned at the Council meeting where Ram Cohen, representing the small leftwing Sheli faction, accused Likud, a minority within Histadrut, of following an expansionist policy on the West Bank. Histadrut must have nothing to do with such a policy, Cohen said. He maintained the construction work on the West Bank was at the expense of urgently needed housing for poor people in Israel.

When Likud delegates tried to shout him down, Cohen retorted: "You buy election votes, you are stock market speculators, you are bourgeois parasites, you are robbers, robbers, robbers."

## ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAYS AFRICAN NATIONS WHICH BROKE TIES WITH ISRAEL ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- African nations which broke off relations with Israel a decade ago are beginning to have second thoughts, according

to an Israeli official. Avi Primor, director of African Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, told a meeting of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that many African nations had hoped to gain favor with Arab countries by severing their ties with Israel after the Yom Kippur War, but that they now realize they have experienced "ten years of disillusionment."

As a result, he said, those African states which are not clients of the Soviet Union, nor aligned with radical regimes like Libya, are seeking avenues to reconnect once-friendly ties with Israel as a means of spurring investments from there and other Western nations.

Primor noted that the reason stated by many Africans for severing relations with his country in 1973 was its occupation of the Sinai and an expressed desire to stand by Egypt, a member of the African "family." But pointing out that Israel had captured the Sinai five years earlier, he offered another, unstated reason:

"The real reason was that in the early 1970's the Arabs became masters of their oil, came to control oil prices, and became prosperous, powerful and ambitious."

## Notes Changed Situation

In their drive to Africa, Primor said, Arab oil nations promised an infusion of wealth into these nations, the price of which was to cut off diplomatic relations with Israel. "Africa was very much impressed by the Arabs -- as is everyone by rich people," he said. "But this is not precisely the situation today."

He noted that in the ensuing decade, the expectations of help from Arabs have not materialized. "If they received any help from the Arabs, it was to such a low degree that it had no effect on their economy," he remarked. Today, he said, "there is an understanding that the big hopes of 10 years ago are no longer the same."

Primor attributed this change of view not only to the dramatic decline of demand for oil and ensuing financial woes of the Arab oil exporters, but to another "revolution" which has swept Africa.

"The Africans have matured by comparison with what they were in the first years of their independence," he commented. In the early years, they sensed a "euphoria," a need to solidify Third World solidarity with anti-Western rhetoric like denunciation of colonialism or neo-colonialism.

"Today, in most countries -- excepting those Marxist regimes -- this type of thinking is finished. The truly independent nations, those that are moderately pro-Western, understand that standing apart from the major blocs -- specifically from the West -- does not lead anywhere."

## IAI UNIT WINS CONTRACT TO REPAIR U.S. ARMY HELICOPTERS IN EUROPE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The Bedek (maintenance) division of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) has won a contract to repair and maintain scores of helicopters flown by the U.S. army in Europe. The company has been trying to obtain similar contracts for maintaining helicopters for the U.S. Sixth Fleet and the U.S. Air Force in Europe, so far without success.

IAI sources say they will put up a repair facility in Belgium, to be staffed by Israeli and Belgian engineers and aircraft technicians, where helicopters will be broken down and parts shipped to Israel for major repairs.

IAI is also planning to produce a new-model Fouga Magister jet training plane, to replace the old model which has been in use with the Israel Air Force for many years. The new model will only be used for training purposes, unlike the old model which was sometimes used for operational purposes.

# **FOCUS ON ISSUES SOME 15,000 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS TO GATHER IN WASHINGTON APRIL 11-14 By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The organizers of the Gathering of American Jewish Holocaust Survivors believe that some 15,000 survivors and their children expected in Washington for the April 11-14 event will come together like one large "mishpacha."

"It will not take more than one day before everyone will get to know each other," according to Benjamin Meed, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, who is president of the Gathering. The survivors will want to talk to each other, to touch, to embrace, he said.

Meed said as proof of this desire to get together is that by mid-January there were 5,000 paid registrants "and we hadn't even told them what the program would be."

The program sketched by Meed and Sam Bloch, a survivor of the Vilna Ghetto, who is a senior vice president of the Gathering, to a small group of reporters recently, will cover events in all parts of the nation's capital. Much of it will be in coordination with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council which is in the process of establishing a Holocaust memorial-museum near the Washington Monument.

But the ceremonies will take second place to the meeting of survivors, many of whom will be reunited with people they have not seen since the dark days of World War II. This is what happened at the first World Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Jerusalem in June 1981. Some 3,000 attended the Jerusalem event from the United States. Most of them will be in Washington in April. But the event here will allow even more people from the U.S. and Canada to participate.

## **A 'Survivor's Village' Will Be Set Up**

To help them meet each other, Washington's new Convention Center will become a 'Survivor's Village.' Meed said a list containing some 35,000 survivors names has already been compiled and participants will be able to search for relatives or friends. The "village" will have a kosher cafeteria and seats will be provided all around the building so people can sit and talk.

Meed said the Gathering has two other aspects besides the first ever meeting of survivors in the U.S. First, it will bear witness to the Holocaust and commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Bloch said in view of the recent charges that the Holocaust did not happen, there is need to describe it again to a new generation. "Don't tell us it didn't happen," he said, "We were there."

## **Jews Did Resist The Nazis**

But beyond this, he said there is need to put to rest the belief that the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust did so without resisting. He said not only were there other uprisings in addition to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, but there was also spiritual resistance. He said there were many types of defiance of the Nazis which were also forms of resistance.

"Jews died with dignity and survived with dignity," Bloch said. But he said the Gathering will also be a "celebration of life and of the Miracle of Survival."

On this the third important role of the Gathering will be based. Meed said this will be a show of appreciation to the United States for taking the survivors in after the war and allowing them to rebuild their lives.

## **Will Not Ignore Failure of U.S. Aid**

Bloch noted that the Gathering will not ignore the failure of the U.S. to do more to help European Jews before World War II. "But we owe a debt to America," he said. He noted that the U.S. led the fight to defeat Nazi Germany and U.S. soldiers liberated death camps.

Both he and Meed stressed how proud they were that survivors were able to rebuild their lives in this country, many of them prospering. They also talked proudly of the lives their children and grandchildren have. The children of survivors will play an important part in the Gathering.

Meanwhile, the organizers are busy preparing for the event. Survivors pay their own way to Washington, but Meed noted that some communities are helping survivors with the arrangements.

Locally, the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington plans to have 500 volunteers work on the Gathering and is seeking 1,000 homes where survivors may be put up during their stay in Washington. The event itself should be one of the most exciting even for this city. "We have a unique story to tell," Bloch said.

## **RABBI ARYEH KAPLAN DEAD AT 48**

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held at the Shomer-Hadas chapel in Brooklyn Sunday for Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, scholar and author of numerous books on Jewish thought and philosophy on basic practice and observance, who died suddenly of a massive heart attack last Friday at the age of 48. He was buried Monday on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

In the course of a writing career which spanned only 10 years, Kaplan became well known among teenagers and adults for such books as "Water of Eden: The Mystery of the Mikva," "Shabbat, Day of Eternity," and "God, Man of Tefillin." He was also editor of "Jewish Life," the magazine of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

As an activist in the Orthodox Union's National Conference of Synagogue Youth, Kaplan was a firm believer in acquainting unaffiliated and alienated Jewish teenagers with their heritage. He was a prime force behind the teshuvah movement -- the return of Jewish observance. "Throughout history, Jews have always been observant," he said in a recent interview. "The teshuvah movement is just a normalization. The Jewish people are sort of getting their act together. We're just doing what we're supposed to do."

Born in The Bronx, New York, he received his rabbinical training from Mirer Yeshiva in Jerusalem. His most recent book, "The Living Torah," is a contemporary English translation of the five books of Moses with maps, notes, illustrations and an annotated bibliography, all compiled by the author in the short period of nine months.

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BUDAPEST (JTA) -- Imre Heber, president of the Hungarian Jewish community, has been awarded the Golden Order of Labor for his communal activities. The award to the 60-year-old leader of the 60,000 member Jewish community, was announced over the Hungarian state-operated radio and television network. Heber has headed the Jewish community for the past nine years.