

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XII - 66th Year

Friday, February 11, 1983

No. 30

## CABINET VOTES 16-1 TO ACCEPT IN FULL INQUIRY PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- The Cabinet voted 16-1 tonight to accept in full the report and recommendations of the commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre. Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, whose resignation was called for by the commission, cast the lone dissenting vote.

Sharon said after the five-hour session that he would not attend any more Cabinet meetings. But a Cabinet source said the Defense Minister declined to say if he would resign. The commission recommended that if Sharon does not resign, Premier Menachem Begin should exercise his statutory authority and dismiss him.

As the Cabinet was meeting, a hand grenade was thrown at a Peace Now demonstration opposite the Prime Minister's office. At least seven people were injured and one was reported killed. The injured included Abraham Burg, the son of Interior Minister Yosef Burg. Police asked any eyewitnesses to the incident to come forward immediately and testify. As Begin left the Cabinet meeting he told reporters that his "heart cried out for the man killed by tonight's murder." He called the grenade attack "a terrible, shocking tragedy." (See P.3 for late news story.)

Begin declined to comment on the Cabinet decision to strip Sharon of power or confirm whether he would dismiss the Defense Minister. Political analysts pointed out that the government had averted a crisis and could now return to functioning without pressure upon it. As a somber Defense Minister walked to his car from the Cabinet meeting, a few supporters applauded him.

## Heavy Pressure On The Cabinet

As the Cabinet prepared to meet this evening, severe pressure was brought to bear on Begin and the ministers to reach a decision on the recommendations of the inquiry commission. The three-member panel, which published its reports and findings Tuesday, called, among other things for the resignation or dismissal of Sharon and faulted the Begin government for indirect responsibility for the mass killings carried out by its Christian Phalangist allies last September 16-18.

The panel's report precipitated a political crisis that appears to have seriously polarized the nation. The Cabinet met in special session yesterday but was unable to reach agreement on what course to follow. It adjourned after less than two hours after deciding to reconvene tonight.

Pressure built up both within Begin's coalition and among the grass roots membership of its constituent parties who were sharply divided over the fate of Sharon. Moderate elements in the government and in Begin's Likud urged implementation of the commission's recommendations while Herut hardliners and the far rightwing Tehiya party demanded that Sharon stay.

If Sharon refuses to resign and Begin has to dismiss him, the Premier may face a revolt within Herut and the defection of Tehiya which could jeopardize his narrow Knesset majority. Pro-Sharon forces, led by Herut MK David Magen, took the offensive before the Cabinet met tonight. They proposed that Sharon's fate be determined by the Likud Knesset caucus, not the Cabinet. The caucus is scheduled to meet tomorrow morning.

Magen reportedly told Begin that Sharon would agree to step down if he is asked to by a majority of the Likud faction. Begin, who is reluctant to dismiss the Defense Minister, indicated nevertheless that he would not reject Sharon's resignation if it was submitted to him.

MK Geula Cohen, a one-time Herut member who broke with Begin over the peace treaty with Egypt and helped found Tehiya, delivered a scathing denunciation of the commission's report today. She charged that it had exceeded its authority and was recommending "punitive sentences" against Sharon and senior military officers.

## Police Told To Protect Panel Members

In a related development today, Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir ordered the Inspector General of Police to take all necessary steps to protect the three commission members from violence. Zamir acted after anonymous telephone threats to Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak, a member of the panel.

Zamir warned that any attempt to threaten members of the commission or harm them was an attempt to undermine the independence of the commission and the perpetrators would be dealt with by the law.

President Yitzhak Navon, whose office requires him to remain above politics, has reportedly studied the commission's report thoroughly. His office said today that he would not react "at this stage."

## Opposition Charting Its Course

Meanwhile, the opposition was deep in deliberation today over what course to follow. The Labor Party's Knesset faction met for the first time in joint session with the Secretariat of Mapam, Shulamit Aloni's Civil Rights group and the Independent Liberal Party. They decided to wait for the outcome of tonight's Cabinet meeting before announcing their strategy.

Most speakers at the meeting heeded Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres' injunction to keep a low profile until the coalition decides what it will do. But they demanded full implementation of the commission's report. Peres urged a "statesmanlike approach." Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin called on the opposition to concentrate on the report, not on political personalities.

But former Foreign Minister Abba Eban made an obvious reference to Sharon when he spoke of "a minister who is stuck to his seat by the strongest glue produced by modern technology, so that his chair goes together with him."

# POLL SHOWS MAJORITY OF FRENCH PEOPLE FAVOR RE-INSTATEMENT OF DEATH PENALTY IN THE CASE OF KLAUS BARBIE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- A public opinion poll released today showed that a majority of French people favor re-instatement of the death penalty in the case of Klaus Barbie, the one-time gestapo chief in Lyon who will be tried in that city for "crimes against humanity."

Several prominent personalities here have also called for the restoration of capital punishment for crimes of that nature. Senator Henri Cavaillet, a Centrist Liberal and Gaullist Francois Leotard, proposed that the parliament enact a law that would make the death sentence applicable to Barbie.

But a government spokesman retorted that passing a retroactive law was contrary to the Administration's basic beliefs. Barbie was sentenced to death in absentia in 1946 and 1952 but capital punishment was abolished in France since then.

The poll, published in the news magazine VSD, showed that 56 percent of the respondents favored the death penalty for Barbie and 81 percent agreed that even 38 years after the end of World War II, war criminals "should be found, apprehended and brought to trial."

Virtually the same number approved the government's successful efforts to gain custody of Barbie after he was expelled from Bolivia, the country where he found haven after the war.

## 'Crimes Against Humanity' Specified

The legal definition of "crimes against humanity" in France includes crimes committed on racial or religious grounds or because of the victims' political or ideological beliefs. Barbie, whose wartime activities earned him the title "butcher of Lyon," is held responsible for the murder of 4,000 Jews and resistance fighters and the deportation of 7,000 others to certain death.

But the prosecution will base its case on two incidents not connected with the French resistance. These involved the arrests and deportation to Auschwitz of 41 Jewish children and 83 Jewish adults.

The Chief Rabbi of Lyon, where the trial will be held, said today that Jews "do not seek vengeance." He said "if Barbie would renounce his Nazi convictions, if he would ask his victims for forgiveness and if this whole affair will serve as a lesson and example, the trial would have been useful and we would feel satisfied."

Barbie, for his part, is threatening to reveal the names of prominent French people who allegedly collaborated with him in the arrests, tortures, murders and deportations when he served in Lyon from 1942-1944.

Although the overwhelming majority of French people want Barbie punished for his crimes, the pending trial has triggered at least one anti-Semitic manifestation. In Boussy-Saint-Antoine, a small village near Paris, slogans were smeared on the city hall and other public buildings last night reading "Yes to Barbie and No to the Jews"; "Barbie Shall Win"; and "Six million dead Jews are not worth one Barbie."

## U.S. SAID TO HAVE AN IMPLICIT 'GREEN LIGHT' TO ISRAEL'S INVASION OF LEBANON LAST JUNE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- A leading Israeli writer on military affairs has charged that while the United States did not directly back Israel's invasion of Lebanon last June, Washington gave it an implicit "green light."

"The Israel government had good reason to believe that even when its representatives heard a nay from Washington prior to the invasion of Lebanon, the words sounded every bit like a yea," Zeev Schiff, defense and military editor of Haaretz, asserts in the upcoming spring issue of the quarterly, Foreign Policy.

Schiff also charges that "this implicit American approval ... weakened the hands of those elements in Israel -- both in the parliamentary opposition and in the general public -- who opposed extending the war further into Lebanon and thus helped ensure that the offensive would not be limited to the defensive perimeter of Galilee townships and villages."

Basing his article on discussions with Israeli sources, Schiff declared: "The Israeli-American complicity was not -- as some Arabs have charged -- a conspiracy to send the Israel army into Lebanon in order to expel the PLO and the Syrians. It was instead, an implicit Israeli-American partnership. The Americans -- having received advance information about Israel's intentions -- chose to look the other way, making ambiguous comments about Lebanon that the Israel government could interpret any way it liked."

Schiff noted that the U.S. was aware of the long-time Israeli build-up along its northern border and "was not blind to the relations developing between Israel and Bashir Gemayel's Phalangists, nor was it unaware of Phalangist efforts to encourage an Israeli attack against the Palestinians and Syrians in Lebanon."

He reports that when Premier Menachem Begin reluctantly accepted a cease-fire along Israel's northern border in July, 1981, it was made clear that any shelling of Israeli settlements and towns would lead to an invasion of south Lebanon. Schiff notes that this was a position that would be held by any Israeli Defense Minister. Defense Minister Ariel Sharon believed that if Gemayel was elected President in the upcoming Lebanese elections, he would cooperate with Israel to expel the PLO.

But Sharon also believed a Gemayel government would be safeguarded if the Syrian army was forced from Lebanon. Sharon believed, according to Schiff, that since the U.S. had "acquiesced" to Syria moving into Lebanon in 1976, prior to the election which brought Elias Sarkis to the Presidency, it seemed "logical" that it would agree to allow Israel to move into Lebanon six years later to protect the expected election of Gemayel.

Schiff stresses that from February, 1982, Begin set out to explain to Washington why Israel would have no choice but to invade Lebanon if there was any shelling of its villages.

The article notes that Sharon met with then Secretary of State Alexander Haig in mid-May at which meeting Sharon said Israel would most likely have to move into Lebanon. Haig made no threats but emphasized that any move by Israel could only come after an "unquestionable breach" of the cease-fire by the PLO.

Schiff argues that "whether wittingly or unwittingly, Washington gave Jerusalem the green light to invade Lebanon and Israel interpreted the lack of a strong American position as support for all of its objectives." He said the lesson to be learned from this is that "the lack of clear, direct communications and coordination damages the relationship between the U.S. and Israel and undermines the search for peace and stability in the Middle East."

# **SPECIAL INTERVIEW LEADER OF WEST BANK VILLAGE LEAGUES SAYS PALESTINIANS SHOULD BEGIN DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Mustafa Dudein, chairman of the Council of Village Leagues on the West Bank, believes it is time for Palestinians to take their future in "our own hands" and begin direct negotiations with Israel.

"We recognize the Israeli state and we ask in return Israel recognize our legitimate rights," Dudein said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in the office of Rep. James Scheuer (D. N.Y.).

Scheuer, who met Dudein for the first time during a trip to Israel last summer, said he was impressed by his "moderate" views and invited him to come to Washington where he could meet with members of Congress. Dudein did meet with Congressmen and with Jewish and non-Jewish community leaders here. He is scheduled to meet with community leaders in New York next week.

Dudein had earlier indicated that he might cut short his visit to the U.S. following a report yesterday that a Palestinian terrorist "hit team" might try to assassinate him. He decided to stay on after U.S. security officials said that the situation was "under control."

## **Importance Of Visit To Washington**

The visit to Washington was important, according to Scheuer, because the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem has refused to meet with Dudein or any other members of the Village Leagues while Consulate officials deal with "every pro-PLO supporter" on the West Bank. Scheuer said this is not only "robbing him (Dudein) of credibility" but is "totally counter-productive, harmful and silly."

The State Department was also refusing to see Dudein while he was in Washington today because, Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said, it considers the Village Leagues harmful to the peace process. However, Scheuer said he would continue to try to arrange a meeting with the Department before Dudein returns to Israel.

## **Supports Reagan Plan, Camp David Accords**

Far from toeing the Israeli line, Dudein is a supporter of the Reagan Administration's position on the Middle East, Scheuer said. This was borne out by his comments during the interview. Dudein said he recognizes United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and the Camp David accords. He supports Reagan's peace initiative and believes only the U.S. can help bring a just solution to the Mideast conflict.

Dudein, a former Cabinet officer and Ambassador in Jordan, said that he believes that between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River live two people on the same land. He personally would like to see a confederation of Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan which would "maintain security and give stability."

But he believes King Hussein is under pressure from Saudi Arabia to reach an arrangement with PLO chief Yasir Arafat. He believes that the two will not cooperate. Dudein said he would be behind Hussein in any negotiations for the West Bank, but the Palestinian delegates must be elected by the residents of Judea and Samaria "and not be appointed from outside."

Dudein founded the first Village League in 1978 and now says the various Leagues total a member-

ship of 72,000. It is a rural-based organization but Dudein notes that 70 percent of the people in the West Bank live in the villages, not in the major towns. However, he said, some of the members do come from towns.

## **U.S. Cool To The Village Leagues**

The State Department remains cool to Dudein and the Village Leagues. In its annual report on human rights throughout the world, made public Tuesday, the Department called the Village Leagues a "rural-based quasi-political organization" through which, the Department charges, Israel wants to "transfer patronage and authority from elected and established Palestinian nationalist leaders whom Israel objects to as being supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization."

But Dudein maintains it is he and the other Village Leagues leaders who are the elected leaders of the West Bank. He said the mayors were elected to administer municipal services and not to deal in politics. Leagues members, however, he said were elected at large meetings to represent the people. He said he is ready for any election to decide who represents the people in particular areas and "is ready for the results."

The Village Leagues have also provided services, building roads, schools, water supplies and electricity, Dudein said. But he noted they lack money because they get no support from the Arab countries and the PLO actively opposes them. One of the reasons for this trip to the U.S. was to raise funds.

But Dudein stresses, the Village Leagues officials were also elected to pursue a political course leading to direct negotiations with Israel without any preconditions. In that context, he sees the Jewish settlements on the West Bank as "part of the problem, but not all of it." But because of the settlements, he urges his fellow Arabs to "hurry and start the negotiations. If we delay a few years all of the area will be covered with settlements and it will be too late."

## **LATE NEWS REPORT BOMB INJURES SEVERAL PEOPLE AT A PEACE NOW DEMONSTRATION**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- At least four people were injured tonight, two of them seriously, when a hand grenade was thrown at a demonstration by the Peace Now movement opposite the Prime Minister's office, it was reported by Israel Television. Two policemen were among the injured. According to some reports, a demonstrator was also killed, but this could not be immediately confirmed.

The incident occurred while the Cabinet was meeting to deal with the report by the commission of inquiry. A spokesman for the Peace Now movement said the explosion was in the car belonging to Dr. Galia Golan, a leader of the movement. Hundreds of Peace Now supporters rallied to call for the resignation of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Pro-Sharon supporters were also conducting a separate rally in the same area.

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VIENNA (JTA) -- Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, a sharp critic of Israeli policy, said the report by the inquiry commission "indicates that Israel is a democracy and a state based on law ... I am overwhelmed. This report will repair Israel's damaged image in the world."

## U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ZEROES IN ON ARAB COUNTRIES

By David Friedman

(Conclusion of Two-Part Series)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- The human rights situation in Jordan and Saudi Arabia did not undergo any change in 1982, according to Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. Abrams was commenting by way of explaining the 1,323-page State Department's annual report on the human rights situation throughout the world which was made public Tuesday.

The report depicts Jordan as a constitutional monarchy in which King Hussein has all the power. It notes that because of tension between Palestinian refugees and "native trans-Jordanians" the country has been under martial law since 1970. "The government resorts to authoritarian measures sparingly, however," the report stresses.

Saudi Arabia is described as "a traditional family monarchy" in which "the legitimacy of the regime rests upon its adherence to and defense of Islam, particularly the austere Saudi interpretation of the Sunni tradition." Saudi's practices are viewed in light of this explanation and situations which might be seen as abuses elsewhere are treated benignly in the report.

### Situation In Egypt

Egypt is described as a republic with "a strong presidency." While it is not "a pure parliamentary democracy" since President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party has an overwhelming majority in Parliament, "individual members can and do sharply criticize the regime," according to the report.

The report credits Mubarak with loosening restrictions imposed by his predecessor, Anwar Sadat -- allowing opposition papers to publish and freeing prisoners -- but notes that "the authorities have shown a readiness to arrest and imprison Islamic extremists whom they regard as an immediate Iranian-style threat to Egyptian society and government."

While Egypt is an Islamic state, freedom of religion is allowed, the report points out. "Egypt's tiny Jewish community is not harassed."

But, in Iraq, where the report says it is believed there are fewer than 300 Jews, "the extent of the community's religious activity and other liberties is not known." In Syria, the Jewish community of some 3,500-4,000 people "exists under close governmental scrutiny and is denied political participation. However, Jewish religious practices are observed without harassment."

### A Warning To Rumania

Abrams said that conditions have also worsened in the Soviet Union and East Europe. He said it is "very clear" that if Rumania goes ahead with its education tax on would-be emigrants, the U.S. can no longer extend most favored nation status to it. He said the Administration would have no choice since U.S. law prohibits MFN to countries restricting emigration.

State Department Deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said Tuesday that the Rumanian government has not confirmed that it has imposed the tax. But he said reports have come from families of emigrants that the tax was levied.

On the Soviet Union, the report noted an "escalation" last year of the campaign to repress dissent and said the regime began "threatening leading Jewish 'refuseniks' with imprisonment if they continue to maintain contacts with foreign diplomats, journalists and tourists."

The report criticizes the conditions of Soviet prisons and particularly notes that Anatoly Shcharansky started a hunger strike last September "to protest the refusal of Soviet authorities to allow him contact with the outside world."

There have been numerous reports of instances of discrimination against Jews, such as the denial of access to higher education and the professions, and at least 11 cases of the revocation of higher degrees of Jews have occurred, the report notes.

It adds that this means the end of a career and usually the loss of a job and income. "Occasional attacks on Zionism in the media appear intended to arouse anti-Semitic feelings among the population," the report adds.

The report notes that emigration procedures from the USSR are "cumbersome and extensive." It also notes that only 2,688 Jews were granted visas in 1982 and visas for ethnic Germans and Armenians also declined.

### The Jewish Community In Argentina

The report on Argentina is also of interest. The report claims "significant expansion of civil and political liberties" in 1982. At the same time, it notes, "incidents of violence occurred in 1982 which many believe to have been provoked by elements linked to the state security organizations but operating without the sanction of the government."

As for Argentina's Jewish community, estimated at 300,000-450,000, "It practices its religion without official restraint," the report states. "It represents an important part of the country's economic and cultural life, and the government maintains good relations with the community. There is no evidence of an official policy of anti-Semitism."

The report adds that "occasional incidents" occur such as the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in February 1982. "The government strongly condemned the vandalism, with President Galtieri's personal denunciation given wide distribution by all the news media. Jewish community leaders called the government's repudiation of anti-Semitism 'unprecedented' in its forcefulness."

### SECOND TEST TUBE BABY BORN IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- Israel's second test-tube baby was born by Caesarian section in the Sheba government hospital at Tel Hashomer yesterday. The boy's mother, Miriam Kleiner, 35, had been childless throughout the 10 years of her marriage. The operation was carried out by local anesthetic, with the mother fully alert throughout.

Medical sources said that very few of the 100 babies born through ex-uterine fertilization had been males. Of the total number of test tube babies to date, 59 have been born in Britain, 34 in Australia, 11 in the U.S., and 3 in France. The Israel government has licensed two hospitals -- Tel Hashomer and the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem -- to carry out ex-uterine fertilization treatment.