

Vol. XLI - 66th Year

Friday, February 25, 1983

No. 39

## 10 ORTHODOX RABBIS, 15 EVANGELICAL LEADERS EXPRESS A 'COMMUNALITY' OF INTEREST IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Ten Orthodox rabbis and 15 leaders of the Christian Evangelical movement met for nearly two hours at the Israel Embassy here today and emerged expressing a "communality" of interest in support of the State of Israel.

The event was called an "historic get-together" by Rabbi Abner Weiss, of New York, chairman of the Israel commission of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA), the Orthodox rabbinical group. He explained that while Jews, including some rabbis, have participated in joint meetings with Evangelicals in recent years, this was the first under the "official framework" of a rabbinical organization.

At a press conference held at the Shoreham Hotel after the Embassy meeting, Weiss said the RCA had initiated the meeting in an effort to develop a joint agenda with the Evangelicals. While none was developed at this meeting, it will be at future meetings in order to demonstrate grass roots support for Israel, Weiss said.

Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, president of the RCA, said the two groups feel they can "create significant, positive real pressure" among grass roots religious Americans so that the White House, where, he said, President Reagan was a "real friend of Israel" and the State Department "will respond as it should."

### Concern Over U.S. Pressure On Israel

Ed McAteer, president of the Religious Round Table, said Evangelicals support Israel not only for "spiritual" reasons but because it is in the interests of the United States to do so. Both the Jews and the Christians at the press conference voiced concern at what they said was "pressure" by the Reagan Administration on Israel over Lebanon and the West Bank.

Dr. John Walvoord, president of the Dallas Theological Seminary, said Israel must maintain Jerusalem as its capital. He claimed it would be "ridiculous" to expect Israel to give up the West Bank. According to Walvoord, that would be like asking the U.S. to give Maryland to the Soviet Union after which the USSR could train its missiles "against our capital."

Weiss said that today's meeting came out of talks he had with McAteer. The Rev. Adrian Rogers, of Nashville, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, stressed that in the meetings the Jews

and Christians, while supporting common goals, would not "compromise religious beliefs."

This was also stressed by Rabbi William Herskowitz, the RCA's executive vice president, who said the meetings will not be a deliberation on theological issues. But Rabbi Rafael Grossman, of Nashville, noted that in addition to sharing support for Israel, the Evangelicals and Orthodox Jews also are concerned about the growing secularism in the U.S. He said that when 70 percent of the world is anti-religious, it is "time for the religionists to get together."

Klaperman said that perhaps Reform and Conservative rabbis will be asked to join the dialogue. But he noted that this first meeting was a gathering of two groups both of which can be called "fundamentalist." He said Orthodox Jews and Evangelicals may in the future also unite on other issues but it was too soon now to say what these are.

The effort to increase grass roots support for Israel will include the various publications of the people involved as well as Jews speaking at meetings of Evangelicals and Evangelicals speaking at Jewish meetings.

One of the major efforts will be on the Christian television and radio programs. John Cummuta, operations manager of the National Religious Broadcasters, said his member-stations are watched and listened to by more than 50 million Americans. Some of the Orthodox rabbis are expected to appear on these programs.

### REAGAN CAUTIONS ISRAEL THAT IT CAN'T FOREVER LIVE AS AN ARMED CAMP Also Says Palestinian People Need 'Something In The Nature Of A National Home'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- President Reagan cautioned Israel yesterday that it cannot "go on forever living as an armed camp" and said its security depended on "the same kind of relationship" with its neighbors as it has now with Egypt.

The President spoke at some length on the Middle East during a question-and-answer session with about 50 newspaper editors, reporters and columnists invited to breakfast at the White House. In the course of his remarks he spoke of the need to provide "something in the nature of a national home" for the Palestinian people. But he promptly qualified that by asserting that "no one has ever advocated creating a nation."

The President said he was "a little surprised at the wind that started blowing" when he pledged that the U.S. would guarantee the security of Israel's northern borders after Israel withdraws its army from Lebanon. He made that offer Tuesday in a speech to the American Legion convention here during which he emphasized that it was urgent for "Syria, the PLO and Israel to

withdraw their forces from Lebanon in the shortest possible time."

Asked yesterday to amplify on his offer to guarantee Israel's security, Reagan stressed: "This is not anything different than has been said before by me and by several Presidents before me, that this country has always maintained that it has an obligation to the security of Israel."

But, he added, in this particular instance I was answering the question. And I thought I made it plain that I was talking about the withdrawal -- that in the aftermath of that withdrawal, we are prepared to guarantee their (Israel's) safety on the northern border."

The President declined to offer any specifics as to how the U.S. would act to guarantee the security of northern Israel. He asserted, however, that "we, in consultation with our allies in the multinational force, would be prepared -- until Lebanon was actually stabilized and able to guarantee this safety -- we would be willing to enlarge the multinational force. This is of course, in consultation with our allies..."

#### Issue Of The Word 'Homeland'

Considerable attention was focussed on the President's use of the word "homeland" with reference to a solution of the Palestinian problem. White House officials said it was consistent with the Middle East peace initiative Reagan proposed last September 1 which called for Palestinian self-government on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan. Israel rejected the Reagan proposals immediately.

This week, the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers, declared the Reagan plan "unacceptable" because it failed to recognize Palestinian self-determination and opposed a Palestinian state.

But the President seemed unfazed by those reactions. He told the reporters at the White House breakfast, "I don't take too seriously the statement of positions in advance of negotiations. Everyone wants to preserve their position at their highest price before negotiations."

He added, however, that "The Palestinian problem has to be a factor in the solution. We cannot go on. That's been the biggest problem now for a number of years. We cannot go on with these people in not providing them something in the nature of a homeland. On the other hand, no one has ever advocated creating a nation. And so I just believe that, as I say, that you wait until you get to the (negotiating) table."

The President asked rhetorically, "What is at stake for Israel? The stake is security. Can they go on forever living as an armed camp? Their economy's suffering. They have 130 percent inflation rate. And they're having to maintain a military presence that is out of all proportion to their size as a nation. And so the great security

for Israel, and this is what's back of our plan, is to create new Egypts, more nations, more neighbors that are willing to sign peace treaties with them."

He added: "Now, Israel proved its willingness to negotiate and to comply with things that weren't, certainly, appetizing to them in the giving up of the Sinai to Egypt. Well, what we're looking to is the same kind of relationship with most of their neighbors. Maybe not all the Arab states will be moderate. Maybe some of them will still continue to be holdouts. But I believe there's real evidence that the more moderate Arab states do want peace and this would involve recognition of Israel's right to exist."

Israel's outgoing Ambassador to the U.S., Moshe Arens, termed Reagan's remarks yesterday a "repeat maybe in somewhat different verbiage" of his earlier position. Arens, who returns to Jerusalem this week to take office as Defense Minister, reiterated Israel's contention that the Palestinians already have a state, "Jordan."

Arens paid a farewell visit to the President yesterday. He told reporters afterwards that Reagan had conveyed to him "a sense of urgency" over the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and repeated his offer to guarantee the security of northern Israel.

#### SOVIET JEWRY ISSUE AT MADRID CONFAB

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Ambassadors from the 10 European Economic Community (EEC) countries attending the Madrid conference on human rights promised a Jewish delegation on Tuesday that they would insist that the issue of the rights of Soviet Jewry be specifically included in any final agreement. The 10 envoys also said they will continue to consider the question of Soviet Jewry as a prime objective at the conference.

The Jewish delegation, comprising three West European Chief Rabbis, representatives of the World Jewish Congress, and a representative of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, also conferred with representatives of the neutral and non-aligned countries and with the American delegate, Ambassador Max Kampelman. The Italian Ambassador later paid tribute to the group for refraining from taking a "cold war posture" and for having been "as constructive as possible."

The Madrid meeting took place as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is based on the Helsinki agreements, was drawing to a close. The conference has been meeting for over a year to try and work out a new agreement and to see to it that the old one is better implemented.

According to reports from Madrid, members of the World Jewish Congress delegation also met with Soviet representatives who reiterated Moscow's invitation for WJC president Edgar Bronfman and WJC executive director Israel Singer to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat of France told a press conference that he, too, received an invitation from Moscow's Chief Rabbi and accepted it. Sirat said "only the date of the visit must now be fixed."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES TWO ON A SEESAW By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA) — The replacement of Ariel Sharon as Defense Minister by Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, may not lessen the problems between the U.S. and Israel but it is expected to improve the atmosphere in which they are addressed. At least that appears to be the prevailing attitude in Washington.

Personalities do play a part in intergovernmental relations as they do in domestic politics, and it is no secret that Sharon was the most unpopular Israeli official in Washington. Even critics of Premier Menachem Begin viewed him as a moderate when compared to his Defense Minister.

It is perhaps a coincidence, but the two Defense Ministers — Sharon of Israel and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger — seemed to be the official in each country who has done the most to exacerbate relations between the U.S. and Israel during the first two years of the Reagan Administration.

### Arens Was An Effective Spokesman

Arens did get along with Weinberger, as he has with most members of the Reagan Administration since coming to Washington a year ago.

In what may have been symbolic of the new atmosphere, Arens met with Weinberger at the Pentagon February 13 just hours after the Israeli Cabinet announced his appointment as Defense Minister. And when the Israeli envoy's name was mentioned last Sunday during a television interview with Secretary of State George Shultz, Shultz volunteered that Arens was an "outstanding man."

Yet the 57-year-old-plain-speaking aeronautical engineer is considered as much a "hardliner" as anyone in the Begin government. After all, Arens was Begin's first choice for Defense Minister when Ezer Weizman resigned two years ago but turned down the offer because he opposed the peace treaty with Egypt.

But since leaving the powerful post of chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to come to Washington in February, 1982, Arens has been an effective spokesman for the Israeli view not only to the Reagan Administration, but to the American public, particularly in his numerous television appearances.

In recent months he has made Israel's arguments for the two issues that now divide Jerusalem and Washington: Lebanon and Israel's rejection of President Reagan's September 1 peace initiative.

### A New Low In Relations

Differences over these two issues, especially Lebanon, have brought U.S.-Israeli relations to a new low in recent weeks. The Administration has argued that there must be a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon as soon as possible in order to allow the new Lebanese government to obtain sovereignty over all its territory.

In the television interview Sunday, Shultz denied that U.S. policy was aimed at a "speedy withdrawal of Israeli forces," stressing that it sought the "speedy withdrawal of all forces in a manner that's consistent with the security needs of Israel."

But he told the House Foreign Affairs Committee last week he believes that once an agreement is worked out for Israel's departure, the Syrians will

agree to leave and the Palestine Liberation Organization forces will follow the Syrians.

But Israel denies there is any urgency and stresses that it wants to be assured that once its army leaves it will not have to return again because Palestinian terrorists are back shelling northern Israel. If the PLO were to return to south Lebanon that "would be the end of Lebanon and that would be the end of any hope for stability in the area," Arens warned recently.

Shultz told the House Committee last week that the U.S. considers the Israeli security concerns "quite legitimate" and "worth the care and effort" being given them. But President Reagan has been urging a speedy Israeli withdrawal in his meetings with Jewish leaders and with various newsmen from around the country. At one such meeting, Reagan called Israel an "occupying power" and accused it of "unnecessarily delaying" its withdrawal from Lebanon.

### The Urgency On Lebanon

On the negotiating issues itself, the Administration opposes Israel's demands for permanent security outposts in southern Lebanon. Shultz called it "hardly consistent with the idea of sovereignty for Lebanon." The Administration has also opposed Israel's efforts to work out some sort of normalization of relations with Lebanon, which many observers see as an effort to appease Saudi Arabia.

But the Administration's urgency on Lebanon is above all an effort to save the Reagan peace initiative. Persons with such diverse views on the Middle East as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria have urged that the issues not be made conditional on each other. The Administration has denied there is any link. "The fundamental priority has to be the basic peace process," Shultz said last week.

### Waiting For Hussein

But for the Reagan initiative to succeed, King Hussein of Jordan must enter the autonomy talks. The Administration has made it clear that it believes that Jordan will not do so until the Israelis agree to leave Lebanon.

Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, reported after a recent Oval Office meeting between Reagan and a small group of Jewish leaders that the President indicated that Hussein would enter the negotiations as soon as an agreement for an Israeli withdrawal is achieved.

But longtime observers of Hussein note that the king has always found some excuse for not being able to negotiate. Lebanon aside, Hussein does not seem to be getting the approval of the PLO that he claims he needs to enter the talks.

Yet there is fear among Israel's friends that the Administration, wittingly or not, is setting up an excuse for Hussein not to join the talks, an excuse on which the blame will fall on Israel.

"The pattern for peacemaking in the Middle East has been set . . . direct face-to-face talks without any preconditions," Arens recently said on television. "And that is the pattern that King Hussein must follow. He might find it difficult; he may not be enthusiastic; he may feel no incentive to do it, but that's what it takes to arrive at peace in the Middle East."

### Israel Cast As The Heavy

Rather than accept that pattern, many in Washington would rather blame Israel. Berman has reported that Jewish leaders in recent meetings with Reagan and Shultz have stressed that Israel is being made to appear

intransigent when it is the Arab states that refuse to negotiate with Israel. Even though the Begin government rejected the Reagan peace initiative, it was welcomed by many in Israel and in the American Jewish community because it urged the Arabs to negotiate with Israel and especially because it sought to bring Jordan to the negotiating table.

As Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, recently pointed out here, there is greater commitment by the Administration to the Reagan initiative than there was to the Rogers plan by the Nixon Administration because it bears the name of the President not the Secretary of State.

#### GALLOP POLL SHOWS U.S. PUBLIC FAVORS ISRAEL MORE THAN ARAB NATIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The American public continues to support Israel more than the Arab nations, according to a new Gallop poll which was released here today by the American Jewish Committee which commissioned the study.

The poll was conducted by the Gallop organization between January 21 and January 30, with a nationally representative sample of 1,515 adults aged 18 and older. Those who were polled were asked: "In the Mideast situation, are your sympathies more with Israel or more with the Arab nations?"

The findings showed that the sympathies of the American public toward Israel had returned to the pre-Lebanon crisis proportions: in favor of Israel, 49 percent; in favor of the Arab nations, 12 percent. 22 percent said they favored neither Israel nor the Arabs, while 17 percent said they did not know nor have the answer to the question.

The poll also revealed that persons in higher income brackets and formal education are more likely to express sympathy for Israel. The support for Israel among college educated persons was 56 percent, while support for Israel among those with less than high school education was only 42 percent. The findings also showed that people in the western part of the country sympathize more with Israel (57 percent) than those who live in the east (46 percent).

The support for Israel among religious groups in the U.S. was highest among Jews (94 percent) who indicated zero support for the Arab nations; Protestants, 52 percent for Israel and 10 percent for the Arabs; and Catholics 43 percent for Israel and 16 percent for the Arabs.

Persons in the 25-34 age bracket showed the highest support for Israel, compared with other age groups, with 55 percent in favor of Israel and 11 percent in support of the Arabs.

#### Sharp Decline In Support For Israel Reversed

The findings of the poll clearly indicate that Israel has recovered from the sharp decline it suffered in American public support as a result of the war in Lebanon and the massacre in two Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut last September. Various polls released in September showed that only 32 percent of the American public supported Israel, compared to 49 percent in July, 1981.

Dr. Donald Feldstein, the AJC's executive vice president, stressed in today's press conference the natural bond between Americans and Israelis. "Americans, like Israelis have a variety of

opinion's on nuances like autonomy and self-government," he stated. "But one overwhelming truth is still clear to them: Israel, in the Mideast conflict, is prepared to make peace and live in peace, and the Arab states, except Egypt, are not yet prepared to do so."

#### BARBIE FACES EIGHT COUNTS CONSTITUTING THE CHARGE OF 'CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY'

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- A French magistrate officially informed Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie today of the eight counts constituting the charge of "crimes against humanity" for which he is to face trial in Lyon, the city where he served as gestapo chief from 1942-44.

The charges read to Barbie in his prison cell by Judge Christian Riss, include the arrest of 52 Jewish children in a home in Izieu and the execution of 42 hostages, 40 of them Jews, in 1944. Barbie was informed that the charges fall within the category of "crimes against humanity" which are not protected by a statute of limitations.

The 69-year-old former SS officer, once known as the "butcher of Lyon" will not be charged with the murder of French resistance leader Jean Moulin. That constitutes a "war crime" which cannot be prosecuted after a time lapse of 20 years.

Barbie, who found haven in Bolivia shortly after World War II, was expelled from that country earlier this month and turned over to French authorities who brought him to Lyon to stand trial. His court-appointed lawyer, Etienne de la Servette, who was present when the charges were read, said Barbie seemed "surprised" by the accusation that he ordered the arrest and deportation of 52 Jewish children. But the prisoner was acquainted with the seven other charges, his attorney said.

The original charge sheet is not exhaustive. Judge Riss, who was appointed investigating magistrate, will continue to gather evidence of other possible crimes committed by Barbie in Lyon.

The Dutch government, meanwhile, has announced that it is sending legal material to Lyon related to Barbie's activities as head of the gestapo's Jewish Desk in The Hague before he was transferred to France. He is charged by the Dutch authorities with the deportation of 400 Jews from Amsterdam to their deaths in Nazi concentration camps.

#### 2 MORE ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS JAILED FOR REFUSING TO SERVE IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- A reserve artillery captain was sentenced by a military court here this week to 28 days in prison for refusing to serve in Lebanon for reasons of conscience. Felix Laud, 37, is the highest-ranking officer yet sentenced for refusing to serve in Lebanon since the beginning of the war there last June.

Two other officers and three soldiers are in prison for the same reason. Sgt. Menashe Dvir, 35, was also sentenced to 28 days this week. Both Laud and Dvir asked their superior officers for permission to do their military reserve duty inside Israel proper.

The Yesh Gvul (There's a Limit) movement to which both belong demands that all Israeli soldiers be withdrawn from Lebanon, and that its six members now in prison be released.