

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL AND EGYPT RESUME TALKS ON DISPUTED TABA REGION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- Israeli-Egyptian negotiations over the disputed Taba region, resumed yesterday after a long hiatus, continued today and adjourned with no announcement of when the next session will be held.

The talks, which Egypt broke off after Israel invaded Lebanon last June, were held in Ismailia, an Egyptian city on the Suez Canal. According to the Egyptians, they focused on interim arrangements for the 700-meter strip of beach on the Gulf of Aqaba which both countries claim. Israel Radio said today that in secret contacts before the talks were resumed, Egypt had agreed to discuss normalization of relations with Israel at future sessions.

The Israelis are seriously concerned over the freeze in the normalization process because of Israel's actions in Lebanon. The Israeli Ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sasson, described a remark by Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali that a "cold peace" exists between Israel and Egypt as "very unfortunate." He said Ghali's remark during a visit to Rome this week, did not contribute to an improvement in relations.

A spokesman for the Egyptian delegation at Taba said Egypt has asked Israel to allow members of the multinational force in Sinai to enter the disputed region as part of an interim agreement. Members of the Israeli delegation refused to talk to reporters.

### Israeli-Egyptian Cooperation Cited

In another development, Gen. Haim Erez, commander of the southern area, said Egypt was cooperating with Israel in tracking down unidentified persons who laid mines in the Negev last week which killed five Bedouins and damaged two vehicles. According to Erez, tracks were found leading across the Egyptian border.

Egypt is also helping Israel trace hundreds of stolen cars smuggled from Israel into Sinai for sale in Egypt, Erez said. The recovered vehicles will be returned to their owners.

## EEC 'REGRETS' ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT POLICY AND REITERATES ITS

COMMITMENT TO THE VENICE DECLARATION

By David Kantor

BONN, March 3 (JTA) -- The European Economic Community (EEC) has expressed "regret" over Israel's settlement policy, and reiterated its commitment to the 1980 Venice Declaration which called for associating the PLO with the peace process in the Middle East. But it stopped short of formulating new ideas or launching initiatives of its own concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

After a day-long meeting of the EEC Foreign Ministers on Tuesday, Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany told a press conference here that the next European summit on March 22 will take another look at the conflict with a view to publishing a statement according to the situation which

will then exist. But he again reiterated that no independent European initiative is planned, but rather a document based on previous positions, notably the Venice Declaration.

Genscher also said that the European ministers hoped that the results of the PLO-National Council meeting last week in Algiers would help to broaden the peace process.

But asked whether the ministers decided to take any new steps toward the PLO he said there was no need for steps going behind what was already included in the Venice Declaration on this specific point. Genscher described as the main problem in the conflict the need for the Palestinians to exercise their right for self-determination.

## FRANCE SAID TO HAVE 'FROZEN' ITS ECONOMIC TIES WITH ISRAEL IN RECENT MONTHS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 3 (JTA) -- Israeli economic sources say France has "frozen" its economic ties with Israel in recent months. They say that the French attitude has further hardened in recent weeks.

According to these sources, France has still not fixed a date for a financial agreement for joint investments although the document has been worked out and now only needs official approval.

The sources claim the French government does not enforce the anti-boycott legislation approved by Parliament and say that a number of cases in which the government has failed to act have been registered in recent weeks.

As a further example of the "hard" line reportedly set by the French Administration, the sources say that not a single nationalized company has responded to some 200 invitations sent out by the Israel-France Chamber of Commerce for a study tour to Israel.

Some of France's largest industrial and commercial corporations are now controlled by the state after the Socialist government nationalized them last year.

French official sources, questioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, deny that an anti-Israel policy is now being applied. They say that economic and technical matters "follow their normal course" and that only official visits at ministerial level are banned until Israel totally withdraws from Lebanon.

## LEBANESE GOVERNMENT SHUTTING DOWN 'ILLEGAL PORTS OF ENTRY'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- The Lebanese government is shutting down "illegal ports of entry" to end the evasion of customs duties and other regulations by Lebanese importers, it was reported from Beirut today.

The crackdown, officially aimed against smuggling, is also intended to slow down the import of goods from Israel. Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia which is Lebanon's principal trading partner, have complained that Israel is dumping its goods into Lebanon from where they could infiltrate into other Arab countries which maintain a boycott of Israel.

According to the reports from Beirut, the government warned owners of illegal goods that they have one month to declare their products to customs authorities or risk prosecution. It has also warned shipping companies of possible legal action if they defy the order shutting down illegal ports.

Lebanon's ports, including Beirut harbor, the country's main port of entry, have been under the control of private armies since the civil war began in Lebanon in 1975. Invading Israeli forces drove leftist militias from the ports of south Lebanon last summer.

These ports are now controlled by Israeli-sponsored or other rightwing groups which use the revenues gained for their own purposes at the expense of the Lebanese treasury. Lebanese rightist militias have also controlled Beirut harbor and ports north of Beirut which the Lebanese army is now reportedly shutting down.

### Optimism Over Lebanon-Israel Talks

In other developments, the Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. negotiators held their 20th session in Netanya today aimed at agreement on security and mutual relations between Israel and Lebanon. Avi Pazner, spokesman for the Israeli delegation, stressed that whatever agreements are reached, all points must be put down in writing.

A spokesman for the Lebanese delegation said after today's meeting that his delegation is, for the first time, optimistic over the chances of reaching an agreement. He said that Lebanon might agree to allow Israeli forces to enter south Lebanon for periodic inspection tours after the Israeli army has withdrawn. The inspection tours apparently would be conducted jointly with the Lebanese army.

### ARTHUR KOESTLER DEAD AT 77

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 3 (JTA) -- Arthur Koestler, one of the major intellectuals of the 20th century, who flirted with Zionism, was found dead at his London home today alongside the body of his third wife, Cynthia. An empty pill bottle and note were found at their bedside. Koestler, 77, had been suffering from Parkinson's disease and police believe the couple had committed suicide.

Born in Hungary of well-to-do Jewish parents and educated at Vienna University, Koestler was passionately involved in numerous political and ideological causes, from Zionism and Communism to the campaign against capital punishment.

As a student, he came under the spell of the Zionist Revisionist leader, Vladimir Jabotinsky, and briefly served as his political secretary in Europe. Two of his books have become classics of modern Zionist literature -- "Promise and Fulfilment," (1949), based on his press coverage of the struggle for Jewish statehood, and "Thieves in the night," (1946), a heroic novel about kibbutz pioneers.

Koestler's writings all mirrored his personal experiences, which included a year as a chaltutz in Palestine followed by another year in the French Foreign Legion.

### Travelled Widely As A Correspondent

As a Communist he was a newspaper correspondent in the Middle East, Paris and Berlin from 1926 to 1931. In the climax of his journalistic career he travelled as the only press representative on the Russo-German Graf Zeppelin expedition in the Arctic.

Koestler travelled widely in Russia and Soviet Central Asia and covered the Spanish Civil War for the London News Chronicle. A prisoner of General Francisco Franco for three months under sentence of death, he narrowly escaped the firing squad when he was freed following strong diplomatic pressure from England.

In France, he was put in an internment camp with leftwing detainees awaiting the arrival of the gestapo but escaped to England in 1940 when he joined the British army's non-combattant Pioneer Corps.

### A Far-Reaching Disillusionment

In 1941 he wrote his novel "Darkness At Noon," which more than any other book unmasked the cynical face of Stalinist Communism.

But perhaps his most far-reaching disillusionment was that implied in one of his later books, "The Thirteenth Tribe," in which Koestler argued that the bulk of European Jewry was not Jewish at all but was descended from the Khazar Tribes of the Caucasus who had been converted en masse to Judaism.

From being an extreme Jewish nationalist, Koestler had come to reject his own Jewish identity.

**U.S. WANTS TO BUILD UP LEBANESE ARMY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE THERE AND TO STOP 'HOSTILE' FORCES FROM ENTERING**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) -- Nicholas Veliotes, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, maintained yesterday that the U.S. wants to build up the Lebanese army so that it can "protect" the people of Lebanon and stop any "hostile" forces from entering that country.

"Any group that would come into Lebanon with a hostile attempt against Israel would also be viewed as having a hostile attempt against Lebanon," Veliotes said in testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

While he did not spell it out, this apparently is the same argument the U.S. is making to convince the Israeli government to drop its insistence on having military outposts in south Lebanon after the Israeli army withdraws.

### Basis For Length Of Marines' Stay

Lt. Gen. Philip Gast, director of the Pentagon's Defense Security Assistance Agency, told the subcommittee that within two weeks, the Lebanese army will have four brigades of 20,000 men, fully equipped with sophisticated arms bought from the U.S.

But when Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D. Md.) asked if this would allow the U.S. marines to leave Lebanon soon, Gast replied that how long the marines stay in Lebanon will depend on the "peace process", the withdrawal of foreign forces, how much popular support is given the Lebanese army, and the extent of "mischief" from outside.

Gast said, however, that the four brigades would enable the Lebanese army to make a "contribution" to the security of Lebanon after the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organization forces. But it could not cover all of Lebanon, he said.

The Reagan Administration is asking Congress for a supplemental foreign aid appropriation for 1983 of

\$251 million for Lebanon. This includes \$150 million in economic aid which will be spent in 1983-84, \$100 million to allow Lebanon to buy weapons in the U.S. and \$1 million to cover the cost of training the Lebanese army.

#### Views Presented To Senate Committee

Robert Basil, chairman of the American Lebanese League's policy committee, praised the Administration's efforts to help rebuild Lebanon. He observed, however, that 80-85 percent of the destruction in Lebanon occurred during the "seven years of Syrian-PLO occupation" and only 15 percent resulted from the Israeli invasion last summer.

Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), stressed that U.S. aid to Israel has declined 63 percent in real terms because of inflation and other factors in the last nine years. United States aid to Israel in 1984, he said, would be one-thirteenth of the American expenditure on NATO "at a fraction of the cost of the support to the security of South Korea. Moreover, unlike many allies, Israel seeks no contribution of U.S. combat forces on its behalf."

Also testifying yesterday was David Sadd, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, who maintained that U.S. aid to Israel "is not encouraging stability and peace in the Middle East." He urged a "linking" of aid to Israel's cooperation with U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The Administration is asking \$2.485 billion in aid to Israel in 1984, the same as this year. Israel must pay back to the U.S. this year \$1.1 billion in debt service.

#### INCIDENT IN HEBRON

By Gil Sedan

HEBRON, March 3 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces arrested two Arab high school students here today after Jewish settlers allegedly entered the school at gunpoint in pursuit of youths they claimed had stolen one of their vehicles on the road outside.

The incident, involving Jewish settlers from Carmel, near Hebron, was the second this week in which settlers entered the school to confront alleged attackers and warn the student body against future rock throwing. Ron Schechner, chairman of the Hebron Jewish Mountain Regional Council, said the settlers had no choice but to act as they did.

He said a vehicle carrying Carmel settlers to their farmland south of the village was hit by a barrage of rocks shortly before school opened at 8 a.m. local time. A car window was broken but no one was hurt. According to Schechner the only way to deal with the stone-throwers was to confront them in their own school yard.

"In principle, of course, we would prefer that the security forces deal with the problem but if they don't we may have no choice but to act on our own," Schechner said. He said that security forces were summoned after today's incident but arrived only an hour later when they arrested the two youths in their classroom.

According to Mohammad Rumi, principal of the school, the settlers entered the class rooms at gunpoint and ordered all students to assemble in the yard where they searched for the alleged attackers. Rumi said he had no control over what happened outside the school but could not tolerate settlers breaking into the classes. He demanded that the security forces act to prevent a repetition.

Similar rock-throwing incidents occurred today in Nablus and Ramallah where students attacked security forces with stones. According to Israeli sources, the attacks are the work of extremist agitators who want to create disorder on the West Bank for political reasons. But other Israeli observers say the recent harassment of Arabs by Jewish settlers in the Hebron region was a contributing factor.

Last week shots were fired at Arab houses near Kiryat Arba, the Jewish religious township adjacent to Hebron. A booby-trap bomb was planted outside a mosque in the center of Hebron. The police are holding several Jewish suspects but have not pressed charges.

#### NORWAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS HE WOULD NOT MEET WITH ARAFAT IF HE WERE TO VISIT NORWAY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Sverre Stray of Norway said here today that if Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat were to visit Norway he (Stray) would not meet with him. The Scandinavian media reported that the PLO chief will visit the area later this month.

At a press conference winding up his four day visit to Israel, Stray said he thought it unlikely that Arafat would come to Norway, though there was a real possibility of his visiting Sweden.

The PLO chief does have an invitation from the opposition Socialist Party to visit Oslo, but if he accepts it, said Stray "I would not meet with him because as far as I know the PLO has not denounced its former terrorist activities. I would consider (meeting Arafat) if he would admit that his former terrorist activities were wrong and undertake not to carry out such activities any more."

Stray stopped short, however, of endorsing Israel's refusal to have any dealings with the PLO. The considerations for Israel, as a party directly involved in the conflict, might be different, he observed.

#### Terms Visit To Israel 'Successful'

Stray termed his visit here "successful" and "useful for both sides." Having been recently to Egypt and Jordan, too, he felt the prospects for the Mideast peace process were perhaps better now than they had been for a long time in the past. But obviously there were still wide gaps, the Norwegian statesman continued. He cited Jordan's demand for a West Bank settlement freeze as a precondition for its joining negotiations as one such obstacle.

Regarding Lebanon, Stray said he agreed with his Israeli host, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was not capable of preventing terrorism in south Lebanon. Stray observed that UNIFIL was not a fighting force or even a police force. It had been established to keep guard along an agreed line dividing the parties.

But as to UNIFIL's future -- Israel wants it moved out of the south Lebanon security zone -- Stray said this was an issue for negotiation and then for a decision by the UN Security Council. Norway has furnished a battalion of men to UNIFIL since the force's inception in 1978.

**PROMINENT JEWISH CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY CITES CHRIST'S WORDS AS QUOTED IN THE GOSPELS AS THE ROOT OF CHRISTIAN ANTI-SEMITISM**  
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 3 (JTA) — The Bishop of Birmingham, England's most prominent Jewish convert to Christianity, has acknowledged that Christian anti-Semitism makes it "quite unrealistic" to expect Jews ever to want to become Christians, except in rare cases like his own.

Dr. Hugh Montefiore, who became an Anglican while a pupil at Rugby public school, said the roots of Christian anti-Semitism lay in the words of Christ himself as quoted in the Gospels.

"This virulent anti-Semitism, like all forms of racial hatred, needs to be resolutely opposed and shown up for the lies and filth that it is," he said in a lent lecture to Anglican clergy in the East London parish of Stepney.

Montefiore is a member of the eminent Sephardi family whose greatest figure was Sir Moses Montefiore, the 19th century philanthropist and defender of oppressed Jewry.

#### 'An Atmosphere of Hatred'

Referring to "an atmosphere of hatred" in the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. John, Bishop Montefiore said: "It is here, right at the heart and center of the New Testament writings that we find the beginnings of anti-Semitism which has been so rampant in the church."

Writings of some of the church fathers and of Martin Luther were "not very far from the attitudes of Der Stürmer, the Nazi anti-Semitic newspaper," he said. The image of the Jew in the minds of Christians was that of "a deformed monster," that was the folk memory about the Jews on which Nazism drew, resulting in cruelty and indescribable bestiality, Montefiore said.

The Bishop also defended the right of Jews to be faithful to their own religion. Jews who lived by their beliefs could be regarded as "anonymous Christians," he said, adding:

"The Jews are not to be judged for remaining as Jews; and indeed their experience of suffering down the ages bring them very close to the central mystery of our faith, the passion, death and resurrection of Christ." Yet no Christian church, had yet adequately repudiated its anti-Semitic history, he said.

#### Exhibition Of Holocaust Material

Montefiore was preaching at a church which is staging an exhibition of Holocaust material on loan from the official Auschwitz Museum in Poland. The six weeks exhibition, which has the support of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, is intended to show youngsters aged 13 and over the implications of intolerance and racism. It will later be taken to Manchester and Newcastle.

The exhibits include photographs, documents and railway tickets bought by unsuspecting Greek Jews for trains that transported them to the gas chambers, instrument of torture, cloth made of human hair and pairs of young children's shoes.

St. George in the East Church, whose crypt houses the exhibition, is in the heart of what was once the most heavily Jewish populated area of London. Before the war, it was the stamping ground of Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists. Today, the Jews have been largely replaced by Asian and West Indian immigrants, but racism lingers on.

The Bishop of Stepney, who authorized the exhibition in his diocese, has received letters accusing him of being "A Jew lover" and reminding him of the anti-British activities of Jewish terrorists in Palestine.

**FIRST WORLD CONFAB ON SOVIET JEWRY TO BE HELD IN JERUSALEM**  
By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA) — The first international Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held in Jerusalem, opening here March 15, will be attended by delegates from 31 countries around the world, it was announced by Avraham Harman, president of the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry at a press conference yesterday.

He noted that the two previous world conferences on Soviet Jewry, held in Brussels in 1971 and 1976, were followed by a marked rise in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and it is hoped that similar results will follow the third conference. But Harman made it clear that Soviet emigration policy will have to change first.

#### Cites Purpose Of The Conference

He said the purpose of the conference is to demonstrate that the plight of Soviet Jews is an international issue that will not be forgotten.

"From the outdawn of emigration from the Soviet Union of Jews from 51,000 in 1979 to a paltry few thousand in 1982, it seems the Russians think that if they continue with this policy, the problem will get easier and that people will forget it," Harman said. "People are coming to Jerusalem from 31 countries in order to demonstrate to them (the Soviets) that people will not forget it."

According to Harman, present estimate is that there are 2.5 million Jews in the USSR of which number 400,000 have requested and received invitations from relatives in Israel so that they can begin the emigration process. But they have not been granted exit visas. About 7,000 of these Jews are known to be refuseniks, meaning Jews who have applied for visas but have been denied them.

Harman said, "The only way this matter may be put to rest is for the Soviet Union to honor its obligations. It is obliged under the Helsinki Final Act to give Jews the right of free movement; to give them the right to be reunited with their families; to give them the right to cultivate their culture and their language," Harman said.

The conference will be attended by, among others, Premier Menachem Begin; Simone Veil of France, former President of the Parliament of Europe; former Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union; former refuseniks, relatives of refuseniks and Soviet Jewry activists.

Harman stressed that the conference is being convened in Jerusalem to emphasize the solidarity between Israel and the Jews of the Soviet Union.

#### REPORT RADIO WARSAW TO BROADCAST JEWISH RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

NEW YORK, March 3 (JTA) — Jewish religious holiday observances will be broadcast this year on Radio Warsaw, according to information reaching the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The broadcasts will be on middle-wave 366 mm. and also on short-wave 71.45 MHz and are believed to be free of jamming in the Soviet Union.

The following are the dates and time of the broadcasts: a Passover program, March 28, 17:00 GMT (Greenwich mean time); Shavuoth, May 17, 17:30 GMT; Rosh Hashanah, September 7, 16:00 GMT; and Yom Kippur, September 18, 15:30 GMT.