

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## CARTER SAYS HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE NEW MOMENTUM TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) —** Former President Jimmy Carter said here last night that although he is a private citizen, he hoped to be able to introduce new momentum to the Middle East peace process, begun by Premier Menachem Begin, the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and himself at Camp David five years ago.

He pledged, at a dinner party hosted by Begin for the former President and his wife, Rosalynn Carter, and Israeli officials who participated in the Camp David talks, that he would do his best to persuade King Hussein of Jordan to join in future talks based on the Camp David accords. He called on Israel to "make it easier" for Hussein to do so.

Carter, on a private tour of the Middle East, arrived in Israel yesterday from Egypt. He will meet with Hussein, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hafez Assad of Syria as he continues his swing through the region.

He met separately yesterday with Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor. Carter and Begin spoke privately for 30 minutes after a larger reception at the Prime Minister's Office where the former President was accompanied by his wife and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

### Praises Begin's Role At Camp David

At last night's dinner, Carter praised Begin's role at Camp David. He said the Israeli leader had shown the greatest "political courage" and had undertaken the largest risks. Carter observed, however, that King Hussein had always felt "excluded" from Camp David and that it was necessary therefore to draw him into the process.

Begin, responding, praised Carter's tenacity and tremendous will power which brought the Camp David talks in 1978 to their successful conclusion. He stressed that the accords contained an explicit invitation to King Hussein to enter the peace process and reiterated his call to the Jordanian ruler to do so.

Begin also defended Israel's proposals for Palestinian autonomy, claiming that Israel was offering the Palestinians "much more than any state has ever offered to any minority." He said the Israeli proposals would enable the Palestinians to govern all aspects of their daily lives while Israel would retain for itself only control of security.

### Dinner Marked By Nostalgia

Israeli officials said the mood of the dinner was warm and nostalgic. The guests reminisced about the 17 dramatic days at the Presidential retreat in the Maryland hills which produced the Camp David accords that led subsequently to Israel's peace treaty with Egypt. The guests included former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Rachel Dayan, widow of former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Both Weizman and Dayan played key roles in the Camp David negotiations.

Also present were Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak who, as Israel's Attorney General at the time, served as legal advisor to the Israeli delegation at Camp David; Ephraim Poran and Ilan Tevilla, who were military aides; Begin's former press spokesman, Dan Pattir; and Simcha Dinitz, who as Israel's Ambassador to Washington, also took part in the Camp David talks.

### Situation In Lebanon Discussed

Carter's meetings with Israeli officials yesterday were described as warm and cordial. The situation in Lebanon was a main topic of discussion and Begin, Shamir and Savidor each assured Carter that Israel is anxious to withdraw its forces from that country as soon as satisfactory security arrangements are agreed to.

Shamir informed Carter that he is going to Washington at the end of this week for discussions with Secretary of State George Shultz and U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib to try to seek a breakthrough in the negotiations between Israel, Lebanon and the U.S. (See separate story from Washington.)

Carter asked questions but offered no criticism of Israel's actions in Lebanon. He did observe to Savidor that Israel's "cold peace" with Egypt was certain to warm up once Israeli forces left Lebanon. When Savidor objected to the "linkage," Carter said he personally did not link the two issues but the fact is that they are perceived to be linked.

Carter's private meeting with Begin was reported to have been devoted in large part to reminiscences over Camp David. Both men recalled Sadat's role in the peace process. Carter noted that he had begun his visit to Israel a few hours earlier by laying a wreath at the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. He spoke of human rights and particularly the rights of Jews in the Soviet Union. Carter recalled that during his term in office, more Jews were allowed to leave the USSR than at any time before or since then. (Separate story on Carter's visit to Bethlehem, P. 3.)

### SHAMIR AND SHULTZ TO MEET SUNDAY AND MONDAY; LEBANON'S FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT JOIN THE TALKS

By David Friedman

**WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA) —** The possibility arose today that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir would meet with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim here next week either alone or in a tripartite discussion with Secretary of State George Shultz.

But State Department officials stressed that such a meeting has not been scheduled and that both Foreign Ministers are coming to Washington for bilateral talks with Shultz. Department spokesman John Hughes said there is no plan to move the Lebanese negotiations now alternating between Lebanon and Israel, to Washington.

Shamir is scheduled to meet with Shultz on Sunday and Monday, according to Hughes. Salim is expected to arrive in Washington Sunday night.

Philip Habib, the U.S. special envoy in the Middle East who has been meeting with Lebanese and Israeli officials in an effort to work out an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, will

sit in on the meetings Shultz has with the two Foreign Ministers, Hughes said. He said no meeting has been set between Shamir and President Reagan although he did not rule one out.

#### Cautions Against Expecting A Breakthrough

While conceding there is "always a possibility of a breakthrough at any meeting," Hughes warned against expecting this to happen on the Lebanese issue when Shamir and Shultz meet. He repeated his suggestion of last week that it is "unwise" to keep going from extreme optimism to extreme pessimism over the course of the negotiations which, he said, should be regarded as moving forward.

Hughes reiterated that the U.S. is "concerned about" safeguarding Israel's security in southern Lebanon. He would not comment on reports from Jerusalem that Shamir has suggested joint Israeli-Lebanese and American security patrols in return for Israel abandoning its demands for military outposts in southern Lebanon.

Hughes said that "various possibilities" have been discussed about how to provide security for Israel, including the use of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and moving the multinational forces now in Beirut to the Israeli border.

#### BOMBING INCIDENT IN MARSEILLES NOW SEEN AS POSSIBLE GANGLAND HIT AGAINST LOCAL NIGHTCLUB

By: Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 9 (JTA) -- Uncertainty developed in Marseilles today over whether the bomb explosion near the city's main synagogue early yesterday morning, in which two men were killed, was indeed an intended anti-Semitic assault by neo-Nazis or other terrorists, after police identified the victims as known criminals. Nevertheless, dozens of police and security squads have been flown to Marseilles from all over France to guard the city's Jewish institutions.

The two men, burned alive when the bomb detonated in their car as they tried to evade police, were identified today as Georges Sihat and Gerard Scotti. Police said Sihat had just been released after serving nine years in a maximum security prison for armed robbery. His companion also had a long criminal record. This raised the possibility that the bombing was a gangland attack aimed at a nightclub near the synagogue.

The police said that four suspects -- two men and two women -- arrested for questioning in connection with the bombing were apparently involved in criminal activities. A fifth suspect, Jean-Claude Kraft, a 30-year-old bartender, also has a criminal record. Kraft was arrested at his home in Avignon and brought to Marseilles after police found his identity card on one of the dead men. Kraft claimed he lost the card several weeks ago but neglected to inform the police.

The four suspects under interrogation by homicide and anti-terrorist squads have not been identified by the police. Radio reports said they have no record of political activity and belong to "a marginal sector of society," meaning, apparently, the underworld. Le Monde reported today that "it is no longer certain" that the synagogue was the target of the bomb which exploded about 300 yards from that building and an adjacent Jewish community center. But the possibility cannot be ruled out, Le Monde added.

Mayor Gaston Defferre of Marseilles, who faces a tough contest in the city's municipal elections next Sunday, told a press conference yesterday that the first available clues pointed "to a neo-Nazi attack against the synagogue." He promised the city's 100,000 Jews that he would do everything in his power to ensure their safety.

Defferre's election rival, Jean-Claude Gaudin, said today, "I condemn all terrorist attacks and even stronger, those of an anti-Semitic nature." He added, "Unfortunately, I do not have all the facts concerning the case as the Minister of Interior (Defferre) has."

Some residents of Marseilles, including local Jews, suspect that the bomb was in fact intended for the nightclub. Marseilles, France's second largest city, has a reputation for racketeering and gang warfare. Some people believe the bomb explosion near the synagogue was a coincidence.

The police believed originally that the two men in the car, carrying a powerful bomb with more than two pounds of high explosives, intended to attack the synagogue. They slowed down in front of the building but sped away after seeing a strong police patrol nearby. The car turned into a narrow alley where it was blocked by a police car. According to the initial police account the two men were unable to defuse the bomb which had already been set to detonate.

#### SHAMIR SAYS ISRAEL TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) -- Israel's policy in Africa, particularly its arms sales to Zaire, was the subject of debate in the Knesset today. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, speaking for the government, said Israel would do its utmost to strengthen its ties with African regimes.

He spoke in reply to an agenda motion by Shulamit Aloni of the Labor Alignment who warned against Israeli involvement in the internal affairs of African nations. Aloni was particularly concerned over the possibility that Israel would become embroiled in the tense situation in Zaire's Shaba region bordering on Soviet-backed Angola.

"We might get our soldiers mixed up in incidents against a country which is supported by the Russians," she said. She also criticized the supply of military equipment and know-how to the government of President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire which she called a "brutal and dictatorial regime."

#### Shamir Defends Israel's Policy

Shamir visited Zaire last month to negotiate, among other things, the sale of Israeli arms and the training of Zairian soldiers by Israelis. The Foreign Minister defended his policy and the arms deals. He noted that when he was in Kinshasa there were also military delegations from China, France and Belgium.

Shamir noted that Zaire was the first black African nation to resume diplomatic ties with Israel since the Yom Kippur War "and we are grateful for that." He added that as Israel is trying to advance its relations with other African countries, "all those countries watch how our relations with Zaire will develop."

Shamir was supported by Likud MK Yigael Hurwitz who said Israel had no choices but to sell arms to any country willing to buy them. "The market is in Asia, Africa and Latin America," he said. "We would have liked to export to Holland, Norway and Finland, but this is impossible," Hurwitz added. He observed that the Socialist government of France was trading in arms with the entire Third World.

Shamir, replying to an agenda motion on a different subject, said there were no signs that Jordan was coming to the negotiating table. He said the recent statement by King Hussein at the meeting of non-aligned nations in New Delhi that he and the Palestine Liberation Organization were getting closer was not "encouraging."

Shamir added: "We must be attentive to the voices of peace and welcome them. But at the same time we must be able to distinguish between attempts to deprive us of both national and security assets on the pretext of peace and between true and sincere expressions of a desire for peace and co-existence."

#### ANGRY DEMONSTRATIONS GREET CARTER DURING BETHLEHEM VISIT

By Gil Sedan

BETHLEHEM, March 9 (JTA) -- Former President Jimmy Carter, visiting Bethlehem today, encountered angry demonstrations by Palestinian youths but got a friendly reception from Mayor Elias Freij and other local dignitaries.

The Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway and streets in Bethlehem were littered with rocks that had been hurled throughout the day at passing Israeli vehicles from nearby hills. There was also rock-throwing earlier when Carter toured East Jerusalem escorted by Mayor Teddy Kollek, forcing the official party to change routes. (See separate story.)

Rock-throwing has become a daily occurrence in many parts of the West Bank recently. But today's outbursts in and around Bethlehem reflected hostility toward Carter, a key figure in drafting the Camp David accords.

A crowd, estimated at about 1,000 people were gathered in Manger Square when the former President arrived at the City Hall. Security was tight, with several ranks of armed police and soldiers surrounding the visitor. There was one tense moment when Arab youngsters rolled a tire into the square. Carter met briefly with Mayor Freij in his office after which he attended a small reception.

#### Carter Sympathetic To Freij's Statement

In a short speech, Freij noted that whereas the Palestinian people aspired to peace, they were deprived of their basic rights. "In this room we cannot even raise our own national flag," he said.

Carter responded sympathetically. He observed that the Jewish people, who had suffered so much through the ages, and the Holocaust, should share the basic concern for human rights. He appeared to imply that those rights were not guaranteed Arabs in the occupied territories.

Carter said that after Israel and Egypt signed their peace treaty, he had hoped that Palestinian representatives would join in the peace talks and there would be no more bloodshed in the Middle East. Unfortunately, he said, the past year saw the loss of many innocent lives, particularly in Lebanon. But he still remained hopeful and was praying that progress can be made, the former President said.

After accepting a certificate of honorary citizenship in Bethlehem, Carter visited the Church of the Nativity. As he passed through the square he was greeted by the only Arab demonstration allowed near him. It was by a small

group of the Israel government-backed Village Leagues who support the Camp David accords and called for peace in the area, without the Palestine Liberation Organization.

#### 5 INJURED IN WEST BANK VIOLENCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) -- Stones and bullets flew but no fatalities were reported in a day of widespread violence throughout the West Bank. Five Israelis were reported injured at the end of the day. One man received a head wound from a stone hurled at his car on the Hebron road. Three of the injured were women soldiers, all of them slightly hurt.

In Bethlehem massive security forces kept nationalist university students penned up at the town's university thus thwarting their intention to demonstrate against former President Jimmy Carter who was meeting with Mayor Elias Freij and local dignitaries at the town hall.

In part, the troubles appear to have been connected to Carter's visit to East Jerusalem in the morning and Bethlehem in the afternoon. Carter was unable to see the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in East Jerusalem as planned because of the rioting. The stormiest scenes were in Hebron. Gunshots were also reported from near-by Bethlehem when cars belong to Jewish settlers were pelted by rocks.

In the East Jerusalem disturbances 13 young Arabs were detained by police and five Jewish yeshiva students who were suspected of smashing store windows in retaliation for being attacked by stone-throwing youths.

Apparently unconnected with this wave of disturbance Defense Minister Moshe Arens made a day-long visit to the West Bank, meeting with Jewish settlers and assuring them of his commitment to expanding settlement efforts. But he warned the Jewish settlers against taking the law into their own hands against local Arabs.

#### JNF HOLDING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

By Hugh Orgel

EILAT, March 9 (JTA) -- Over 200 leaders of the Jewish National Fund in America are spending the first three days of a national assembly that will last a week here in Eilat hearing reports and plans of land development and inspecting projects their donations helped to bring to fruition.

The group from all over the U.S., with the largest contingent of 25 from San Diego, Calif., today toured the Eilat area, JNF-supported science-based land reclamation in kibbutzim in the Arava and in the Timna park area, which is now under development. Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir persuaded the American JNF to switch their annual convention to Israel for the first time. They had been planning to meet at Grossinger's in New York but switched to Eilat and, by chance, are meeting here on the 34th anniversary of the establishment of this most southerly Israel town.

It was on March 10, 1949, that the Israeli flag was first raised over a hut forming the police post at Umm Rashrash, on the seashore facing Aqaba.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin and Mayor Teddy Kollek attended the dedication Wednesday of a municipal garden planted near the Prime Minister's office, adjoining the spot where Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig was killed by a grenade at the February 10 Peace Now demonstration. There were no speeches at the solemn, dignified ceremony. The dead man's brother unveiled the plaque in Emil's memory.

# JEWISH HISTORIAN RAPS THE PAPACY FOR ITS RECORD AS ONLOOKER DURING AND SINCE THE HOLOCAUST

By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, March 9 (JTA) -- Saul Friedman, professor of history at Youngstown State University in Ohio, said here recently that the record of the Papacy towards the Jews before and since the Holocaust is an appalling one.

Friedman, author of "No Hope for the Oppressed," "Pogromchik," "Amcha," and "Incident at Massena," told a Beth Tzedec Synagogue audience that while the Vatican has officially ignored the existence of Israel for 34 years, it has been extremely solicitous of the Palestinians.

"When the Papacy promulgated its famous statements about Jews and Judaism in 1962 (at the Second Vatican Council), the Vatican went out of its way to appease Arabs by telling them that no basic changes in attitudes towards Jews were intended, Friedman said.

"No Pope has ever visited the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, even though it is one of the most sacred shrines in Christianity and the one Pope who visited Jerusalem back in 1965 came in through the back door via Jordan." He was referring to Pope Paul VI.

## Cites Vatican's Uneasiness With Israel, Jews

Friedman indicated that while Pope John Paul II has met with PLO chief Yasir Arafat (and been photographed with him) he has never met, on an official basis, with the leader of any Israeli government. The current policy of the Vatican, according to Friedman, shows that the Catholic Church is as uncomfortable with the plight of Jews today as it was before and during the Holocaust.

"When the current Pope went to Auschwitz two years ago, he made reference to the 'sons of Abraham'. The fact that he was unable to pronounce the word Jew is symptomatic of the Church's uneasiness with Israel and world Jewry," Friedman said.

He contended that this is consistent with the Papacy's posture during the Holocaust when it chose to remain silent in the face of the destruction of six million Jews and six million gentiles. "In 1938 Pope Pius XI was considering the issuing of a papal encyclical condemning anti-Semitism. His successor, Pius the XII, a Germanophile who saw Germany as a bulwark against Communism, chose not to move with the document."

According to Friedman, the only time that the Papacy intervened in the case of Jews was when they were converted to Catholicism. Friedman elicited groans from the audience when he indicated that Pope Pius XII is now being considered for canonization by the Roman Catholic Church.

## Says Papal Intervention Might Have Helped

Friedman dismissed as rationalizations after the fact, arguments that Papal intervention might have made the situation of European Jews even worse. "The Nazi movement began in Bavaria; many of the members of the Nazi hierarchy, including Himmler, Kaltenbrunner, Frank and Hitler himself -- were Catholics.

"I realize, of course, that a Papal interdiction would have had little effect on people of that ilk -- but it might have had some on the hun-

dreds of thousands of German soldiers who were practicing Catholics and on the Catholics who participated with the Germans among the Ukrainian, Polish and other national groups in carrying out the 'final solution'."

In his analysis of Vatican politics, Friedman contrasted the silence of the church during the Holocaust and the speed with which it condemned the massacres at Sabra and Shatila. In the latter context the Papacy, through the current Pope, specifically endorsed the idea of Palestinian rights, Friedman said. It did not, however, identify the perpetrators of the atrocities.

Friedman pointed out that the 400,000 Israelis who demonstrated in Tel Aviv last September for the inquiry commission showed the prophetic spirit of Judaism and their response to Sabra and Shatila validated Jewish beliefs in the idea of responsibility for one's actions, even indirect responsibility. Friedman contrasted this with the Lebanese Phalangists who are still entrenched in their positions and who openly boast of their activities in the camps.

## VOTING FOR ISRAEL'S NEW CHIEF RABBIS WILL TAKE PLACE MARCH 15

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA) -- Rabbi Avraham Shapiro, 65, a veteran Supreme Rabbinical Court judge and dean of the Merkaz Harav Kook Yeshiva in Jerusalem, is now the frontrunner for the post of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi, following the Knesset's refusal Monday to approve a government bill that would have enabled the incumbents -- Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef -- to prolong their terms of office.

Shapiro's name was formally entered yesterday after National Religious Party leaders brought pressure on him to agree to run for the post. Other Ashkenazic candidates are Rabbi Yitzhak Kolitz, a leading dayan and noted Tel Aviv rabbi, and Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Chief Rabbi of Haifa (and Goren's brother-in-law).

On the Sephardic side, Rabbi Shlomo Eliahu, another supreme dayan, will run against 42-year-old Bat Yam Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron for the post of Sephardic Chief Rabbi. A third man, David Chelouche of Netanya, was seeking support for his candidacy before the lists closed yesterday. The voting for the new Chief Rabbis -- by a 150-man electoral college comprising rabbis and politicians -- will take place on March 15 on Rosh Hodesh Nisan.

Yosef, reacting with bitterness to the Knesset decision Monday, said: "I wanted to continue to serve my people, but they don't want me. The rabbinate buries its incumbents ..."

## EL AL RESUMES FULL SCHEDULE

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA) -- El Al Israel Airlines resumed its full schedule of flights between the U.S. and Israel this week, David Schneider, El Al's general manager for North and Central America, announced. El Al will offer a daily flight between New York and Tel Aviv, except on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays. From June 19 through the summer, the schedule will be increased to two or three flights daily from New York to Israel. El Al will also reintroduce its Miami-Tel-Aviv connection each Monday beginning March 14, and increase to two flights daily on Mondays and Wednesdays after May 4. "El Al is back all the way and better than ever," Schneider, said, noting the strong public response to El Al's resumption of flights.