

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

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

Vol. XLI - 66th Year

Tuesday, March 22, 1983

No. 56

ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS RESUME

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA) -- The delegations of Israel, Lebanon and the U.S. resumed their negotiations at Netanya today after a 10-day hiatus during which the Israeli and Lebanese foreign ministers visited Washington for separate meetings with Secretary of State George Shultz.

The talks are aimed at an agreement for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the security of Israel's northern border and future relations between Israel and Lebanon. New American proposals, dealing mainly with the security issues, were discussed by the Cabinet in Jerusalem yesterday and reportedly accepted as a basis for further negotiations.

Some Progress Reported

According to sources at today's meeting in Netanya, progress was made on mutual relations but there was less movement on security matters. The head of the Lebanese delegation, Antoine Fatale, said today that Lebanon recognized Israel's emphasis on its security requirements.

Avi Pazner, spokesman for the Israeli delegation, told reporters that whatever the importance of Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's talks with Shultz last week, "it was in the direct talks such as those being held in Netanya and Khalde (Lebanon) that an agreement will ultimately be signed." Today's session at Netanya concentrated on the free passage of goods and people across the Israel-Lebanese border.

The delegations divided into various subcommittees to discuss security problems and to put into draft text form certain agreements in principle reached at earlier sessions. The negotiations will be resumed at Netanya next Friday.

Tension Continues Between U.S., Israeli Troops

Meanwhile, relations between Israeli and American forces in the Beirut area continued to sour. Col. James Mead, commander of the 1,200 U.S. marines in Lebanon accused Israel army units of endangering civilians and marines by what he charged was indiscriminate gunfire resulting from a "gross lack" of discipline on the part of Israeli soldiers.

Mead made his charges in an interview with the Associated Press in Beirut. The Israeli military commander, asked to comment, said that "Lately the marines are publishing data that have no basis."

He may have been referring to the letter sent by Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. Robert Barrow, to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, charging that Israeli troops were deliberately endangering the lives of American military personnel in Lebanon for "political reasons." The letter was made public in the U.S. last Thursday.

Mead's complaint referred to the Israeli practice of firing blindly into underbrush and other areas of concealment as a preventive measure against possible ambush of Israeli forces using highways in the Beirut area. According to Mead, such measures are ineffective against ambushers but endanger military personnel and civilians.

ARENS SAYS ISRAEL WILL PROVIDE THE U.S. WITH INFORMATION ABOUT WAR MATERIAL FROM THE LEBANON WAR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens disclosed today that Israel has decided to provide the U.S. with information about war materials obtained in the Lebanon war without demanding anything concrete in return. The decision, by the Cabinet yesterday, was disclosed by Arens at a specially-convened press conference here. He did not reveal the nature of the information.

Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon was reported to have been in the opposing minority at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Sharon had opposed providing the Americans with intelligence information without guarantees that it would not be passed on through other channels to the Arabs.

Arens said that his predecessor, Sharon, had invited U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in October, 1982 to join with Israel in studying the lessons of the Lebanon fighting. An American delegation came to Israel last November and initialed an agreement.

"As some time has elapsed, and misunderstanding have arisen, we have decided to study the lessons under existing agreements," Arens said.

"The first American delegation, from the U.S. Air Force, will arrive in Israel at the beginning of April, and the process of studying the lessons will thus begin."

Arens added that "Israel is certain that its interests will be honored and that care will be taken that the information does not pass into foreign hands, without consultations with us, within the framework of existing agreements." He said he was convinced the information would be of value to the U.S. and would help strengthen the relations between the two countries.

Observers here said that one reason for the change in former policy may have been the knowledge that information might be leaked to the Americans anyway and Israel would gain no moral or political advantages from sharing it officially. Observers say that Israel now hopes to gain good will in the U.S. for providing the information without any quid pro quo.

8 MILITARY ENCAMPMENTS ON WEST BANK TO BECOME CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA) -- The Cabinet decided secretly yesterday to convert eight military encampments on the West Bank into civilian settlements. The decision, leaked to the press today, was taken at a time when the United States and other countries have been urging a freeze on settlements on the West Bank as a step toward bringing Jordan into negotiations for a broad peace settlement in the Middle East. A settlement freeze is part of President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative announced last September 1.

One of the planned new settlements, called Bracha, is situated on peak of Mt. Grizim, over-

looking Nablus, the largest Arab city on the West Bank. The decision confirmed earlier reports that the government intends to build a Jewish city adjacent to Nablus, similar to Kiryat Arba overlooking Hebron.

The other settlements approved were Tel Hayim, also in the Nablus region, Maale Levona, Ein Kinya, and Ras Karkar, near the large Arab town of Ramallah, and Hermesh and Rogal in northern Samaria. Another 15 new settlements are expected to be populated within the next year.

EAST JERUSALEM SHUT DOWN BY A TWO-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA) -- East Jerusalem was shut down by a two-hour general strike this morning to protest an aborted attempt by Jewish religious zealots to seize the Temple Mount 10 days ago.

The strike, called by the Supreme Moslem Council, was observed by all Arab merchants and businessmen who closed their shops between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Students left their classes and special prayer services were held at the Moslem shrines on the Temple Mount.

The strike was generally peaceful. A few youngsters burned tires in the narrow alleys of the Old City and several rock-throwing incidents were reported. But Israeli security forces prevented the disturbances from spreading.

Meanwhile, 29 suspects arrested in the plot to seize the Temple Mount were released on bail by a Jerusalem District Court today. Most are yeshiva students who live on the West Bank. They were ordered to remain in their homes for the duration of the legal proceedings but are permitted to attend religious services on the Sabbath and holidays.

Continued Tension On The West Bank

The strike in East Jerusalem coincided with continued unrest on the West Bank. Security forces clamped a curfew on the Nablus casbah after Arab youths threw stones at them. As a result, local merchants were forced to close their shops. Rock-throwing incidents were reported elsewhere in the territory but no injuries were reported.

Tension is expected to rise with the approach of March 30, Land Day, an annual day of protest against the confiscation of Arab-owned land in Galilee. While the protests originally involved only Israeli Arabs, Palestinians in the territories have joined in recent years.

FALASHAS TO GET MATZO FROM ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA) -- With Passover just a week away, Mordechai Ben-Porat announced today that the Falasha Jews of Ethiopia will get their matzo supply from Israel. Ben-Porat, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, did not disclose how the matzos would reach the Falashas inasmuch as Israel has no diplomatic relations with Ethiopia.

An Israeli Falasha who recently visited Ethiopia, reported that the condition of the Falashas there was bad and some are actually starving. He said they appealed to their "Zionist brethren" for help. A group of Israelis who visited some Falasha communities earlier this year, reported last month that their condition was no worse than that of other Ethiopians.

Meanwhile, the Public Council for Falasha Jews, meeting here today, reported that the American Council for the Falashas would help estab-

lish a settlement for them in the Judean mountains near Jerusalem. The Council elected Mayor Eliahu Nawi of Beersheba as its honorary president.

KOCH SAYS REAGAN HAS REPUDIATED HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITIONS ON JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 21 (JTA) -- Declaring that he was "distressed" over recent declarations by President Reagan with regard to United States' support for Israel, Mayor Edward Koch charged Reagan with having "repudiated" his previously stated positions on the critical issues of Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Speaking to some 75 members of the American Jewish Heritage Committee at the Westbury Hotel here, Koch said that the September 1 peace initiative outlined by the President was a change of previous policy as enunciated by Reagan as a presidential candidate in 1980 when he sought the vote of the Jewish community.

According to Koch, Reagan had stated that the future status of the West Bank was subject to negotiations and that Jerusalem was the undivided capital of the Jewish State. Koch said the peace initiative puts Jerusalem's status back on the negotiating table while the West Bank "is the Arabs'."

"He has repudiated in effect what his positions were before he was elected," Koch charged. The Reagan initiative calls for "full autonomy" under some sort of Jordanian supervision for Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and also for negotiations to bring about an "undivided" Jerusalem.

Assails Weinberger, Carter

But Koch, in the course of his one-hour briefing last week with the Heritage Committee on his recent visit to Israel, saved his harshest criticism for former President Jimmy Carter and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who Koch said was "hostile" to Israel, and "anti-Israel."

The New York Mayor, who describes himself as a "firm, full supporter of the State of Israel," attributed Weinberger's view toward Israel as having been an influential force on the change he perceived in Reagan's approach to Israel. Reagan, Koch said, "delegates a lot of authority. In this case, he delegated it to the wrong person."

But in response to questions, Koch said that while both Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz have similar backgrounds, having worked for the Bechtel Corp., a San Francisco based engineering firm with extensive business contracts in the Arab world, Shultz "is not in the same category" as Weinberger. He said Shultz "has a good open mind" and is more open to be persuaded that U.S. support of Israel is in the interests of the United States.

Carter was accused by Koch of making overtures to the American Jewish community for political purposes during the 1980 political elections only to "renounce" those positions after he lost the Presidential election and then going back, to what the mayor called, "being Jimmy Carter."

"I perceive him as someone whose word you can never rely on ... and he lied to the Jewish community in the U.S.," Koch said. He said that because of his changing positions on the Middle East, Carter is now disliked by both Arabs and Jews.

Koch also pointed out that while he was a firm supporter of Israel, he did not agree with all the policies of the government of Premier Menachem Begin. He said, for example, that he would recommend Israel negotiate with the PLO if they would renounce terrorism and meet the conditions set down by the United States for a U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Begin has said he would never negotiate with the PLO. But Koch said Israel should negotiate with the PLO if PLO chief Yasir Arafat met the U.S. conditions. The U.S. conditions consist of PLO recognition of the State of Israel and acceptance of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.

Koch also said he was not a supporter of a policy of annexation of the West Bank with the incorporation of some 1 million Arabs into the Jewish State. But he pointed out that settlement activity, in his opinion, should not be halted as a pre-condition for negotiations of the status of the territory.

He said the U.S. position calling for an Israeli withdrawal in Lebanon first, then to be followed by a pull-out of Syrian troops and PLO forces is "ridiculous." There should be a simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, Koch said.

Recounts Visit To Lebanon

During his week-long visit to Israel earlier this month, Koch said he toured three towns in south Lebanon and was "amazed" that there was so little structural damage inflicted on the buildings as a result of the Israeli invasion last summer. He said that he expected the towns -- Nabatiya, Sidon and Tyre -- to have been "pulverized."

He said during the course of private conversations with Lebanese civilians in south Lebanon, the people were fearful of the PLO returning to the area. He blamed the PLO "terrorists" with causing civilian casualties because of their placement of military weapons and armaments near and around civilian centers.

Prior to the mayor's remarks, Rabbi William Berkowitz, national president of the Heritage Committee warned of "elements within the U.S. Administration" which have "unfavorably treated Israel and failed to fully appreciate its political and tactical achievements in Lebanon." Berkowitz described as a "disturbing trend" U.S. efforts to "distance itself from Israel" and called on the Reagan Administration to "urge Lebanon to sign a treaty of peace with Israel."

2 ORGANIZERS OF WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING COMMEMORATION SAID TO HAVE LED ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES DURING 1968-69

NEW YORK, March 21 (JTA) -- The head of the world's largest Jewish fraternal order charged that two Polish Communist organizers arranging the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising on April 19 are still leaders of a political faction in Poland responsible for anti-Semitic purges and assaults during 1968-69.

Dr. Israel Kugler, president of The Workmen's Circle, said that he was communicating with American Jewish leaders and their counterparts abroad and in Israel who might be "lured by decent instincts" to participate in the Polish government-sponsored Warsaw Ghetto commemoration uprising "to renounce this event for the cynical insult it has become to all those martyred and who have survived the Holocaust."

Kugler said that the principal organizer of the April 19 Warsaw event was a post-World War I organization known as BOWID--Association of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy--and that Mieczyslaw Moczar, chairman of its central council, and Wladzimir Sokorski, president of its board, were both leaders during 1968-69 a political faction of the Polish Communist Party

which bears Moczar's name that engaged in widespread anti-Semitic propaganda activities.

BOWID, itself, Kugler charged, was notorious after World War I for anti-Semitic incitements, and during World War II its members aided and abetted the Nazi occupiers by hunting for Jews in the forests.

"The incongruity of this whole affair is that Sokorski joined the Moczar faction in 1968 and, as a journalist, was director of the Polish government's Committee of Radio and TV. During this period, as perhaps none other in Poland's otherwise sordid anti-Semitic history, anti-Semitic propaganda, often using texts lifted from the Nazi publication 'Der Sturmer,' reached all-time highs. Sokorski, who is ironically organizing the Warsaw Ghetto uprising event, and is listed as one of the principal speakers, as Moczar's intellectual leader, was part of the Gomulka regime's plan to make Poland 'Judenrein'--Jew-free."

The edict against Jews under the regime of Wladyslaw Gomulka began immediately after the Six-Day War and Moczar's faction within the Communist Party took up the government's cry that "Polish Jews are the fifth column" and expanded it to create an atmosphere during which thousands of Jews who had returned to Poland after World War II began a mass exodus, Kugler said.

Assaults and harassments at the time were "part of the Polish government's anti-Semitic manipulation of its remaining small Jewish community," Kugler stated. He said that some American Jewish leaders and some others "who have misjudged" the situation "are going to Poland to say Kaddish, which they can do at any time--and should--but not dictated by those whose records are stained by the blood of Jews victimized in pogroms or by those responsible for perpetuating a history saturated with the blood of Jewish martyrs and other victims."

"We totally support and hail the statement by Mark Edelman the last commander of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and who resides in Lodz who renounced any association with the sponsors of the April 19th commemoration in Warsaw calling it 'a cynical act of contempt'" (See March 17 Bulletin for Edelman's full statement.)

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

BILL TO AMEND LAW OF RETURN DEFEATED

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA) -- A bill to amend the Law of Return to recognize as converts to Judaism only persons converted according to halacha -- religious law as administered by Orthodox rabbis -- was defeated by a vote of 58-50 in the Knesset today. The Liberal Party faction of Likud joined the Labor opposition in rejecting the measure which had the support of Premier Menachem Begin.

Action on the bill, which has been a source of bitter controversy for years, was pressed by the Agudat Israel Party, a member of Begin's coalition. Although Begin promised he would do all he could to ensure its passage, Liberal Party MKs were released from party discipline and allowed to vote freely on the issue.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Public Committee for the Promotion of Tourism, disconcerted by the fact that less than 20 percent of Western Jews have ever visited Israel, is discussing means to remedy that situation. The Committee is part of the Zionist Council. Addressing it over the weekend, Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir proposed that a Diaspora Parade be held in Jerusalem with the participants drawn from Jewish communities overseas. For that purpose, the ministry is forming a special department for the promotion of Jewish tourism to Israel.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

A MOVE WHOSE TIME HAS COME

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 21 (JTA) -- A leader of Mapam and a former Knesset member said she believes her party should end its alignment with the Labor Party but to continue to cooperate with it on various issues.

In a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Chaika Grosman, who represented Mapam in the Knesset for 12 years, and who is now a secretary of the party, said: "I believe that many of the voters are not pleased with the continued existence of the Alignment. I do not think we can enter the next elections with the slogan used in previous elections, 'Only not the Likud.' The electorate wants a more defined platform."

Grosman pointed out that a serious gap has been developing between Labor and Mapam -- the two parties that comprise the Alignment -- since the beginning of the war in Lebanon. While Labor voted against a motion of non-confidence in the Likud government when the war broke out, Mapam abstained, she recalled.

Notes Basic Differences

Furthermore, she noted, there are basic differences between Labor and Mapam on crucial issues that might determine the future of Israel. Mapam wants an immediate freeze of the Jewish settlements on the West Bank, calls for mutual and simultaneous recognition of Israel and the Palestinians of each other, and is willing to negotiate with "any organization," including the PLO, that recognizes Israel's right to exist and repudiates terrorism, Grosman said.

In addition, she stated, Mapam contends that Jordan is a Palestinian state but believes that after a peace agreement is reached between Israel and Jordan the Palestinians can decide on issues regarding their self-determination and independence.

"Mapam's decisions, in contrast to those of Labor, are much more open-ended and flexible. They do not foreclose options," Grosman said.

She complained that Mapam was not treated as an equal partner in the Alignment. "Labor has a great deal of internal problems and when a decision has to be reached on major issues, what determines Labor's position is not the cooperation with Mapam but the need to maintain the unity of the party," she said.

The outspoken Mapam leader, who is a member of Kibbutz Evron in northern Israel, said that if Mapam does leave the Alignment there is a good likelihood that various elements in the Labor Party that share the principles and ideology of Mapam would join that Socialist-Zionist organization. While Grosman did not mention any names, it was apparent that she was referring to such Labor doves as MK Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights Movement.

Decline Of Socialist Ideas In Israel

Turning to the issue of the decline of Socialist ideas in Israeli society and the general shift to the right on the part of growing numbers of Israelis, Grosman said the decline can be attributed to the growing "alienation" between the general public and the "socialist sector" which she said is generally identified with Mapam and the kibbutz movement.

Grosman, a relentless fighter for workers' rights and a leading advocate of progressive causes, contended that the Socialist elements in Israel failed to imbue the average worker with the feeling

of being part of a movement and a partner "in building the country." She added that in her view, there should be more emphasis on the education of workers and efforts should be made by organized labor to give workers the feeling "that they are part of the factory where they work" by involving them in decision-making processes in companies owned by Histadrut and in firms that are in the public sector.

Grosman pointed out that despite the decline in Socialist ideas, the rule of the Likud government and rightward trend among Israelis, "the Socialist elements in Israel still exist." She expressed the belief that Socialist ideas will in the future once again play a major role in determining the direction of Israeli society. "There is a great potential for Socialism in Israel," she claimed.

Blames Begin For Chaos, Violence

Grosman, in response to a question, sharply criticized Premier Menachem Begin as being responsible for the "chaos and violence in Israeli society today." She said that if Begin wanted to, he could stop the spreading hatred between the Sephardim and Ashkenazim.

"He fanned the hatred and incited the public in his speeches before the elections, presenting the Alignment as Ashkenazim, as kibbutzniks, as members of an elite group who plundered the milk and honey of Israel from the poor and deprived sectors of the society." Pausing for a moment, she added: "Begin bears a heavy responsibility for what's happening now in Israeli society."

Grosman is presently in New York attending a conference to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, in which she participated. The conference is sponsored by YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

REBECCA HERZMARK SAFER DEAD AT 85

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Rebecca Herzmark Safer, an active Zionist and co-founder of the Washington chapter of Hadassah 64 years ago, who died Saturday at the age of 85.

Mrs. Safer was born in Arkansas and moved to the Washington area at an early age. She was educated at George Washington University. She attended an early World Zionist Congress in Switzerland and visited Palestine before returning to Washington where her home became a meeting place for visiting Zionist leaders.

She served as president of the Washington chapter of Hadassah from 1926-29; was a founder of the National Sponsors for Israel Bonds; and a founding member of the Trustee Program and the Prime Ministers Club. In 1965 she chaired the Israel Independence Ball Committee.

A year later she became the first annual recipient of the Abraham S. Kay Leadership for Israel Award for community service. In 1978 she received the Ben Gurion Award of the State of Israel Bond Organization. Mrs. Safer was a member of Congregation Adas Israel in Washington.

GENEVA (JTA) -- Salem Werfelli, a Libyan in exile, has written a letter of thanks to the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations here, Ovadia Soffer, for exposing the brutality of the regime of Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi. Werfelli expressed his appreciation for the envoy's statements during the recent session of the UN Human Rights Commission, listing the violations of human rights in Libya under Qaddafi. "No other country has voiced such a protest against the barbaric practices in wide use in Libya," Werfelli wrote.