

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Thursday, March 24, 1983

No. 58

## BEGIN RESISTING PRESSURE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN AFTER LABORITE IS ELECTED PRESIDENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin is strongly resisting pressure within Likud for the government to resign in the wake of Laborite Chaim Herzog's defeat of coalition candidate Menachem Elon for the Presidency of Israel in the Knesset yesterday.

Herzog's 61-57 victory was clearly the result of defections by seven coalition MKs who cannot be identified because the vote was by secret ballot. Begin urged his Likud supporters today to forget the indignity of defeat as quickly as possible and exhorted them not even to consider the idea of resigning or forcing early elections. Likud's term of office expires in 1985.

### Likud Loyalists Are Furious

But many staunch Likud loyalists are furious over what they regard as a betrayal by some coalition members who, they fear, cannot be trusted to support the government in the future. MKs Ronni Milo and Eliahu Ben-Elissor, both of Likud's Herut faction, have called for the break-up of the coalition and new elections.

Milo announced last night that he was resigning as deputy chairman of the coalition Knesset faction because the coalition could not function in an atmosphere of distrust. But Begin, though visibly stunned when the election results were announced yesterday, has taken a philosophical view. "C'est La Vie", he is reported to have remarked to his colleagues soon after the vote.

He told Likud MKs that their response to the defeat should be to recognize that it was part of the democratic process and to send their best wishes to President-elect Herzog. The Likud Knesset faction formally offered its congratulations at a late session last night.

### Will Not Seek Early Elections

Begin's aides said today that he will not seek early elections without the consent of all of his coalition partners. At least two, the National Religious Party and Tami, are fearful that early elections would be disastrous for them.

Begin is also said to be concerned that if he resigns, forcing early elections, some of Likud's coalition partners anxious not to go to the polls at this time, would bolt and set up an alternative coalition with the Labor Alignment. Such a move could establish a Labor-led government without elections.

### Coalition Defectors Called 'Renegades'

That concern is believed to be uppermost on the minds of most Likud MKs because of the coalition defections. Likud loyalists have branded them "renegades." Their suspicions are directed at the smaller coalition parties although one or two members of Likud's Liberal Party faction are believed to be among the seven defectors.

One theory heard in the Knesset lobby today was that some of the defectors were NRP members who supported Herzog as a gesture of appreciation for Labor's support of the NRP-backed candidates for Chief Rabbi in last week's Chief Rabbinate elections. That possibility has raised fears that the NRP may be on the way to restoring its old alliance with Labor which it broke off shortly before the 1977 Knesset elections.

## U.S. SALE OF MISSILES TO ISRAEL NOT SEEN AS START OF NEW ARMS FLOW

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 23 (JTA) -- The announcement by the Pentagon yesterday that the U.S. will sell 200 Sidewinder missiles to Israel is not viewed by pro-Israel sources here as a signal that new arms will begin to flow to Israel again.

In fact, Steven Rosen, director of research and information of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), mentioned the sale of the anti-aircraft missiles when he charged last week that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has imposed "something just short of an arms embargo" on Israel since its invasion of Lebanon last June. He noted at the time that II F-15 jets and the 200 Sidewinders have been the only weapons authorized for Israel in recent months.

But Rosen stressed again today that the Administration is still holding up official notification to Congress on the sale of 75 F-16 jets to Israel although it gave Congress preliminary notification last May.

The F-16s, like the F-15s, were promised to Israel in 1978 as a result of the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan. Administration spokesmen have repeatedly said that the decision on the F-16s will be made by President Reagan.

Yesterday's Pentagon announcement came as the Defense Department officially notified Congress of the sale of the missiles to Israel. Congress has 30 days to object to the sale, an action considered unlikely.

The Defense Department noted that the missiles, costing about \$16 million, are being sold as part of "long-standing U.S. policy of assisting Israel to ensure that it has the means of defending itself within secure borders." The sale was announced a day after Israel's Defense Minister, Moshe Arens, disclosed that Israel has agreed to share with the U.S. information gained on military material in the war in Lebanon without demanding any conditions in return.

## DEFEAT OF 'WHO IS A JEW' MEASURE IS ATTRIBUTED TO SPLIT IN THE RANKS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY FACTION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- A sharp split within Likud's Liberal Party faction was being credited--or blamed--for the 58-50 vote defeat of the controversial "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return in the Knesset Monday. The MKs were released from party discipline in the voting.

Six Likud Liberals voted with the opposition Labor Alignment to reject the measure which was

strongly supported by Premier Menachem Begin and the religious parties in his coalition. Six others did not vote or absented themselves from the Knesset chamber during the balloting. Five Liberals supported the amendment as did one Labor MK, Aharon Nahmias.

#### A Source Of Bitter Dispute

The amendment would have recognized as converts to Judaism only persons converted "according to halacha," religious law as administered by Orthodox rabbis. It was brought to the Knesset at this time at the insistence of the Agudat Israel party.

The measure was a source of bitter dispute in Israel and among overseas Jews for many years. Reform and Conservative rabbinical and lay groups in the U.S. and elsewhere had been urging its defeat.

The Liberal MKs who voted with the opposition were Sarah Doron, Yitzhak Berman, Dan Tichon, Dror Zeigerman, Ariel Weinstein and Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich. Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir and Commerce Minister Gideon Patt did not vote.

Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor, Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai and MKs Pessah Grupper and Yehuda Perah were absent. Liberals who supported the amendment were Zvi Renner, Benny Shalita, Pinhas Goldstein, Eliezer Kulas and Justice Minister Moshe Nissim.

#### Conservative Group Hails Defeat

(The Knesset's action was hailed in a statement released in New York yesterday by Marshall Wolke, president and Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational branch of Conservative Judaism in the U.S. The statement said:

"We are pleased that the Knesset has defeated the divisive amendment to the Law of Return which would have excluded from recognition as Jews those converted halachichly but under non-Orthodox auspices. However, we note with concern that the margin of defeat was small and that this debate on the 'Who is a Jew' issue comes up regularly in the Knesset. We are distressed by these debates which politicize the term 'halacha'. Unless they cease, irreparable injury will be done to the unity of the Jewish people.")

**BRITISH F.M. DEFENDED AGAINST ISRAELI CHARGES THAT HE IS BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS**  
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 23 (JTA) -- A ranking official strongly defended Foreign Secretary Francis Pym today against charges by Israel that he was biased in favor of the Arabs. Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said that Pym had been entirely "accurate" in saying that Israel was primarily responsible for blocking progress toward an overall peace settlement in the Middle East.

Hurd, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and Israeli newspaper correspondents, was referring to Pym's remarks last Friday after a visit to London by an Arab League delegation headed by King Hussein of Jordan and the Israel Embassy's public protest over Pym's "one-sided" comments.

Hurd said the Arab League mission to London created a "good atmosphere" that "will enable us to get rid of some misunderstandings and get back to

playing a reasonably energetic role in the area." He insisted that Hussein was "very anxious" to enter peace negotiations and vigorously denied reports in the press here that Britain had advised the Jordanian ruler against hasty acceptance of Israel's invitation to join negotiations within the Camp David framework.

#### Sympathy With Hussein's Concerns

Britain has not given Hussein any advice "but we do understand and sympathize with his concerns," Hurd said. The Minister described as "balanced" the statement on the Middle East released yesterday by the heads of the 10 member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) at their summit conference in Brussels.

Hurd said the statement, supporting President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative, was "a document of encouragement and not a European initiative." He said it was intended to encourage the Arabs, the U.S. and Israel to move toward peace in the Middle East.

Replying to a question by the JTA, Hurd acknowledged that "some progress" has been made in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon but he stressed that "there is still a long way to go."

#### SAUL LIEBERMAN DEAD AT 86

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA) -- Dr. Saul Lieberman, rector of the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he was also Distinguished Service Research Professor of Talmud and Louis Ginzberg Professor of Palestinian Institutions, died today in his sleep while en route to Israel for the Passover holiday. He was 86 years old. The funeral will take place tomorrow in Jerusalem. A memorial service will be held tomorrow at the Seminary.

Lieberman's notable record as a scholar and a teacher included world recognition as the discoverer of one of Maimonides' major works on ancient Jewish law which had been lost for more than seven centuries.

He received the Bialik Prize in 1956 and is the only non-Israeli to hold the Israel Prize, the highest award of the State of Israel. This was presented to him in 1971 in recognition of his total literary output, and especially because of his then most recent, "Siphre Zutta: The Midrash of Lydda."

In 1976 he was the third Jew to receive the Harvey Prize. This prestigious award usually recognizes achievements in medicine or the sciences, but was awarded to Lieberman for his studies of the civilization of the Middle East. In 1980, a chair in the Jerusalem Talmud was established in his honor at Israel's Bar Ilan University.

#### Was Author Of Major Works

At the time of his death, Lieberman was working on a definitive commentary of the Tosefta, 12 volumes and a supplement which had already been completed. The Tosefta is part of the Tannaitic literature that flourished during the first to third centuries of the common era.

Lieberman was also the author of "A Commentary on the Palestinian Talmud and The Talmud of Caesarea Jerusalem." His other works included "Greek in Jewish Palestine," "Roman Legal Institutions in Early Rabbinica" and the "Acta Martyrum, The Martyrs of Caesarea." He was the editor of the Louis Ginzberg Jubilee Volumes, the "Laws of Yerushalmi" by Maimonides, the Alexander Marx Volumes and was the general editor of the Concordance to the Palestinian Talmud.

Lieberman had served as Professor of Talmud and dean of the Rabbinical School at the Seminary from January 1954 and before that for five years as the dean of the postgraduate department of the Seminary's Rabbinical School and professor of Palestinian Literature and Institutions.

He taught Talmud at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem from 1931-1936 and was dean of the Harry Fischel Institute there from 1935-40. He was a Fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research and served several terms as its president. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he also served as a member of its parallel, the Israeli Academy of Humanities and Sciences.

Born in Motol, Poland, Lieberman was ordained at the Slobodka Yeshiva in 1916 and received the degree of Master of Arts from the Hebrew University in 1931. He also received honorary degrees from a number of universities.

#### FROM EIRE, WITH PRIDE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 23 (JTA) -- Belfast-born Chaim Herzog who was elected President of Israel yesterday, has become a media hero in Ireland where his father, the late Isaac Halevi Herzog, served as Chief Rabbi for many years.

Kudos were heaped on the new Israeli chief of state who, Irishmen say, speaks Hebrew with a Dublin brogue. Conor Cruise O'Brien, a former member of the Eire Cabinet, said yesterday that his "heart overflows with pride." Addressing the annual dinner of the Anglo-Israel Association, O'Brien recited a special Irish greeting to Herzog who, he recalled, spoke Gaelic better than he did himself.

"Beir Bua Agus Beannacht go H-uachtaran Israel" ("I wish a triumph and benediction to the President of Israel") declared O'Brien in the Gaelic tongue. David Kinche, Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who was present, suggested lightheartedly that Herzog should try to arbitrate the Irish problem.

#### 'Local Boy Makes Good'

"Local boy makes good" was the headline in one Dublin newspaper, recalling the election of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, America's first Irish Catholic President in 1960. The Irish Press set about interviewing people who knew Herzog as a youth. One of them, Judge Hubert Wine, president of the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland who was Herzog's classmate at Dublin's Wesley College, recalled: "He was a realistic sort of guy, a debater in the school and I think he played soccer for the school."

An editorial in the same newspaper said that "Ireland can take vicarious pride" in Herzog's election. "Whatever the domestic considerations in Israel, Mr. Herzog's election will be seen here at home simply in terms of another notable success abroad by an Irish exile," the editorial said.

The Irish Times was less sentimental. It referred to the strained relations between Israel and Eire over Dublin's Middle East policy and observed that Herzog, as "a hard-line pragmatic politician" offers "no hint of sentimentality about his Irish origins" and is not likely to allow them "to color his attitudes to currently evolving Irish policies on the Middle East."

But the paper also recalled an interview with Herzog published a decade ago in which the then Israeli soldier and diplomat was quoted as saying that in Palestine after World War II "The British were bastards and they were incompetent bastards."

Such sentiments doubtlessly endear him in the hearts of Irish patriots. The newspaper recalled further that the Irish nationalist leader, Eammon De Valera once visited the Herzog family home in Dublin; and that Herzog, when a military attaché at the Israel Embassy in Washington, was once

deputized as an honorary Irish military attaché at a St. Patrick's Day reception.

#### GOP SOLOON RAPS ADMINISTRATION FOR PLACING ISRAEL IN JEOPARDY

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA) -- A Republican Senator assailed the Reagan Administration for "acting in such a way as to put Israel in jeopardy." Lowell Weicker of Connecticut told some 1,300 persons at the 71st anniversary banquet of the international Young Israel movement here that Israel is America's "only stable ally" in the Middle East and "we must never act in such a way that would jeopardize her future."

The event, attended by Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren who delivered the benediction, Mayor Edward Koch of New York, and Lt. Gov. Alfred Del Bello, honored a number of local community, civic and religious leaders. Weicker, the main speaker, called on the Reagan Administration to release the 75 F-16 jet fighter planes ordered by Israel which have been embargoed since last June.

He urged Congress at the same time to "draw the line" at AWACS and disapprove any further arms sales to Jordan or Saudi Arabia until they agree to participate in the Camp David peace process.

Weicker also urged the U.S. and Israel to make every effort to achieve the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon -- Israeli, Syrian, Palestinian and the multinational force of American, French and Italian troops -- so that Lebanon can become once more a viable nation. He said a stable Lebanon would stabilize not only Israel's northern border but the entire region.

Weicker, who chairs the Senate Energy Policy Committee, warned that the temporary respite in the OPEC price hike should not induce a sense of complacency. He stressed the need for the U.S. to reinforce its energy conservation efforts to end its dependence on foreign oil.

#### ALL KEYED UP FOR PIANO AWARDS

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) -- Nearly 50 young pianists from 17 countries have begun a three-week competition for the Fourth Rubinstein International Piano Award established by the late maestro, Artur Rubinstein, whose black-draped bust stood on a pedestal on the Mann Auditorium concert stage as the competition opened Sunday night.

The international jury which will choose the winners in a series of elimination performances includes numerous piano virtuosos as well as music critics from the BBC, The New York Times and the Figaro of Paris. The first three prizes are a gold medal and \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$3,000.

The Rubinstein prizes will be awarded at a final competition in Jerusalem on April 11. Many of the 49 competitors this year have already won international piano prizes, so the Rubinstein contest qualifies as a virtual championship of champions.

#### KNESSET APPROVES RECORD BUDGET

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- The Knesset today approved a record 1.124 trillion Shekel budget for fiscal year 1983-84. It acted in the final hour of the last day of the winter session, before adjourning for the Passover recess.

Eight other fiscal measures were approved, some of them in such great haste that the exact vote was not counted. In some instances, Knesset members who had proposed amendments did not bother to attend the session to argue for them. Subjects on the agenda included subsidies to religious institutions and discrimination against Israeli Arabs in assistance to dependent children.

# BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE LINGERING IMPACT OF THE KISHINEV POGROM By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 23 (JTA) -- Worldwide commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising will obscure the fact that Easter and Passover this year also mark the 80th anniversary of the Russian pogrom in Kishinev, immortalized by Chaim Nachman Bialik's poem, "In the City of Slaughter."

Following malicious reports that Jews were using Christian blood for their Passover feasts, primitive mobs in Kishinev, capital of Bessarabia, turned on the Jews on Sunday, April 6, 1903.

There followed three days of carnage which, according to official figures, left 49 Jews dead and 500 injured; 700 houses destroyed; 600 businesses looted; damage to property worth two and a half million gold rubles; and about 2,000 Jewish families homeless.

The hatred of the Jews had been whipped up in "Bessarabitz," in Kishinev's only newspaper, whose editor, P. Krushevan, was financed from a slush fund by Von Plehve, the Russian Interior Minister. The paper's printing house had published the blood libel pamphlets which were used to trigger the massacre.

The government believed that by fomenting hatred against the Jews it could divert the rising tide of revolutionary feeling throughout Russia.

## Worldwide Protest Meetings

As soon as the news was published, large protest meetings were held throughout Europe and North America. The German Kaiser and the Austrian Emperor sent personal protests to Czar Nicholas II.

A joint resolution was passed by both houses of Congress and President Theodore Roosevelt voiced his country's horror in a personal letter which the Czar refused to accept. In Russia itself, Count Leo Tolstoy arraigned the government as the chief culprit.

## Herzl, Bialik Draw Different Conclusions

The deepest impact, however, was on the Jews themselves, and especially on the newly-launched world Zionist movement. Theodor Herzl, its founder, wrote prophetically to an American statesman: "Think of it. Seven million outlawed human beings who have begun to tremble. After what has happened we have no right to reproach them with their fear. They dare not arm, they are not defended, they feel themselves surrendered up -- and to what a rabble."

In his anguish at failing to win Palestine for the persecuted Jews, Herzl toyed that year with accepting a British offer of a "temporary" Jewish homeland in East Africa, an idea which almost wrecked the Zionist movement, founded only six years earlier.

Chaim Nachman Bialik, then 30 years old, drew different conclusions from Herzl. After visiting Kishinev to interview the survivors, he felt that the Jews could at least have tried to defend themselves and his over-riding emotion was one of shame.

In his poem, "In the City of Slaughter," he thundered: "Great is the sorrow and great is the shame/ and which of the two is greater?"

Among those stirred by his words was Vladimir Jabotinsky, like Bialik, an Odessa Jew, but one who until then had devoted himself to Rus-

sian culture and letters. After Kishinev, Jabotinsky identified himself entirely with his fellow Jews, with Zionism and the need for self-defense.

The Kishinev massacre and Bialik's poem, (Jabotinsky was to write 21 years later) marked "the birth of a new Jewish mentality." It was the first time in modern Jewish history that the main feeling provoked in the community was one of shame rather than horror and grief, he wrote in an introduction to an English edition of Bialik's works.

"The revival of Maccabean tendencies in the ghetto really dates from that poem; the self-defense organizations which sprang up everywhere in Russia to meet the new pogrom wave two years later, the shomrim movement in Palestine, even the Jewish Legion which fought for the Holy Land in 1918 -- they are all Bialik's children," Jabotinsky wrote. Had he lived long enough, Jabotinsky would doubtless have added the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto to that list.

Despite the immediate shock caused by the Kishinev pogrom, it was far from an isolated incident. In the months which followed pogroms erupted one after the other in White Russia and the Ukraine, abating only when Russia found itself at war with Japan the next year and when Jews were being pressed into the Czar's armies.

## More Courage Shown

There was also a second pogrom in Kishinev in October 1905. In some places, though, Jews began to show more courage. In August 1903, Jewish defenders acquitted themselves well when a pogrom broke out at Gomel, in White Russia, where 20,000 Jews formed half the town's population.

Despite its blood-stained name, though, Kishinev seems to have retained a magnetic attraction to Jews in southern Russia. There had been 60,000 Jews there in 1902. Many emigrated after the pogroms. But even so, there were some 65,000 Jews in the town at the time of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. Of these, 53,000 were murdered and by 1947, there were only 5,000 Jews in Kishinev.

Amazingly, the Encyclopaedia Judaica put the 1970 figure back at 60,000, though this has certainly been depleted by the large scale-emigrations of the past 13 years.

## FIRST MEMORIAL IN BRITAIN TO THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

LONDON, March 23 (JTA) -- A memorial to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust is to be opened this summer in Hyde Park, London, with the consent of the British government. The first memorial of its kind in Britain, it will consist of a specially landscaped garden and a stone bearing a Biblical quotation in Hebrew and English.

Government approval of the scheme was announced in Parliament yesterday by Neil Macfarlane, Undersecretary at the Department of Environment.

Greville Janner, MP and president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who has been discussing the project with the government for the past four years, said the government's announcement represented a "profound gesture of good will towards the Board and the Jewish community."

"We trust that this garden will be regarded by the people of Britain not merely as a signal memory of the evils of the Hitlerian Holocaust but as a reminder that when flames of hatred are lit against the Jewish people they rampage unconfined."

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REMINDER: There will be no Bulletins dated March 30 and 31 because of Passover.