

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL PREPARING FOR A 'CRITICAL WEEK'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA) -- Israel is preparing for what Cabinet sources here called a "critical week" in its drawn-out effort to obtain a withdrawal-and-security agreement with Lebanon. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, is due here Wednesday, anxious to wrap up the agreement.

Meanwhile, Lebanon has noticeably hardened its positions over the last few days and there are an increasing number of voices within the Israeli Cabinet urging a unilateral pullback by the IDF to the Awali River, the boundary of the 28-mile security zone in south Lebanon.

This pullback proposal was aired at the weekly Cabinet meeting today but there was no decision. Most ministers felt it would be inadvisable for Israel to make such a decision on the eve of Shultz's visit.

At the same time, the prevailing sentiment in the Cabinet was that the current setback in the talks with Lebanon could not be allowed to develop into a long deadlock. Ministers heard from Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Lebanon has gone back on understandings reached in the talks on key security and normalization issues.

## Gemayel Takes Hard Line Position

This hardening on Lebanon's part began at the negotiating round in Khalde last Thursday. It was echoed in a briefing by President Amin Gemayel to media editors in Beirut which was widely publicized over the weekend.

The Lebanese President insisted that there would be no Israeli dictation regarding the future role of its ally, Maj. Saad Haddad. Nor would there be normalized relations between the two countries -- merely an end of belligerency agreement. "We also reject the concept of mutual patrols," Gemayel said. He said there would be U.S.-Israel-Lebanon supervisory teams, but not military patrols to oversee security in south Lebanon.

On many of these points, Israeli negotiators say they had reached understandings with their Lebanese counterparts which have now been thrown into question. Cabinet sources insisted that Israel "will not renegotiate these matters."

If, during the four or five sessions to be held this week it turns out that last Thursday's backsliding and remarks represented a new Lebanese policy, "then that will be that," a top source said. His implication was that the talks would in effect have reached a point of stalemate and Israel would look to other options.

## BACKGROUND REPORT

SHULTZ'S MIDEAST VISIT APPEARS TO BE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO REVIVE REAGAN'S PEACE INITIATIVE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 24 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz's departure for the Middle East tonight appears to be an all-out effort to resuscitate President Reagan's September 1 peace initiative before it is officially pronounced dead, as many have already done.

Yet Reagan's official announcement of the trip, Shultz's first to the Mideast as Secretary of State, concentrated on the effort to achieve an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Shultz's announced itinerary included only Egypt, Israel and Lebanon, although other Arab countries were not ruled out and presumably will be included if progress is made in Lebanon.

The "primary purpose" of the Shultz trip is "to bring to a successful conclusion the negotiations in Lebanon," the President said in announcing the trip at a brief news conference Friday. But when he was asked if he thought his peace initiative was still alive, Reagan replied, "Yes, that's why George Shultz is going there."

The President indicated that an agreement on Israeli withdrawal would be needed before progress could be made on bringing King Hussein of Jordan into the peace negotiations.

## Shultz: Arabs Taking A Second Look At U.S. Plan

In an interview published in The Washington Post today, Shultz suggested that Arab leaders may be taking a second look at Reagan's peace initiative. "It does seem to me that there's a certain shock that has taken hold, as I read the cables from the various Arab capitals, in which people are saying to themselves, 'Are we really going to pass this up? Maybe we can't afford to do that,'" Shultz said.

According to Shultz, "the desire for peace is not dead. It's very much alive." The Secretary was also optimistic that "an agreement between Lebanon and Israel is very likely." He said both "agree on the essential ingredients ... they both want a secure southern Lebanon. Neither wants to see PLO terrorist groups re-enter that country, particularly that area."

He added: "That being the case, the construction of security arrangements is not a matter, you might say, of high principle or strategy ... It's a question of working out in a kind of tactical way what those arrangements are, consistent with Lebanese sovereignty, and give assurance of security in the area. Both want it."

Shultz reiterated the Administration's earlier contention that King Hussein had a tentative agreement in principle with PLO chief Yasir Arafat to represent the Palestinians in peace talks, but Arafat bowed to "radical" elements within the PLO and set new conditions that were unacceptable to Hussein and to the U.S.

## Says Hussein Needed Assurances

But according to Shultz, Hussein needed assurances that Israel would freeze its settlement activities on the West Bank for the duration of negotiations, a key point in Reagan's peace plan.

"We have consistently continued to emphasize the importance of that because, after all, you're talking about a negotiation dealing with an area and, if the area is being changed while you are in the process of negotiating or considering negotiating, it's tough to make that negotiation as meaningful as it otherwise might be," Shultz said.

He explained that the President had told Hussein in effect, "I will not press you actually to sit down

at the bargaining table unless we can find some form of freeze ... Of course, King Hussein might decide to sit down anyway and say, 'The first thing I want to talk about is a settlement freeze.' But we haven't got to that point," Shultz said.

"I might note that in the President's plan it's very explicit that if the settlers want to stay in their settlement, they stay, but they would live under the jurisdiction of whatever is the jurisdiction of that territory. In the President's plan, it's perfectly consistent with Jews living in the West Bank," he said.

#### Reagan, Shultz Under Increased Attack

The Secretary of State's trip comes after a week in which both Shultz and Reagan were under increased personal attack for being themselves to blame for the failure of the Reagan initiative. Shultz has been criticized for months for not going to the Mideast. Both he and the President were accused of not giving enough attention to the problem.

Karen Elliott House, the Wall Street Journal's Middle East expert, in an article last Wednesday (April 20), accused Reagan of seeming "not to understand his own initiative" and Shultz of appearing "studiously aloof from the plan." Similar criticism has appeared in other publications with the usually anonymous sources in the White House and State Department sniping at each other.

However, Mrs. House's article, as well as her series on the Mideast which preceded it, seemed aimed at getting Hussein off the hook. She even criticized Saudi Arabia and Morocco. In fact, much of the media has sought to absolve Hussein of the blame.

The State Department was visibly shocked when Hussein announced that he would not join the negotiations. But as one pro-Israel observer here said, Israel's supporters in Washington were not surprised, they never expected Hussein to enter.

The "plucky king" has long been praised in the United States for his courage, but his courage is based on his desire to stay alive. Long-time observers of Hussein did not expect him to follow the example of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

The Israelis, who would agree with this assessment, were at the same time visibly relieved that Hussein blamed the Palestine Liberation Organization and not Israel, especially as the Reagan Administration also took this position.

#### The Administration's Failure

Yet, by placing the blame on the PLO the Administration is again refusing to deal with the problem of Hussein. Many believe that the problem has been the failure of the Administration to put pressure on Hussein.

After all, Reagan announced his initiative after he reportedly had the assurance from Hussein that he would agree to enter the negotiations. The President was willing to anger the Israelis to achieve his goal. Israel, angrily rejected the peace initiative because Premier Menachem Begin charged that it made promises to the Arabs that would violate Israel's security.

But part of Israel's anger was due to the initiative being discussed secretly with Jordan despite an agreement with Israel that it be kept informed on all matters concerning its security.

Throughout the period there has been pressure on Israel to freeze settlements, to leave Lebanon, weapons deliveries like the F-16 jet fighter have

been held up. Yet no similar action has been taken against Jordan. Hussein likes to appear as a friend, but his friendship means that the U.S. should protect his country when it is in danger and expect nothing in return.

#### PLO Becoming Irrelevant

At the same time, the recent events may have had some beneficial effects in making the PLO irrelevant to the Mideast peace process. Many believe the only reason that Arafat has been negotiating with Hussein is because he fears that if he doesn't, the knockout blow the PLO received from Israel in Lebanon will finally be recognized in the Arab world.

Shultz suggested that very thing when he indicated that the Arab League take away the mandate to represent the Palestinians it gave the PLO in Rabat, Morocco in 1974. It was no coincidence that the next day Arafat denied that he had broken negotiations with Hussein.

The Secretary of State zeroed in again on the PLO in his interview with the Washington Post. "If they are given leadership of a group and there's an opportunity for something constructive and they don't do it, it certainly calls into question whether or not they should continue to have that leadership," he said. "What other forms of Palestinian representation there may be remains to be seen, but there are all sorts of possibilities."

Reagan also pointed out the PLO's irrelevance Friday. "Maybe we are making the PLO more important than they are," he said. "The negotiations don't have to hinge on the PLO." The President added:

"There has to be a solution to the problem of the Palestinians. No one ever elected the PLO among the Palestinians. I don't think that what an element of that group is doing should turn us away from trying to find a solution to the problems of hundreds of thousands, millions in fact, of Palestinians who aren't radical and who simply want something of a homeland."

But if the negotiations do not hinge on the PLO, let alone the radical elements in it, they do hinge on Hussein. Perhaps if Shultz gets to Amman he should give Hussein the same advice he gave the PLO about its mandate: "Use it, or lose it."

#### PERUVIAN LAWMAKER DEMANDS EXPULSION OF PLO AGENT WHO HAS ENGAGED IN ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) — A member of the Peruvian Congress has demanded the expulsion of Raji Burhum, a Palestinian propagandist who has engaged in anti-Semitic activities. The legislator also asked the government to explain why the Palestine Liberation Organization office is operating in Lima, the capital city.

According to Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, Latin American Affairs director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the call for Burhum's expulsion was made by Wilson Benzaquen Rengifo, a member of the Chamber of Deputies.

Rosenthal said that Burhum, host and producer of the radio program "Palestinoamericana," has been described by Peruvian newspapers as "an agent of the PLO" and as "a PLO militant."

At a press conference in Lima, Deputy Benzaquen Rengifo called Burhum's activities "subversive," citing the use of his program on Radio Santa Rosa to offer free copies of anti-Semitic books like "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and "The Worst Enemies of Our People." He showed journalists a leaflet signed by Burhum, which urged military and police officers to "be careful of Masonry, a Jewish device to enslave you" and which claimed that the "Jew... will take over your land and the land of your countrymen."

This literature was found in the libraries of military installations, but has since been removed as a result of a public outcry, Rosenthal observed.

The ADL official reported that Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb has responded to Benzaquen Rengifo by declaring that the government would not permit discrimination against Jews, since this is violative of the constitution.

The Foreign Minister further stated, according to Rosenthal, that the PLO office "has no diplomatic status and certainly we will not permit it to violate the neutrality of Peru, precisely because we have normal relations with Israel."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Interior told the press that an investigation has begun in Burhum's activities, and that he could be subject to expulsion under the country's immigration laws.

#### CHURBA SUGGESTS THAT ISRAEL BECOME AN 'UNALIGNED' THIRD POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) — The director of the Center for International Security, Joseph Churba, suggested today that because of the inability of the United States to offset Soviet adventurism in the Middle East, Israel might consider reshifting its policy away from the U.S. and become an "unaligned" third power in the Mideast.

Israel, Churba told some 100 persons attending a conference on U.S. policy in the Mideast here, should "emerge from its status as an undervalued strategic asset of the United States to that of a third unaligned power" in the region, "shifting its weight East or West in accordance with its security needs." The conference was sponsored by the Sephardic House at Shearith Israel.

Churba, who worked with President Reagan as an advisor on foreign and defense policy during Reagan's presidential campaign, said such a move by Israel would create a "triangle" effect in which Jerusalem would have to be considered in any moves in the Mideast by either the U.S. or the Soviet Union. He noted that the Israeli military is ranked as the fourth best in the world.

The first step toward such a move, Churba continued, would be for the Israeli government to cancel the scheduled delivery in 1985 of 75 American-made F-16 jet fighter planes and work to enhance the development of its second generation Lavie aircraft. He said that while the U.S. appears willing to "concede" air superiority in the Mideast to the Soviets through the latter's placement of SAM-5 anti-aircraft missile batteries in Syria, Israel could not afford to relinquish its air superiority in the region.

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, speaking before Churba, said he interpreted Reagan's decision to send Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East as a "diversionary" move to offset the failed peace initiative. He said it is crucial for the Administration to demonstrate activity and interest in the region but said that Shultz "is scarcely a very skilled diplomat."

#### AWARD TO KIRKPATRICK DENOUNCED

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) — The executive secretary of the Holocaust Survivors Association, U.S.A., has issued a sharp attack on Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi-hunter, for having "committed a tragic error" when the Simon Wiesenthal Center presented its Humanitarian Laureate Award to Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the

In an open letter to Wiesenthal, who is listed as honorary president of the Holocaust Survivors Association, John Ranz accused Kirkpatrick of serving as an "apologist for fascist dictatorships engaged in torture and genocidal mass murder" in El Salvador and Guatemala "where entire villages including women and children are being slaughtered."

Ranz said Kirkpatrick's support of Israel cannot "excuse these crimes and her collaboration with these murderous dictatorships . . . . You committed a tragic error. The true voice of the Holocaust victims and their legacy is with the peasants and the poor and not with the brutal and inhuman landowners and militarists of Central America."

The award was presented last Sunday night for Kirkpatrick's action "as a steadfast and loyal friend of the Jewish people committed to the security of the State of Israel, and to the causes held sacred by freedom loving people everywhere." The Holocaust Survivors Association is active in ferreting out former Nazi war criminals now residing in the U.S. and campaigning for Congressional action to bring these criminals to justice.

#### MEMPHIS FESTIVAL TO HONOR ISRAEL

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 24 (JTA) — The month-long Memphis in May International Festival which, in each of its six years has honored a foreign country, will honor Israel this year, Tom Hutton, Jr., president has announced. The event will be held from April 30 to May 29.

The celebration of culture, art, music and cuisine, which consists of five free weekend events, as well as art exhibits, is expected to attract nearly one million visitors this year, Hutton said. Last year, Memphis in May, which simultaneously honors the cultural heritage of this southern city, honored The Netherlands and 750,000 came to the event.

A variety of performing groups and artists will come from Israel to Memphis to appear at the festival. They include "Shalom '83," a 36-member singing and dancing group; "Natural Gathering," a top Israel jazz group; Doron Gazit, an Israeli artist who creates balloon sculptures; and "Kol Demama Dance company," a modern dance troupe of 16 performers, half of whom are deaf, Hutton said.

He said May 1 will be Israel day, sponsored by Holiday Inns. Memphis will be host to 22 Israeli art exhibitions in conjunction with the festival. "Treasures from the Holy Land: Israel in Antiquity," in survey of religious, political and cultural life in ancient Israel featuring a collection of archaeological objects will be displayed at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art.

"Israel Past and Present," a world premiere exhibition designed especially for the festival through the Israeli government will be on view at Hickory Ridge Mall, sponsored by Seessel's in celebration of their 125th anniversary in Memphis. Also at Hickory Ridge Mall will be "Another Israel," a 16-projector audiovisual spectacular created for Memphis in May sponsored by Lunar Productions.

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NEW YORK (JTA) — The Israel Aliyah Center has reported a 24 percent increase in the number of North Americans emigrating to Israel in the first three months of the year, as compared to the same period last year. To date, a total of 471 olim have made aliya. Moshe Shechter, director of the Israel Aliyah Center said the increase was part of a continuing upswing.

### 36 BRANDEIS U. FACULTY, STAFF MEMBERS TAKE ISSUE WITH THE POLICIES OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT

WALTHAM, Mass., April 24 (JTA) -- Thirty-six members of the faculty and staff of the Brandeis University, all identified as having contributed to the current annual campaign of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) of Boston, have released a letter questioning key elements of the policies of Premier Menachem Begin's government and declaring that "we make a clear distinction between the policies of the Begin government and the people of Israel."

The protest letter was sent to Ruth Fein, president of the CJP, and released to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The letter declared:

"As members of the faculty and staff of Brandeis University, we have recently been solicited to contribute to CJP in Boston, part of whose funds go to support welfare activities in Israel. This solicitation comes at a time when we are seriously concerned about recent events and policies in the State of Israel.

"These necessarily affect our feelings about continuing to give to CJP. While we have not resolved all our doubts, we are continuing our support with a contribution. Therefore, we feel compelled to communicate to the leadership of the campaign views which we believe should be taken into account for the future."

#### The Palestinian Problem

The letter continued:

"We are committed to the State of Israel, its security, and the strong moral standing it has long held as a nation.

"We believe that the Palestinian people have been deprived of elementary rights by the nations of the world, not least by the Arab countries in which most of them have lived since 1948. While Israel must protect its citizens from attacks, its long-range security requires a resolution of the Palestinian problem, as well as acceptance of Israel by the Arab countries.

"The fact that the PLO (as distinct from the Palestinians) and the Arab nations have thus far refused to negotiate does not justify policies of the Begin government which makes discussions virtually impossible at a time when there are such possibilities.

"We reject the concept of a 'Greater Israel' which would have the effect of making a million Arabs on the West Bank a hostile and fast-growing minority within Israel and would make of Israel a permanent garrison state."

#### Settlements Are 'A Stumbling Block'

The letter noted that "a stumbling block in the coming years" concerns the West Bank settlements. "Continuation of the settlement policy or annexation of that territory (whatever the euphemism or legality) is detrimental to the possibility of achieving peace with one hundred million Arabs and to the long-range security of the State of Israel," the letter stated.

"We make a clear distinction between the policies of the Begin government and the people of Israel. Unfortunately, that distinction has not always been made, and it is sometimes suggested that to support the people of Israel, one must uncritically support the government's policies. This we refused to do or accept."

The letter to the CJP was signed by Bernard Reisman and Robert Perlman. Among the signatories

were Rabbi Albert Axelrad, Naomi Bass, Lawrence Fuchs and Martin Halpern.

Copies of the letter were addressed to Yuval Metser, Consul General of Israel in Boston; Yehuda Avner, c/o the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem; Irving Bernstein, executive vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; and to the office of Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

### HOLLINGS SAYS ISRAEL IS 'GETTING A BUM RAP IN LEBANON'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 24 (JTA) -- Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, who last week became the sixth Democrat to seek his party's Presidential nomination in 1984, charged today that "Israel is getting a bum rap in Lebanon."

"Israel is not trying to get territory in Lebanon, it's trying to gain security," Hollings said on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program. He suggested that what was needed is a "step-by-step" withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Hollings said Israel went into Lebanon to "clean up the Palestinians" and did a "good job of it."

He said that in a country in which there are now 50,000 Syrian troops, 30,000 Israelis, Palestinian forces, 13 Christian sects and four Moslem groups, 1,800 marines are not adequate for a peace-keeping force. "We got that many" guarding the Capitol in the Capitol police force, he said.

The Senator made his remarks when he was asked if he thought his Democratic rivals, who he had accused of appealing to special interests, were making too great an appeal to the Jewish vote by their support of Israel. He disagreed, saying that Israel is "our best commitment" and a "strategic ally" of the U.S.

Hollings was asked about an incident during a Senate debate on prayer in public schools in which he called Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) "the Senator from B'nai B'rith." He explained that he used the term in the "context" of the debate in which various Senators were referred to by their religion. Hollings said that when Metzenbaum took offense, he apologized.

### GLENN SAYS THE PLO SHOULD JOIN IN THE MIDEAST PEACE TALKS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 22 (JTA) -- Sen. John Glenn (D. Ohio), who announced last week that he will seek his party's nomination for the Presidency in 1984, believes the Palestine Liberation Organization should join in the Middle East peace negotiations, according to an interview with the former astronaut published in the Swiss weekly, *Construire*.

"No permanent solution to the conflict will be possible without the participation of the PLO," Glen was quoted as saying. He said that while the U.S. should be responsible for Israel's security, it should not support the creation of new settlements by Israel in the occupied territories, *Construire* reported.

Glenn was quoted further as saying that the U.S. unconditional support of Israel during the war in Lebanon strained relations with America's allies in Europe and with the moderate Arab states, including Egypt. U.S. policy should push for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, Glenn said.