

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL WARNS SYRIA AGAINST 'PROVOCATION' IN LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Israel warned Syria last night against further provocative incidents in Lebanon and declared that the Israeli army would "protect its men and also protect the agreement" Israel signed with Lebanon.

The stern but carefully worded warning was reportedly drafted by Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Moshe Arens after Israeli officials seemed yesterday to play down the importance of recent incidents in Lebanon in order to avoid an escalation of the tense situation there.

The statement, issued by a military spokesman, referred specifically to the Syrian air-to-air missile attack on Israeli planes on patrol over Lebanon yesterday. None was hit and the Israelis did not return the fire. But the statement called the incident a "clear violation of the cease-fire" in Lebanon and expressed concern over mounting incidents caused by "Syrian provocation (which is) not accidental" but an attempt to sabotage the Israel-Lebanon agreement signed May 17.

The statement noted however that Israel "hopes and desires to avoid violent clashes" and was watching developments in that spirit. Military sources reported yesterday that an Israeli helicopter had been fired on Monday from behind Syrian lines, that machinegun fire was exchanged across the Israeli-Syrian lines in central Lebanon Tuesday night and that an Israeli tank hit a land mine near Beirut Wednesday, without injuries to its crew.

The sources suggested however that the first two incidents might have been the work of Palestine Liberation Organization units rather than the Syrian army and that the missile attack on Israeli planes yesterday could have been a sign of Syrian "nervousness" rather than provocative intent.

## U.S. Intelligence Confirms Syrian Build-Up

But the official statement issued last night indicated that Israel takes a more serious view of these developments. This was reflected by the media which gave prominence today to U.S. intelligence reports that Syria was building up its own and PLO forces in eastern Lebanon. Israel Radio reported that large scale Syrian military maneuvers, with Soviet advisors, were getting under way on the Golan Heights.

Sources here said today that Israel is in close contact with Washington over events in Lebanon and has been urging the Americans to press the Soviet Union to exercise a restraining influence on the Syrians. Earlier this week, Begin expressed Israel's anxiety over the tense situation with the Syrians in Lebanon in a letter to President Reagan. The letter thanked

the President for Secretary of State George Shultz's recent mediation efforts which helped bring about the Israel-Lebanon agreement.

The Israeli media meanwhile is stressing reports that the U.S. is confident Syria does not want war with Israel, certainly not all-out war, and that Syria will agree eventually to pull its own forces out of Lebanon. According to informed sources, the U.S. finds significant the fact that President Hafez Assad of Syria has not shut the door on a Syrian pull-out although he continues to blast the Israel-Lebanon agreement in the harshest terms.

The U.S., it is understood here, hopes that inter-Arab influences brought to bear on Damascus will ultimately produce a withdrawal agreement, although the Syrians are expected to demand tough terms. The Americans are said to reason that Syria had nothing to gain militarily from new hostilities with Israel and that its Soviet arms suppliers are loathe to risk a test of strength against Israel's American-supplied weaponry.

## ISRAEL DISPLAYING AERIAL MIGHT AT PARIS AIR SHOW

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 26 (JTA) -- Over 20 Israeli industrial firms specializing in aircraft construction and defense equipment ranging from sophisticated missiles to electronic equipment are taking part in the Paris International Air Show which opened here today.

Foreign experts attending the show said that Israel's aerospace industries are today among the world's half dozen most advanced in the field of both research and production. The Israeli delegation to the air show, held at Le Bourget, will be headed by Defense Minister Moshe Arens who was invited by the French Defense Minister Charles Hernu. He is expected here next Wednesday.

## Hundreds Jam Israel Pavilion

Hundreds of foreign experts crowded the Israeli pavillion this morning as the show opened. The use of highly sophisticated Israeli-made and designed electronic warfare equipment during last summer's battles when 80 Syrian planes and 400 tanks were destroyed in a matter of days, helped spur interest. The pavillion had on display several types of missiles including the world famous Python-3, the third generation air-to-air Raphael missile based on the Shafir-2 used in Israel's previous wars and the SAR-2 advanced artillery location system which can simultaneously handle up to 50 different fire sources and was successfully used in Lebanon.

Israeli experts at the air show revealed that the Lavie prototype jet fighter will be airborne in February 1986 but refused to say when the multi-purpose warplane will go into production. The single-engine combat aircraft, now under development, is designed for short and medium range air-to-ground missions and is expected to become "the workhorse" of the Israeli Air Force in the 1990s. The head of Israel Aircraft Industries research and development unit, Dr. Ben Zion Naveh, told a press conference yesterday that "we have by now all the American export licenses needed for the production of the plane."

Naveh and other IAI experts stressed that Israel did not need and had not asked for a technology transfer but for manufactured parts. "We had no know-how problem but one of procurement," they said.

Asked about American restrictions on the sale of the Lavie abroad, IAI officials said "the plane is not subjected to any special restrictions but will have to comply with normal American restrictions applying to the sale of combat planes manufactured with American parts to third countries. It will be a case by case decision," they said.

### Stress Is On Combat Aircraft

Though the Lavie will be equipped with an American-made Pratt and Whitney jet engine, most of its sophisticated equipment will be Israeli manufactured and designed. Its electronic warfare self-protection system has been designed by an IAI subsidiary, Elta Electronics and will consist of a fully automatic and power managed computer network which will permit rapid threat identification and automatic response using various deception techniques.

Experts said that experience gained during the air battles in Lebanon has been used to ensure the Lavies' future pilots ease of control, maximum survivability and 100 percent mission completion.

A new version of the Kfir, the C-7, destined to fill the gap between the Kfir-C-2 and the Lavie will be on display at Le Bourget and probably take part in several fly overs. The new version has a longer range, more powerful engine and greater operation potential.

Also on view will be the remote controlled pilotless Scout which was used intensively throughout the war in Lebanon. The Scout system consists of up to eight miniature aircraft, a launcher, recovery net and ground control station operated by a crew of 12. The system provides on the spot reconnaissance to both the field commander and command headquarters at the rear simultaneously. It is able to stay on station for periods of up to seven hours to observe the tactical area, battlefield or open sea, unseen and unheard. Several foreign countries have already ordered it.

The IAI is also developing two civilian models, the Arava and the Westwind Astra, based on former planes now brought up to date. IAI officials admitted, however, that Arava sales have been slow but hoped that orders for the two new models will pick up.

The show, considered the main aeronautical world fair, will be open until June 5 and will be visited by several presidents and dozens of foreign defense ministers and chiefs of staff.

### KNESSET REFUSES TO DISCUSS CHARGES THAT AUTHORITIES FAIL TO PROSECUTE JEWISH SETTLERS WHO ATTACK ARABS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- A motion to discuss opposition charges that Israeli authorities have failed to investigate or prosecute attacks by armed Jewish settlers on West Bank Arabs was defeated by a vote of 41-32 in the Knesset yesterday.

The motion stricken from the agenda was presented by Shulamit Aloni of the Labor Party's Civil Rights Movement (CRM) faction. Aloni cited hundreds of cases in which, she said, Jewish settlers attacked Arabs or damaged their property. In five of these cases, Arabs were killed by settlers, Aloni said but no arrests were ever made.

She noted that by contrast, when an Israeli woman, Esther Ohanna, was killed by a stone thrown at her vehicle in the Arab town of Dahariya several months ago, the police had no difficulty apprehending five Arab suspects who were swiftly tried, convicted and sentenced to prison terms. When Arabs are killed or injured by Jews, the investigation drags on and comes to nothing, Aloni charged.

### Karp Report Cited

She brought the matter to the Knesset following the resignation of Deputy Attorney General Yehudit Karp from a Justice Ministry committee she headed which was set up to investigate alleged Jewish settler assaults on Arabs or their property in the territory. Karp said she resigned because the Justice Ministry failed to act on her committee's recommendations.

Aloni told the Knesset that the Karp committee had managed to "remove the mask from the Military Government and to show that it was pressure from above that prevented the police from solving cases and from taking effective action against Jews who take the law into their own hands."

Replying for the government, Defense Minister Moshe Arens challenged Aloni to prove that the government was dropping its investigations of alleged illegal acts by Jewish settlers. He recalled that when he took office he promised that the law would be applied equitably in the occupied territories and that he intended to carry out that promise. Arens made no reference to the specific cases cited by Aloni.

### WEST BANK ARAB CHARGES TORTURE BY ISRAELI JAILERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- A West Bank

Arab arrested a week ago for alleged incitement, complained to the Supreme Court today that he was tortured while undergoing interrogation by his Israeli jailers and asked the court to order his transfer to a different prison.

The complainant, Walid Mahmoud Al Arda, is the son of the Mayor of Arrabe, a village in the northern region of the West Bank. It was at Arrabe last month that a mysterious illness broke out among local highschool girls, provoking charges by local Arabs of mass poisoning by Israelis. The illness, which spread to other towns and villages in the territory, was investigated by international teams of experts at the behest of the Israel Health Ministry. No evidence of poisoning was found.

Al Arda was accused of trying to generate public panic by reviving the poison scare. He denied the charge but claimed in his petition to the Supreme Court that one of his interrogators beat him and tortured him with electric shock. Al Arda's attorney quoted a military court judge who, in reviewing an earlier appeal, noted that the suspect's body bore signs of beating which should be investigated.

#### Suspect In Grunzweig Murder Released

In an unrelated development, police today released a suspect arrested last weekend in connection with the grenade murder of Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig last February. The suspect, who was not identified by name, had been remanded in custody for 15 days on the basis of police testimony presented to a Jerusalem magistrate in closed session Monday. The man was described as in his twenties, the father of two, from the Orthodox township of Kiryat Arba, adjacent to Hebron. The police gave no details of his release.

#### **MODAI HEADS NEW FACTION IN LIKUD'S LIBERAL PARTY**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Bitter internal disputes within Likud's Liberal Party wing came to the fore today when a group of five Knesset members, headed by Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai, announced the formation of an independent faction within the party.

The decision to seek separate status was adopted by a large majority of Modai's supporters in a secret ballot. The four other MKs in the new group are Deputy Minister of Agriculture Pessah Grupper, Benny Shalita, Pinhas Goldstein and Yehuda Perah. The Modai group is definitely hawkish in its views. It could, theoretically, bring down the government over policy differences.

It is expected to demand to be consulted separately on all coalition decisions. Grupper went so far as to warn Premier Menachem Begin that if he refuses, "there will be trouble for the coalition." Modai himself sharply attacked elements of his party yesterday as "an anarchy, a leaderless group that employed 'unethical political methods to gain power.' He threatened to expose them 'unless they are stopped immediately.'"

The Liberals appear now to be sharply divided between Modai's faction and its dove-ish MKs, Yitzhak Berman and Dror Seigermann. Berman, a former Minister of Energy who resigned from the Begin government last year, warned that if the Liberals split into two factions he would belong to neither. He suggested yesterday the formation of a center bloc to include members of the opposition Shinui faction.

#### **KUPAT HOLIM CLINICS RE-OPEN ON LIMITED BASIS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Histadrut's Kupat Holim (sick fund) clinics, closed two months ago by the doctors' strike, were partially re-opened today. About 1,600 of the 2,500 doctors employed by Kupat Holim agreed to treat chronically ill patients and emergency cases two days a week. Others will continue to be treated, for a fee, at alternative clinics set up by the doctors when the strike began.

Some 7,000 Kupat Holim and government-employed doctors remained officially on strike, although the partial staffing of government hospitals was resumed Tuesday evening after a general walk-out over the weekend. Negotiations are expected to resume tomorrow on the basis of new proposals by Kupat Holim chairman Haim Doron.

#### **SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVIST SENTENCED**

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- Lev Elbert, one of Kiev's leading Jewish activists, was sentenced yesterday to one year in a Labor camp for "evasion of an army reserve callup notice," according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. Elbert is a 35-year-old engineer and translator. He, his wife and son, have sought exit to Israel for nine years.

Elbert had stated two grounds for not submitting to the callup: he had been previously refused emigration on the grounds he had acquired "military secrets" while digging earth for swimming pools during his regular army service a decade ago, and as a former private, not an officer, he was exempt from reserve duty.

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#### **LATE NEWS BULLETIN**

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed and 14 others were wounded when an explosive charge detonated under an army bus in the eastern Lebanon village of Hasbaya today. A military spokesman said eight of the wounded were evacuated by helicopter and the others were treated on the spot.

#### **LOUISE WEISS DEAD AT 90**

PARIS, May 26 (JTA) -- Mrs. Louise Weiss, Dean of the Parliament of Europe and a noted writer, journalist and militant feminist died here this morning at the age of 90. She had been elected to the European Parliament when she was 86 and played an active role in the assembly. Though only partly of Jewish origin, through her father's family, Weiss always took a keen interest in international Jewish affairs.

## L.A. LAWMAKERS URGE REAGAN TO HELP END PERSECUTION OF FALASHAS

LOS ANGELES, May 26 (JTA) -- Mayor Tom Bradley and City Council members have called upon President Reagan to press for efforts to end the persecution of some 25,000 Jews living in Ethiopia.

At the same time, Bradley, at a press conference in City Hall several days ago, offered temporary refuge to Falashas Simcha Desta, his wife Rachael and their child who were recently reunited in Los Angeles after their dangerous exit from Ethiopia while they proceed with their emigration to Israel.

City Councilman Dave Cunningham, who had met Desta at a Black-Jewish dialogue conference sponsored by the Jewish Federation Council, presented the family with a resolution on behalf of his colleagues which expressed their grave concern regarding the plight of Falashas still living in isolated villages in Ethiopia's rural areas. The resolution noted that the Falashas are barred from practicing their religion, prevented from emigrating, and live under constant threat of arrest and physical torture.

The resolution called upon Reagan to express the concern of the United States and its citizens for the human rights of Ethiopia's Jews -- including the right to emigrate freely -- to "relevant foreign governments" and to seek ways to assist them to emigrate.

### Describes Conditions In Ethiopia

While human rights for all Ethiopians have been reduced since Emporer Haile Selassie was deposed in 1974, the situation, according to Desta, is worse for minority groups and such religions as Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Pentacostals, but especially for Jews. He said that between 1980 and 1982 all Jewish leaders had been tortured, imprisoned or fled to Israel.

Desta, his wife and child were imprisoned and tortured in 1981 for attempting to leave the country. They are the first Falashas who have experienced torture and imprisonment in Ethiopia to speak out to the American public.

"We were in prison under horrible unsanitary conditions for several months, but we never gave up, nor will other Ethiopian Jews who have been tortured," Desta told Bradley and City Councilmen.

According to Osias Goren, Federation president, "no matter what the government of Ethiopia may do to our Falasha brethren, they will never succeed in stopping them. World Jewry will never give up its determination to bring all Ethiopian Jews home to Israel."

### JEROME LIPPMAN ELECTED AJPA PRESIDENT, SUCCEEDING ALBERT BLOOM

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., May 26(JTA) --The American Jewish Press Association at its 41st an-

nual meeting here, elected Jerome Lippman, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Long Island Jewish World as president succeeding Albert Bloom, executive editor of the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle.

Vice presidents elected were: Marc Klein, editor, Philadelphia Jewish Exponent; Vida Goldgar, editor and publisher, Southern Israelite, Atlanta; and Philip Scheier, editor, Jewish Transcript, Seattle. Re-elected treasurer was Morris Maline, editor, Jewish Press, Omaha; elected recording secretary is Larry Hankin of the Intermountain Jewish News, Denver; and elected corresponding secretary is Dan Brin, of the Southwest Jewish Heritage, California.

Elected to the executive committee were: Bloom; Robert Cohn, editor, St. Louis Jewish Light; Miriam Goldberg, publisher, Intermountain Jewish News, Denver; Frank Wundohl, publisher's representative of JWB Circle, New York; Geoffrey Fisher, editor, Jewish Bulletin, San Francisco; Richard Waloff, business director, Jewish Exponent; Dorothy Rubin, editor and publisher, Broward Jewish Journal, Fla.; and Robert Rapaport, publisher, Palm Beach Jewish World.

Arie Zimuky, senior political editor of Yediot Aharonot, Jerusalem, was elected liaison officer by AJPA to the World Federation of Jewish Journalists and an honorary member of AJPA's executive committee.

The meeting paused in its deliberations for a moment of silence and the reading of the 23rd Psalm in memory of Milton Firestone, late editor and publisher of the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle who died several weeks ago.

At tonight's session the Simon Rockower memorial plaques were presented to winners of the first journalism competition recognizing outstanding journalistic achievements by AJPA members.

Among other notable leaders participating in the sessions were Nathan Perlmuter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Yehudah Hellman, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Yehiel Yetiv, representative of the Israel Foreign Ministry who was one of the negotiators of the Israel-Lebanon agreement; and Thomas Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Michael Gale, Presidential aide on Jewish affairs, attended some of the AJPA sessions.

### RABBI AVRAHAM SOLTES DEAD AT 66

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here yesterday for Rabbi Avraham Soltes, Jewish chaplain at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and a participant in many Jewish cultural and artistic activities, who died Monday at 66 after an illness of several months. He will be buried at West Point.

Soltes had been rabbi of Congregation Beth Chavairuth in Tenafly, N.J. since 1977 and had served congregations in Manhattan, Great Neck and East Orange, N.J. as a Reform rabbi. He started his association with the Military Academy as a voluntary chaplain in 1963 and was named a permanent member of the staff in 1981. Soltes had been chairman of the National Jewish Music Council from 1963 to 1969 and a board member of the National Jewish Book Council.