

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN CALLS FOR UNITY IN KNESSET SO 'OUR BOYS CAN RETURN HOME' AS OPPOSITION PRESSES FOR WITHDRAWAL

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's government has come under mounting pressure from opposition ranks and various anti-war groups to end Israel's presence in Lebanon without delay. This week will mark the first anniversary of Israel's invasion of Lebanon with the ostensible objective of clearing Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists out of south Lebanon and achieving "Peace for Galilee" -- as the operation was dubbed.

But with a large Israeli army still in Lebanon, sustaining almost daily casualties from ambushes and hit-and-run attacks by Syrian-protected PLO terrorists, Begin was forced to defend his government's policies in the Knesset today.

Speaking in reply to an agenda motion by Labor Alignment MK Michael Bar-Zohar, Begin urged all Knesset factions to unite -- just as they were united behind the "Peace for Galilee" operation a year ago -- so that "Our boys can return home." He said it was undesirable to create the impression that there is a wide gap on this issue.

### Begin Notes 'Difficult Times'

Begin said no one in Israel was hurt more by the casualties than he himself. But he criticized the opposition for attacking the government "at difficult times." He recalled that when his party was in the opposition during the war of attrition with Egypt in 1969, it behaved differently.

Bar-Zohar said he did not doubt Begin's sincere sorrow over the losses of life and woundings among Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. But he criticized the Premier for not visiting the soldiers in Lebanon or the bereaved families of those who died. Bar-Zohar embarrassed coalition MKs by opening his statement with a call for a minute of silence in memory of the Lebanon war dead. Some MKs accused him of making a political issue out of the casualties.

Begin stressed that Israel has no plans to attack Syria although it has taken precautionary measures in Lebanon. He said he was confident that in the long run the Syrians and the PLO would withdraw from Lebanon, enabling Israeli troops to pull out under the terms of the Israel-Lebanon agreement.

But there is rising sentiment among some segments of the public for a unilateral withdrawal or partial pull-back of Israeli troops. The Peace Now movement sent telegrams to Begin and Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday urging them not to let Syria or the PLO dictate when Israel should begin to implement its agreement with Lebanon. If withdrawal was started now, the troops could be out of

Lebanon "within a few weeks," they said. They said they had made the same appeal to the Lebanese government.

### Protest March From Border To Tel Aviv

Peace Now is conducting a war protest march from Rosh Hanikra on the Lebanese border to Tel Aviv. It began Sunday and is scheduled to end with a mass peace rally in Tel Aviv's municipal square next Saturday night. The marchers camped south of Haifa last night. They told local youngsters who came to encourage them that no reserve soldier should refuse duty in Lebanon because army discipline must be maintained even though there is no national consensus on the war in Lebanon.

Peace Now has dissociated itself from the Committee Against the War in Lebanon, a front of Israel's Hadash Communist party, which plans to join its peace demonstration in Tel Aviv.

Another anti-war group, "Parents Against Silence," demonstrated outside the Knesset Monday to demand immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. A delegation of five women met with Arens at his office yesterday to appeal for a speedy withdrawal to end the casualties. A spokeswoman said later, "He listened carefully but on the basis of his replies we think we have to continue our struggle."

### ISRAELI TROOPS CAPTURE TERRORIST

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 1 (JTA) -- An Israeli patrol came under small arms fire in Beirut today and wounded and captured one of the assailants. The others fled. One Israeli soldier was grazed by a bullet in the brief exchange of fire.

The clash occurred just south of the Galerie Samann, a crossing point between east and west Beirut. The attackers, believed to be part of the estimated 1,000 Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists who have re-infiltrated Beirut, escaped into an area of the city patrolled by Italian units of the multinational force. The Israeli patrol halted its pursuit at the boundary of the area. Italian soldiers searched for the terrorists without success.

### ISRAEL IMPOSES NEW TAXES AIMED AT CUTTING IMPORTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA) -- Two new tax measures aimed at curbing runaway inflation and easing Israel's severely negative trade balance, face bitter opposition in the Knesset and from major business groups. A number of Likud ministers are also strongly opposed.

The controversial measures, recommended yesterday by the Ministerial Economic Committee, include an 0.3 percent tax on all withdrawals from current bank accounts and a compulsory deposit by importers of 15 percent of the value of imported goods. The latter, signed yesterday by Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt, applies to 311 imported items.

The money must be deposited with the Treasury for one year, in local currency. It will earn no interest and will not be linked to the price index. With inflation currently running at an annual rate of 150 percent, the deposits will be worth only 40 percent of their original value when they are returned. This is equivalent to a nine percent tax on imports, effective immediately.

The tax on bank withdrawals has raised the most furor. The Finance Ministry expects to realize some 10 billion Shekels, to pay for Israel's continued presence in Lebanon. Many Knesset members of Likud's Liberal Party wing, including Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, oppose it. They have demanded that Finance Minister Yoram Aridor refrain from asking the Cabinet to endorse it, for the time being. The Liberals want Aridor to consult with them before taking any action.

#### Labor Opposes Measure

The Labor Alignment announced it would vote against the measure. Various public bodies such as the chambers of commerce and the Civil Servants Association are also opposed. The presidium of the chambers of commerce met in emergency session today. Zvi Amit, director of the association of chambers of commerce denounced the withdrawal tax as a "murderous" measure that could cause the collapse of those branches of the economy which operate on narrow profit margins.

Other critics of the measure said the tax would encourage people to hoard cash and to demand payment in cash instead of checks. A spokesman for the Civil Servants Association said its members would demand that their salaries be paid in cash to circumvent the new measure.

#### Aridor Sees It As Rectifying 'Deviations'

Ezra Sadan, Director General of the Treasury, contended that the tax amounted to relatively small sums and predicted that it would not affect the use of bank accounts. Aridor said yesterday that the new measures do not constitute a departure from his policy of "mild" economic measures but were rather intended to "rectify certain deviations from that policy." He promised that no further taxes would be imposed in the near future and there would be no drastic devaluation of the Shekel.

Aridor explained that the deposit tax would replace the compulsory war tax imposed when Israel invaded Lebanon a year ago. That tax is ending and will not be renewed. Aridor has come under heavy attack recently from Likud colleagues

as well as opposition politicians for the rapidly deteriorating economy. Israel's trade deficit widened by 35 percent during the first four months of this year, to \$1.06 billion. Imports amounted to \$2.69 billion and exports to \$1.63 billion. The trade gap for all of last year was \$4.7 billion.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT MUM ON WHETHER U.S. GIVING ARABS SPY PLANES DATA

WASHINGTON, June 1 (JTA) -- The State Department refused to comment today on press reports that the U.S. has been supplying Syria and Egypt, as well as Israel, with spy plane photographs during the past few years.

The reports, attributed to "defense sources," said the sharing of aerial photographs began in 1976, after Israel and Syria signed a disengagement agreement on the Golan Heights. The sources said that neither Syria nor Egypt, which broke with the Arab states to begin its peace process with Israel in 1977, receive all of the photographs.

Syria gets reconnaissance photos of the areas where its troops face Israeli forces, as on the Golan Heights and in Lebanon and Egypt gets material where it is involved, the sources said. According to the reports, the spy planes are TR-2s, an updated version of the U-2, which take off from British air bases on Cyprus. Israel, Syria and Egypt receive advance notice of the flights, the sources said.

#### CANADIAN MAYOR OFFERS TO CROSS COUNTRY TO SUPPORT PALESTINIANS

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, June 1 (JTA) -- Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga, a heavily populated suburb of Toronto, believes the Palestinian cause is misrepresented by the Canadian media because of pressures "from the powers and the money." She offered to travel the length and breadth of Canada to describe "the real Palestinian problem."

McCallion's attacked the media in a speech to the annual convention of the Canadian Arab Federation. "I say to the Canadian press, it's time they had an open mind on the Palestinian question, it's time that the press was not influenced by the powers and the money," she told more than 200 cheering Canadian Arabs.

McCallion said she would tell the Canadian people "that we cannot allow this situation to exist on the West Bank. Everyone wanted the Jews to have a country of their own. The Palestinians need and require and deserve a country of their own. Why shouldn't they get it?" she asked.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) reports that only 116 Jews were allowed to leave the USSR in May. This is barely over half the number permitted to emigrate a year ago and less than three percent of those allowed to leave at this time during the peak year of 1979.

## ISRAELI OFFICIAL URGES FREE WORLD TO GET SYRIAN ARMY OUT OF LEBANON

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA) -- Israel's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Yehuda Ben-Meir called today on "the entire free world" to use its influence on Syria "to end its occupation in Lebanon."

"Syria should understand that it would be completely isolated by the international community if it continues its occupation of Lebanon," Ben-Meir declared in a press conference held at the Israeli Consulate here. He charged that Syria has been so far "doing all in its power to undermine the agreement" on troops withdrawal between Israel and Lebanon reached through the mediation of Secretary of State George Shultz.

Ben-Meir, who began an eight-day visit to the U.S. during which he will meet with Administration officials in Washington, said that "The Syrians know that Israel has no intention of engaging in hostilities with Syria. They know it. The Russians know it. It is clear that the Syrians want to continue to occupy Lebanon and do not want to see a free Lebanon."

### Israel Seeks To Avert War

Asked about the danger of a new war between Israel and Syria, Ben-Meir said "Israel will do everything humanly possible to avoid an outbreak of hostilities and war between Israel and Syria. Israel's response to the situation, however, will continue to be cautious and we will continue to take all measures of alertness to meet any eventuality."

Asked if Israel will consider pulling back its forces in Lebanon even if Syria refuses to withdraw its troops, he said: "If it will become clear that the Syrians will not leave Lebanon, we will consult with the United States and Lebanon on realignment of the Israeli forces" in Lebanon.

Ben-Meir said that Israel continues to stand behind the agreement it reached with Lebanon. "We will not give in to Syrian and Russian threats," he said.

Ben-Meir also said that thousands of Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists have infiltrated back into Lebanon from behind Syrian lines. He estimated the number of terrorists in Lebanon today as between 7,000 and 10,000.

### NEW AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR PLEDGES TO KEEP TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR JEWS

VIENNA, June 1 (JTA) -- Austria's new Chancellor, Fred Sinowatz, has pledged that his country will continue to extend its facilities to Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union enroute to other countries.

He offered that guarantee in the course of a 90-minute meeting with Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the World Jewish Congress-American Section,

the first American Jewish leader Sinowatz met with since he succeeded former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

"I am committed to an open door policy for Soviet Jews. We are prepared to facilitate their transit and look forward to receiving an increased number of Jews who seek to emigrate from the Soviet Union," he told Schneier who is senior rabbi of the Park East Synagogue in New York City. The two men also discussed the Israel-Lebanon agreement, the situation in the Middle East and various international issues. Schneier was accompanied by Dr. Leon Zelman, chairman of the Jewish Welcome Service.

The WJC leader also met with Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc and President Rudolph Kirchschlager of Austria who stressed that his country's political leaders must learn from the past.

Schneier, who was born in Vienna, also met with 22 former residents who were forced to leave Austria after the 1938 Anschluss. He delivered a Sabbath sermon at Vienna's main synagogue. Addressing Holocaust survivors, he said: "You have rebuilt your lives in the shadow of Mauthausen. In rebuilding Jewish life in Austria you must always remember the Holocaust and the rebirth of the State of Israel." There are presently more than 10,000 Jews in Austria.

### EL AL PROSPECTS CALLED GOOD

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA) -- El Al Israel Airlines will be operating this summer with the "highest load factor" of any airline flying over the Atlantic, David Schneider, general manager of the company in North and Central America said today.

Speaking at a press conference at El Al's office here, Schneider said that El Al is expecting at least an average of 80 percent occupied seats in the company's flights during the months of May, June and July. He pointed out that in April the company operated on an unprecedented 92 percent of capacity.

Schneider said that El Al will be carrying to Israel this summer about 60,000 American passengers. He predicted that if the current situation continues "El Al will be breaking even in about 18 months."

Noting that El Al, which resumed its full schedule of flights last March 6, is "strictly a Sabbath observer now," Schneider said that this poses a tremendous "economic challenge" for the company. "We are not operating at least on one-sixth of our operating capacity." But he said that El Al's high load factor makes up "for the financial problems resulting from not flying on the Sabbath." He noted that the ban of Sabbath flights increased considerably the number of Orthodox Jews who fly with El Al.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- One of the largest and most luxurious synagogue-complexes in Israel was dedicated in the Vishnitz Hassadic sector of Bnei Brak recently. The Vishnitz Rebbe, Moshe Hager, and Belgian diamond magnate and philanthropist Yitzhak Cassirer were the guests of honor at the huge ceremony marking the event.

**HILLEL RABBIS PICKET B'NAI B'RITH HEADQUARTERS SEEKING UNION PACT; DEMANDS REJECTED AS INAPPROPRIATE**  
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 1 (JTA) -- A group of about 25 B'nai B'rith Hillel rabbis and other staff employes of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations from all parts of the United States picketed a meeting of the B'nai B'rith Board of Governors at the organization's headquarters here yesterday in their demand for a union contract.

During their six hours of picketing, the demonstrators carried signs which said "Stop Exploiting Hillel Professionals -- Recognize Us Now" and "Your Exploitation Policy is Unfair."

The board issued a statement yesterday asserting that B'nai B'rith International (BBI) had collective bargaining agreements with three unions but that it felt that such agreements with Hillel directors and Hillel unit staff members "would neither be appropriate nor realistic."

Rabbi Gerald Serotta, president of the Association of Hillel and Jewish Campus Professionals, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday that "B'nai B'rith's denial comes at the end of several years of seeking meaningful participation in salary negotiations on the part of directors of Hillel Foundations at college campuses. After an overwhelming vote of the Hillel professionals, the association joined the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and asked for recognition in February, 1983."

Hillel Spokesman Seeks 'Fairness'

Serotta said the Board of Governors' rejection came on "the anniversary of its positive decision in May, 1976, to recognize the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization staff association, also associated with AFSCME, for purposes of collective bargaining."

He added that "we are very disappointed that the Board of Governors has failed to recognize even the principle of our right to negotiate, and that the (Hillel) rabbis had no choice other than to begin a public campaign to win recognition."

He also told the JTA that the issue is "basically an issue of fairness for any employe." He added there are many discussions in Jewish sacred lore about treating employes with dignity and compassion, "which apply to this particular situation."

Rejection of the request of the Hillel professionals for union recognition was voted by the Board of Governors yesterday.

Serotta read the text of a telegram from Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the association of Reform rabbis, sent to Dr. Daniel Thursz, BBI executive vice president, which said "Urge B'nai B'rith recognize right of Hillel directors to negotiate. Cannot understand refusal. You, as an outspoken proponent of justice and democracy, should be first to support such an elementary right."

Declaring that there are 65 Hillel rabbis and directors, Serotta declared "we intend to press our case publicly" in the Jewish community "because we think a majority of B'nai B'rith members and the Jewish community" support the demonstrators' cause.

Kraft Cites Uniqueness Of Work

The board statement, signed by Gerald Kraft, BBI president, declared that "the work of Hillel directors is highly individualistic and requires an unusual variety of skills, depending upon a particular Foundation" and that BBI "believes that this situation does not lend itself to a collective approach to salary negotiations."

Kraft also asserted that salaries of Hillel staff members "are determined only in part by B'nai B'rith," adding that "in some Hillel units, salary and benefit costs are shared between B'nai B'rith and other local community sources. Therefore, we felt that we could not fulfill the function of collective bargaining for just a part of a salary."

He also declared that "surprisingly," the association request for union recognition "came at a time when we had been working closely and cooperatively to develop a sophisticated system for Hillel posts throughout the country." The statement did not give any details of those talks. Kraft said BBI regretted that the demonstrators had made an attempt "to pressure B'nai B'rith through a public display rather than through a continuation of what had been a fruitful dialogue."

Kraft said BBI had collective bargaining pacts with the Communications Workers of America for the agency's headquarters clerical staff; with AFSCME as agent for the agency's Youth Organization field staff; and with the Executive Staff Association "on subjects other than salaries" with professional staff members at the agency's headquarters "and in the field."

ISRAEL'S TRAVELLING MINISTERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 1 (JTA) -- So many ministers are travelling abroad, or about to leave that the next Cabinet meeting may have to be held in North America if a quorum is to be obtained, some commentators suggested here.

Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, now a Minister-Without-Portfolio, arrived in Canada today with a small army of bodyguards because of the hostile reception he is likely to receive from Canadian critics of his policies in Lebanon and on the West Bank. Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir is in New York enroute for Washington for "on-going talks on the Lebanese and Middle East situation."

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been in Europe since last Friday in an effort to improve Israel's relations with the European Economic Community (EEC) member states. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is expected to leave for France today to attend the Paris Air Show at Le Bourget where Israel is displaying its aerial might. Arens is an aeronautical engineer by training.