

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

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

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Monday, June 20, 1983

No. 116

BEGIN TO COME TO WASHINGTON JULY 27 AFTER BEING INVITED BY REAGAN; NEW ENVOY TO LONDON NAMED

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin confirmed today that President Reagan has invited him to visit Washington on July 27. He informed the Cabinet that he intends to accept and will reply affirmatively to Reagan tomorrow.

The Cabinet was briefed by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir who said the American Administration believes there is still a chance to reach an agreement with Syria for the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of Yehuda Avner, Begin's advisor on Jewish affairs, to be Israel's next Ambassador to Britain. He will replace Shlomo Argov who was disabled in an assassination attempt in London in June, 1982.

A number of other appointments to the foreign service were approved. Begin dismissed a complaint by Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori that many of the appointees were previously identified with the Labor Party and could not be trusted to represent the views of Likud. Begin replied that overseas diplomats "represent the State, not Likud."

STUDENTS PICKET IN SUPPORT OF LIKUD By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- About 100 students, supporters of Likud, picketed yesterday outside Premier Menachem Begin's residence in Jerusalem, in a counter demonstration to that of anti-war protesters at the same place.

The number of policemen at the site was reinforced to avoid the verbal confrontation becoming a physical one. The Likud demonstrators said the government should be allowed to end the war in Lebanon with a political gain, decried using death tolls for political purposes, and urged that the government not be weakened in its negotiations with other countries.

The demonstrators said they would leave a small group of picketers at the site, as long as the anti-war protesters remain there.

BEGIN HALTS CABINET CLASH AS DOCTORS STAGE HUNGER STRIKE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin intervened to halt an exchange of insults at today's Cabinet meeting between Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Health Minister Eliezer Shostak over the strike by government employed doctors, now well into its fourth month.

The outburst was the result of the latest tactic employed by the doctors to press their demands for higher salaries -- a hunger strike which began at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba last week and has spread to other hospitals around the country. About 1,000 physicians are fasting. Many have collapsed from weakness and the hospitals, manned by less than a third of their normal medical staffs are

being forced to shut down various departments. Aridor, who has firmly refuse to exceed the 22 percent wage increase ceiling agreed to with Histadrut, accused Shostak of "creating anarchy in the country as he has done in the Cabinet." The Health Minister, though opposed to the strike in principle, supports the doctors' argument that they are not bound by the wage limit because their union is independent of Histadrut and had no part in its negotiations with the Treasury.

Begin demanded that Aridor retract his remark and ordered it deleted from the record. He said he would "speedily" summon Aridor and Shostak to work together to resume negotiations with the doctors which have been stalled for the past few weeks. The two ministers have not been on speaking terms for some time.

Binding Arbitration Proposed

Shostak and several other ministers have proposed binding arbitration by outside parties in order to end the strike. The matter was not put to a vote in the Cabinet today. The Israel Medical Association announced it is ready to accept arbitration and Histadrut's Central Committee also agreed, although the trade union federation usually opposes arbitration on grounds that it is used to break strikes.

Sources close to Aridor said today that if Begin supports arbitration, he will probably resign from the government. The Finance Minister has been adamant from the start that he will accept no compromise that goes beyond the 22 percent wage ceiling.

Meanwhile, leaders of local and municipal councils appealed to the government today to compromise with the doctors to end the strike lest all health services collapse. Doctors employed by Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick fund, are apparently ready to break ranks with their hospital-employed colleagues. Kupat Holim sources said today there was a good chance that the sick-fund clinics will return to a normal work schedule next week. Since the strike began they have been open only two days a week to treat emergencies and the chronically ill.

YOUNG ISRAEL PRESIDENT PLEDGES TO FILL 'VACUUM' IN LEADERSHIP

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., June 19 (JTA) -- The president of the National Council of Young Israel, Harold Jacobs, pledged here that it is the role of the Young Israel movement to "fill the vacuum" that currently exists of "true Jewish communal leadership."

"The selfless and community spirited men and women who were among the Jewish people's finest traditions have become increasingly rare in our times," Jacobs told some 500 persons gathered for the three-day Young Israel national convention. "Community service is increasingly viewed more as an opportunity for career building rather than a sacred obligation."

Jacobs, whose remarks were made in his inaugural address as he was reelected to a third term as president of the Orthodox synagogue organization, criticized the actions of "too many American Jewish leaders" who did not stand steadfast with Israel during the "Peace for Galilee" operation last summer.

"Instead of rising to Israel's defense, they joined in the shameful accusations, undermining the morale and confusing the allegiance of much of the Jewish people, as well as Israel's many friends in the outside world," Jacobs declared. "Why are those Jewish critics silent now, when Israel's honor is vindicated by the judgement of history, when she has concluded a peace and withdrawal agreement in Lebanon and the Reagan plan has fallen flat on its face?"

He called upon every member of the Young Israel movement to become personally involved, "to do whatever we can, in our own way, to meet the problems that confront us as a people." Jacobs asserted that the involvement of the individual members of the Young Israel movement is still a major factor in communities and synagogues throughout the world, and he called upon the movement to redouble its efforts to encourage such activity in public affairs, in outreach programs on the college campus, in Israel and the broad range of Young Israel activities.

Jews Stake In Politics Stressed

Meanwhile, Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRCNY), speaking yesterday at a session on "Jewish Political Power," declared that "Jews have a double stake in taking part in the political process in this country."

Hoenlein outlined both the specific issues of concern to the Jewish community and the need to strengthen through active participation the democratic process and the rights which we enjoy in this country.

"We need to be strong advocates to Israel, Soviet Jewry and other international and domestic issues which directly concern the Jewish people," Hoenlein said. "Furthermore, the rights of free speech and political expression which we enjoy in this country are best protected by their vigorous exercise by all citizens. We as Jews, who have often suffered the most in countries that lack these freedoms should be most vigilant in their use and protection."

According to Hoenlein, the results of the 1982 elections "proved to be one of the most satisfying in the history of Jewish communal activism in this country. The results of the 1984 elections will prove whether our success in '82 was a fluke, or representative of the political sophistication and maturation of the American Jewish community. It is important for our political friends to know that we will support them, as well as our foes to realize the depth of our concerns on issues crucial to the welfare of the Jewish people," Hoenlein said.

U.S. URGED TO ACT NOT REACT

MONTICELLO, N.Y., June 19 (JTA) -- Naphtali Lavie, the Israeli Consul General in New York, challenged the Reagan Administration here to undertake initiatives in concert with Israel to achieve a binding peace in Lebanon. He also said the United States must "act rather than react" to developments in the Middle East.

Addressing some 500 delegates attending the opening session of the four day diamond jubilee convention of Bnai Zion last Thursday, Lavie underscored the "cost effectiveness" of U.S. foreign aid to Israel by citing Israel's role as a "deterrent force" to Soviet expansion in the Middle East. He contrasted this to the unwillingness of any of the so-called "moderate" Arab states to provide bases for the deployment of American forces after they had received large quantities of sophisticated American weaponry.

Lavie termed the "intransigence" of extreme elements of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the radical Arab states as the "chief obstacle to peace." He called on the Administration to spurn Saudi Arabian attempts

at "petro dollar blackmail" and to focus efforts on removing Syrian and PLO forces from Lebanon so that the Israel-Lebanon accord, signed May 17, could be implemented.

Israel's Deputy Consul General in New York, Yuri Bar-Ner, asserted that the Arabs' military option has been sharply curtailed because they can no longer shake the U.S.-Israel military alliance. But he warned, that the Soviet Union was seeking to prevent the imposition of a "pax-Americana" in Lebanon and cautioned that the current "honeymoon" in U.S.-Israel relations could be eroded by possible American moves to placate Syria, cater to the Saudis, reach an agreement with the Soviet Union or reintroduce President Reagan's September 1 Middle East peace initiative.

He termed the differing interpretation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which America interprets as "exchanging territory for peace," as a "constant source of contention."

Bar-Ner urged Zionist leaders to focus on advancing Jewish education and aliya in order to avert demographic projections that within the next century, America's Jewish population would fall to under one million and the Arabs could become the majority in Israel.

U.S., Israel Share Outlook

Micha Harish, a Labor Alignment Knesset member, underscored the differing perspectives on military and security matters that led to a vacillation in relations between Israel and the U.S. However, he said the basic underlying friendship between the two countries has endured because of a "shared ideological outlook" encompassing values of democracy and humanity.

The Israeli official noted that after earlier periods of pressure to withdraw from Lebanon, Israel was now being encouraged by the U.S. and its West European allies to retain a strong military presence in Lebanon.

The delegates adopted resolutions affirming Bnai Zion's solidarity with Israel, condemning Arab efforts to isolate Israel diplomatically at the United Nations by equating Zionism with racism and calling for America's continued support for Israel's economic and military needs. The convention also endorsed the proposal to create a permanent committee to explore the plight of Jews in oppressed lands and maintain liaison with organizations working in their behalf.

Sidney Wiener was re-elected president and Mel Parness was named executive vice president and national secretary at the concluding session today. The four-day convention was chaired by Ernest Zelnig and was dedicated to Herman Quittman, Bnai Zion's executive vice president emeritus, on his retirement after 50 years of leadership with America's oldest and largest Zionist fraternal organization. Among the many tributes to the veteran Zionist leader was the renaming of Bnai Zion's Swedish Village for Retarded Children in his honor.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture Simcha Ehrlich died shortly after 9 p.m. Sunday night, the government announced tonight. He was 78 years old. The Cabinet will meet in special session Monday to discuss funeral arrangements. Ehrlich was admitted to the hospital last Tuesday, suffering from a brain clot. He fell into a coma on Friday morning.

GENSCHER ASSURES WJC THAT EEC WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN UN PALESTINIAN CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

BONN, June 19 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress has been assured by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher that the European Economic Community (EEC) will not participate in the United Nations sponsored conference on Palestine, now scheduled to be held in Geneva August 16-27.

Genscher, currently chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers, discussed the matter at a luncheon meeting here with a delegation of the WJC's European branch. It was raised in the context of a general discussion of Middle East issues, on the eve of the summit meeting of the heads of the 10 EEC member states in Stuttgart.

The WJC delegation urged European solidarity in line with previous commitments not to participate in the Palestine conference. Genscher, speaking in his capacity as EEC chairman, said the European Community as such would not be represented. He was confident that his position would influence the policies of the other members, each of which is responsible for deciding whether or not it will attend.

This seemed to allay fears that France might attend the conference in Geneva as the "price" for changing its venue from Paris, the site originally selected. In addition to France, Austria has refused to act as host country and the Swiss government has raised strenuous objections to the selection of Geneva, mainly on grounds that it cannot provide adequate security measures.

Common Western Policy

A WJC spokesman said that particular emphasis was given at the meeting with Genscher to prospects for peace in the Middle East following the Israel-Lebanon withdrawal agreement signed last month. The spokesman said the WJC delegation was assured that the European Community would not "diverge from the common policy of the West" which supports the agreement. The continuity of EEC policy on the Middle East was also discussed in light of the fact that the Foreign Minister of Greece, whose government is friendly to the Palestinian cause, will assume the rotating chairmanship of the EEC Council of Ministers next month.

The WJC spokesman noted that Genscher's office had issued a statement at the conclusion of their meeting, thereby emphasizing its formal character and placing it on record as a diplomatic event. The WJC delegation was headed by Werner Nachmann, president of the board of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

B'nai B'rith Urges Withholding Support

(In Washington meanwhile, the B'nai B'rith International called on "all governments desiring peace" to withhold political and financial support from the proposed Palestine conference in Geneva. Philip Lax, chairman of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, said the UN's decision to go ahead with the conference "in the face of widespread international opposition" showed "how out of step" the UN is with world opinion on the way to promote peace. Lax noted that non-governmental organizations with observer status at the UN which do not sympathize with the Palestine Liberation Organization have been excluded from the conference. That, he said, was "a tell-tale sign" that the organizers of the conference "have no interest in objectivity to furthering the cause of peace.")

ORTHODOX RABBI WARNS AGAINST FANATISM IN WEST BANK DEBATE

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., June 19 (JTA) -- Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger, past president of the Rabbinical Council of America, asserted here that despite the "moral and political dilemmas" confronting the search for a permanent solution to the West Bank, "we must eschew dogmatic absolutes."

"The issues are so complex that they cannot be resolved by recourse to simplistic principles -- be they the historic and religious rights of Jews to the land of Israel, or the claims to self-determination on the part of the Arab populations," Wurzbarger said in a debate on the fate of Judaea and Samaria at the three-day convention of the National Council of Young Israel yesterday.

But Rabbi Jay Marcus of Young Israel of Staten Island said, on the other hand, that a more aggressive assertion of Jewish rights to those lands must be made. "Israel has already made its sacrifices for peace -- now we must wait for others to make a similar commitment to peace," Marcus said. Jews "must be allowed to live anywhere on the land of Biblical Israel, including Judaea and Samaria, and we must realize that further appeasement will not bring about rapprochement."

Wurzbarger, who is editor of the Orthodox rabbinic journal, Tradition, criticized the divisive effect of the ongoing debate over the territories, warning that "proponents of 'single issues' politics must not be permitted to overwhelm us to the point that we impugn the integrity and loyalty of those who hold divergent views. We must resist the encroachment of a creeping fanaticism which substitutes denunciation and polemics for rational discourse and imperils the unity of the Jewish people."

Marcus referred to the specific importance of the land of Israel in Jewish law, citing Talmudic injunctions against a Jew selling a non-Jew land in Israel, and special dispensations in Jewish law to encourage the purchase of land in Israel by Jews. He noted that Jordanian law levies the death penalty against an Arab who sells land to a Jew and that therefore, the position of those Jews who assert a strong claim to Judaea and Samaria is not extreme.

"For the longest time, Jews were dependent upon others, creating a 'Galus' mentality. Now, with the State of Israel a reality, we need to establish within the Jewish people a sense of pride and identity, including our rightful claim to the lands of Judaea and Samaria," Marcus said.

ALEXANDER DONAT DEAD AT 78

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Alexander Donat, whose memoir, "The Holocaust Kingdom," is considered a preeminent work in the field of Holocaust literature. He died here Thursday of pulmonary illness at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. He was 78 years old. Born in Warsaw where he had published a daily newspaper before World War II, Donat's newspaper was confiscated by the Nazis and he and his wife, Leona, were imprisoned in concentration camps. He was liberated from Dachau by American troops and returned to Warsaw where he found his wife and their son, whom friends had placed in a Catholic orphanage. They came to the United States and started a printing business. He established in 1977 the nonprofit publishing program, the Holocaust Library Publications that brought many books on the experience of Jews in Europe during World War II. He was chairman of the advisory board of the Holocaust Library at the time of his death.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION REPORT CHARGES NEARLY ALL UN OFFICIAL MACHINERY USED FOR ANTI-ISRAELI CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA) -- Juliana Geran Pilon, an anti-Communist refugee from Rumania, thinks the U.S. Congress should hold hearings to determine how United Nations money is spent supporting the Palestine Liberation Organization. She also thinks that if UN attacks against Israel continue, the U.S. should consider boycotting General Assembly discussions on the Middle East.

Pilon's views and her charge that virtually all of the UN's official machinery has been used in an anti-Israel campaign mounted by the Arab states and their Third World and Eastern bloc allies, are contained in a report by The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based conservative think tank. The report was released at a luncheon last week, hosted by the American Jewish Congress.

Pilon, described as an expert and veteran UN-watcher, said Israel dominates the UN agenda to a remarkable degree. "Of the Security Council's 88 sessions last year, 46 were on topics related to Israel. In the General Assembly, debates on the Middle East consumed nearly one-third of the delegates' time and led to 44 resolutions. The number of times the General Assembly convened emergency special sessions on the Middle East was no less than five--which is equal to all the emergency special sessions held in the UN's first three decades," Pilon reported.

Growing Worse Each Year

According to Pilon, the "systematic" campaign to discredit and isolate Israel in the UN is growing worse each year, despite U.S. opposition. The U.S. should continue to protect Israel from unfair attacks by UN agencies, she said, and in cases of serious violations against Israel, the U.S. should drastically reduce its voluntary contributions to those agencies by as much as one half of the present amount.

Pilon said UN attacks on Israel go beyond propaganda. "It is reflected in the very composition of the decision-making bodies," she said, noting that Israel is excluded from the Economic Commission of Western Asia (ECWA) in violation of UN rules. ECWA is composed entirely of Arab states.

The UN Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) passed a resolution in 1974 excluding only Israel from full participation in its regional activities, Pilon recalled. Other UN agencies that have undertaken campaigns against Israel include the World Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, the International Telecommunications Union, the UN Relief and Works Agency and the Human Rights Commission, Pilon said.

The UN bloc-voting mechanism has contributed to the UN attacks on Israel because most countries are bound to support the policies of the blocs to which they belong, Pilon said, adding that "In what became a watershed, the Western bloc in 1973 increased the frequency with which they abstained on resolutions attacking Israel instead of backing Israel."

DRAFT RESOLUTION CONDEMNS ISRAEL

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 19 (JTA) -- A draft resolution strongly condemning Israel's settlement policies and its treatment of Arab workers in the occupied territories was adopted by the Resolutions Committee of the International Labor Organization (ILO) at its annual conference here. The resolution, which was opposed

by all Western delegations except Austria, comes up for a vote at the plenary session next week. Observers said there are chances it will be rejected.

The resolution recommended, among other things, that the conference take effective and appropriate measures toward the Israeli occupying authorities, meaning apparently, sanctions against Israel. Western diplomats here stressed that resolutions of this kind not only politicize the ILO but prejudice its normal functions. They noted that the resolution failed to take into account the findings of a committee sent to the region by the Director General that the conditions of the Arab workers in the territories had improved.

CHAIRMAN TELLS ISRAELIS HE WILL SEEK TO AVOID POLITICIZATION OF UNCTAD

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 19 (JTA) -- The Israeli delegation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which just opened in Belgrade, was assured by Yugoslavia's Foreign Minister, Lazar Moisevic, that he will do his best to avoid politicization of the gathering.

Moisevic, who is President of the Conference, made that commitment to Meir Gabay, head of the Israeli delegation. Gabay told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by telephone. The Arab delegations have so far conducted themselves in a low key except for the Jordanians.

Gabay said the head of the Jordanian delegation attacked Israel over the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres last September. Gabay said he replied by pointing out that the killings were done by Lebanese forces and reminded the Jordanians of their own massacre of Palestinians during the "Black September" of 1970.

The Arab delegations have presented a resolution asking UNCTAD to set up a special unit to prepare a report on the economic condition of Arabs in the Israel-occupied territories. Gabay said most Western delegates opposed the resolution.

PALESTINIAN BUYS ANCIENT JEWISH COIN

GENEVA, June 19 (JTA) -- A wealthy Palestinian Arab paid \$160,000 for a rare silver shekel dating from 66-70 CE, auctioned at Sotheby's gallery in Zurich last week. The coin, minted at the time of the first Jewish revolt against Rome, came from the collection of Virgil Brand. Its book value was only \$35,000 and the unexpectedly high bid drew a standing ovation from the audience.

The purchaser, identified only as a Mr. Barakat who has homes in Jerusalem and Beverly Hills, California, said the shekel is for his private collection and will not be for sale. It weighs 14.07 grams.

According to Sotheby, there are only 13 such coins in existence and only four are in private hands; two in Israel, one in the Hunt collection in the U.S. and the fourth now owned by Barakat. (By Tamar Levy)

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The existence of student religious groups in public schools violates the Constitution because it involves the use of the public school facilities for religious proselytizing and requires the presence of teachers to supervise the religious activities, says the American Jewish Congress. In an amicus brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta, the AJC committee says the presence of religious groups on school property creates an "impermissible possibility of administrative entanglement" between government and religion, thereby breaching the principle of church-state separation.