

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ARENS DECLARES ISRAEL RELYING ON DIPLOMACY NOT FORCE TO GET SYRIAN TROOPS TO LEAVE LEBANON

By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) — Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that Israel does not intend to use force to get Syrian troops out of Lebanon but relies hopefully on the diplomatic process. He warned however, in an address to the the Jewish Agency's annual Assembly here this morning, that Israel would have no choice but to take military action again in a few years if a situation existed such as the one that prompted its invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982.

Arens was sharply critical of Egypt which called home its Ambassador in Tel Aviv when the Lebanese war broke out and has still not returned the envoy to his post. He also expressed concern over the large scale military aid Egypt was receiving from the U.S.

With respect to Israel's present situation in Lebanon, Arens said that if Israeli forces were withdrawn unilaterally, the battlefield would again be on Israel's northern border, not the present line 40-50 kilometers north of the border. "We can't pull out of Lebanon and leave Syria there," he said. "The burden of maintaining present positions must be shared. Lebanon and the multi-national peacekeeping force must do their part."

### No Syrian Veto

Declaring that "The Syrians don't have a veto on the Lebanon-Israel agreement," Arens noted that it "has been signed and ratified by both countries, though Syria has done all that it can to harm its success. Furthermore," he continued, "it is not our intention to use military force to get the Syrians out of the area. We hope political pressures will be applied on Syria to leave Lebanon."

Arens contended that the very significant Soviet involvement in Syria is a desperate attempt on the part of Moscow to prevent the loss of its influence in the Middle East. Most of Syria's war losses have been replaced by the Soviets, he said and paid for by Saudi Arabia. He stressed that Israel would do everything in its power to avoid hostilities. But if war does break out, there might be a Soviet physical involvement, the defense chief said.

Arens said the recall of Egypt's Ambassador to Israel was "a blatant violation" of the peace treaty with respect to normalization between the two countries. "We feel it is essential that Egypt meet its commitment, including relations on an Ambassadorial level," he said.

Arens noted that Egypt was modernizing its armed forces on an unprecedented scale and referred to the \$1.7 billion in U.S. military aid that Egypt is receiving. "We are concerned that this aid will not ever be turned against us. We know though, that nothing is 100 percent sure in this world," Arens said.

The Assembly, which winds up tonight, announced new elections and appointments. Max Fisher of Detroit, who has served as chairman of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors since 1971, is retiring. He has been succeeded by Jerold Hoffberger of Baltimore. Fisher has been named chairman of the new committee to implement the "Caesaria Process," the program adopted by the Jewish Agency at Caesaria three years ago.

Leon Dulzin was elected chairman of the Jewish Agency Assembly. Akiva Lewinsky was elected treasurer and Harry Rosen was elected secretary. The membership of the Board of Governors was increased to 72.

## PLO STRIFE CALLED GOOD FOR ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's opinion that the current strife within the Palestine Liberation Organization is good for Israel, was disputed by a former chief of Israel army intelligence at a panel discussion on regional security and national defense today.

Shamir, speaking at the annual conference of the David Institute at the Hebrew University, maintained that any difficulties for the PLO were to Israel's advantage. He said the uprising by PLO dissidents against Yasir Arafat was a direct result of the war in Lebanon which badly mauled the terrorist organization.

But Prof. Yehoshafat Harkabi, the former IDF intelligence chief and a leading strategist and researcher on the Middle East took a less sanguine view. He warned that the rift in the PLO could lead to further radicalization of the organization and make a possible peace settlement in the region even more remote than it seems at present.

According to Harkabi, the war in Lebanon only intensified Soviet involvement in Syria. "It is because of Israel that there is now a massive Soviet presence in Syria. Israel has turned into a Soviet asset," in that respect, he said. He also contended that the war in Lebanon weakened Israel in that it reduced her deterrence.

Another panelist, Prof. Shlomo Avneri, a one-time Director General of the Foreign Ministry, said Israel's action in Lebanon was responsible for putting the Golan Heights on the agenda of any peace negotiations. "Israel can thank its present government for having succeeded to include the Golan in this package deal," he said.

## U.S. DENIES ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTINGENCY AIRBASE IN EGYPT

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) — The State Department today denied published reports that the United States has established a contingency airbase in an unpopulated part of Egypt with 100 aircraft stationed there.

"The United States has no forces permanently assigned in Egypt apart from Defense attaches and the Office of Military Cooperation," Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said.

According to the report in the Washington Post, based on classified Congressional testimony by a high ranking Pentagon official, military supplies worth about \$70 million are stored at the facility and the airbase has been used for the deployment of AWACS radar planes and training missions.

The Pentagon official, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, reportedly told the House Appropriations subcommittee last February that the base "is in the middle of nowhere" and thus "is a very good base for secret operations."

But Romberg emphasized that the U.S. "has no base in Egypt." He referred reporters to a letter by former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat dated July, 1981 to President Reagan which stated an Egyptian offer of "the temporary use of military facilities in Ras Binas for the purpose of assisting any Arab Moslem countries requesting such assistance to repel armed attacks affecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence."

"In his letter, President Sadat emphasized that the use of such facilities should not contradict the non-alliance status and policy of Egypt," Romberg continued. "The United States and Egypt cooperate in a number of ways fully consistent with Egypt's sovereignty and in enhancing security in the Middle East."

Romberg said that Egypt is a "full partner in the Middle East peace process and has often affirmed its interests in providing security in the region. We believe that any cooperation undertaken to support this objective is mutually beneficial."

#### Fairbanks Joining Habib, Draper

The Department spokesman said: "The U.S. has no forces permanently assigned to Egypt.... There are a number of U.S. military personnel on temporary assignment in various locations in Egypt supporting our military systems and providing training in the use of U.S. military equipment.... We don't comment on the operational details of activities of that sort, but the number of personnel in Egypt is not classified."

In an unrelated development, Romberg announced that special negotiator for the autonomy talks, Richard Fairbanks, will join special U.S. envoys to the Middle East Philip Habib and Morris Draper, when they return to the region, probably tomorrow. Romberg said Fairbanks will be working on the U.S. efforts to get the Syrians to withdraw from Lebanon.

#### BURTON'S WIDOW ELECTED; 31 JEWS NOW IN HOUSE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA) -- Sala Galant Burton, the widow of Rep. Philip Burton, won Tuesday the Congressional seat in San Francisco left vacant by the death of her husband last April. Mrs. Burton was born to a Jewish family in Poland and came to the United States with her family in 1939.

The 57-year-old Mrs. Burton will bring the number of Jews in the House to 31. She will increase the number of Jewish women in the House to three, all from California. The others are her fellow San Francisco Democrat, Barbara Boxer and Bobbi Fiedler, a Republican from the Los Angeles area. There are eight Jews in the Senate.

Mrs. Burton received 55 percent of the vote, nearly twice that of her nearest opponent, Duncan Howard, a Republican, who received 22.4 percent of the votes. There were nine other candidates in the campaign.

Mrs. Burton suspended campaigning last Friday when her 94-year-old father died. Dressed in black last night, she did not participate in the victory celebration.

Her husband, who served 18 years in Congress, was one of the leaders of the Democratic majority there and a close supporter of Israel and of liberal and environmental causes. She worked closely with her husband and campaigned on her knowledge of the Washington political scene.

#### HOLLAND ELECTED TO JTA BOARD; FOX IS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- Marvin Holland,

a Rhode Island Jewish communal leader, was elected to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Board of Directors, it was announced by Martin Fox who was re-elected president for a fifth one-year term.

In addition, Fox announced the re-election of William Landau as chairman of the Board; Robert Amow as chairman of the Executive Committee and Raymond Epstein, Philip Slomovitz, Melvin Swig and Marshall Weinberg as vice presidents. Also re-elected were Julius Berman, secretary and Abraham Goodman, treasurer.

Holland, an attorney and industrialist, is immediate past president of the Rhode Island Jewish Federation. He served on the Board and Executive Committee of the Council of Jewish Federations and was chairman of the Smolar Awards Committee for Excellence in North American Jewish Journalism. He is a member of the Regional Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal and chairman of the Regional Conference to take place in October in Hartford, Conn. In addition, Holland serves on numerous national and local boards of trustees and is involved in civic, community and political affairs.

The elections were held at the annual meeting of the JTA Board of Directors in New York on June 8.

#### DUTCH ISSUE UNIFIL ULTIMATUM

AMSTERDAM, June 23 (JTA) -- The Dutch battalion assigned to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) will be withdrawn next October 19 unless the situation in Lebanon shows significant improvement, the government has informed Parliament.

The tenure of the battalion expires July 19. The government is prepared to extend it for three months but not for a six month period as it has done up to now, according to Foreign Minister H. Van Den Broek and Defense Minister Jacob De Ruijter who wrote to Parliament on the subject this week. The Parliament is expected to comply with the government's wishes.

The Cabinet ministers believe the Dutch unit cannot perform any useful task in Lebanon any longer because of the activities of the Israeli army and the Lebanese militia armed and financed by Israel. The Netherlands government has repeatedly protested to Israel but to no avail.

The government is not prepared to assign the battalion to other tasks, as requested by the Lebanese government, such as guarding the Palestinian refugee camps near Sidon and Tyre. Such assignments could involve Dutch soldiers in internal Lebanese conflicts, the government contends and might endanger the legal basis on which conscripts are dispatched to Lebanon.

#### MAPAM CONSIDERING BREAK FROM LABOR

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA) -- Mapam, the left-leaning junior partner in the Labor Alignment, will open its three day convention here tonight to decide whether to stick with Labor or go its separate way in the next Knesset elections.

The party is split evenly on the issue and a close decision is expected when it votes Saturday night. Veteran Mapam leaders want to remain in the Alignment on grounds that a united labor front is necessary to bring down the Likud government. But the party's younger elements, who comprise most of Mapam's Knesset faction, favor a break, though they would continue what they call "cooperation through dialogue" with Labor.

## SWISS JEWS PROTEST TO GOVERNMENT ABOUT CONFERENCE ON PALESTINIANS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 23 (JTA) -- The Federation of Swiss Jewish Communities has protested vehemently to President Pierre Auber over his government's decision, albeit reluctant, to host the United Nations Conference on Palestine in Geneva from August 29-September 7.

In a letter to Auber, who is also Foreign Minister, the Jewish body said it would strive up to the last minute to prevent the conference from being held here because it is incompatible with the essence of the UN Charter. The letter contended that the Palestine conference will not serve the cause of peace but will only support those who aspire to destroy Israel by all means, including international terrorism.

Auber met with the Minister of Police yesterday to discuss preparations for the conference. They said at a press conference later that 2,000 persons are expected to attend, including the delegates, the secretariate and the press. The conference, to be paid for by the UN, is estimated to cost \$6 million. It was switched to Geneva after the French government refused to have it in Paris, the original site, and the Austrian government ruled out Vienna.

### Security Is Main Problem

The main problem cited by the various governments was security, particularly the danger that the gathering could attract terrorist elements. Strong political pressure was brought to bear by Israel and its friends to deny the conference any meeting place. The Swiss were upset and embarrassed when the UN asked for Geneva but felt finally that they could not deny a request from the world organization which maintains its European headquarters here. The Geneva city fathers have appealed to the Swiss Confederation to supply troops to help maintain security.

The Swiss press is almost unanimously opposed to the conference. The Journal D'Geneve warned today that in view of the rebellion now going on in the Palestine Liberation Organization, the city may be turned into a battlefield. "We in Geneva are accustomed to host conferences on peace, not conferences inciting to hatred," the paper said in an editorial.

The European regional preparatory meeting for the conference is scheduled to be held here July 4-8. The conference organizers are seeking someone of ministerial rank to preside at this meeting and turned to Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc of Austria. He declined however on grounds that there was insufficient time to prepare.

The conference is to debate the origins and evolution of the Palestine problem; the economic viability of a Palestinian state; and the reports of the various UN commissions on Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

### FRENCH INVESTIGATE TERRORIST FOR LINK WITH CAFE BOMBING

PARIS, June 23 (JTA) -- An Arab terrorist being held in Lisbon for the April 10 murder of Palestine Liberation Organization official Issam Sartawi, is believed by French police to be the same man who participated in attacks on a Jewish restaurant here last August 9 and on the main synagogue in Rome last October 9.

The suspect, Youcef Al Awat, 26, is allegedly a member of the extremist Abu Nidal gang which has attacked Jewish targets and PLO representatives in several European cities in recent years. The grenade attack on the Jo Goldenberg restaurant on the Rue Des Rosiers in Paris' old Jewish quarter last August claimed six lives and wounded 22. The attack on the Rome synagogue exactly two months later killed a child and wounded 34 other persons.

A French investigating magistrate has flown to Lisbon, accompanied by the chief inspector of the Paris police criminal squad, to interrogate Awat. They are seeking confirmation that the suspect was in Paris last August 9. According to his forged Moroccan passport he was here at the time of the Rue Des Rosiers attack and was also in Rome when the synagogue was attacked.

Police have already determined that the grenades used in Paris and Rome came from the same mould. If suspicions are confirmed that Awat was one of the killers, responsibility for the outrages would fall on Abu Nidal who presently lives under the protection of Iraq and Syria.

### SOVIET JEWS DESCRIBED AS 'VERY ANXIOUS' By Rifka Rosenwein

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- Mary Travers, of the singing group "Peter, Paul and Mary," said this week, after returning from a ten-day trip to the Soviet Union, that the mood among Soviet Jews was "very anxious."

Travers, who visited the Soviet Union and then Israel within the past month, addressed a meeting of the board of governors of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) held at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) headquarters.

The Anti-Zionist Committee "had just been formed a month before we arrived," Travers told a group of reporters after the meeting. "They had released a paper in Moscow and Leningrad, and everyone was talking about it," she said. "No one really knew what direction this new organization was going to take."

Two days after she returned to the United States, the Committee released a statement that all Jews who wanted to emigrate had done so already, she said. "This was fascinating to me since the 80 or so souls that I had met were still there."

Travers' trip, which included meetings in Moscow and Leningrad with Soviet Jews who had applied for exit visas was sponsored by the NCSJ. She was accompanied by Rabbi David Saperstein, Washington representative of the UAHC, and Albert Vorspan, vice president of the Union, and his wife.

Travers and her group met with refuseniks and at times spoke "hours and hours" about Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, President Reagan, Israel and the like, Saperstein said. He and Travers also performed in many homes and at the U.S. Embassy. By the end of the trip, Travers said, she was "singing in Hebrew."

A few days after returning to the United States, Travers travelled with the other two members of her singing group, Peter Yarrow and Paul Stookey to Israel. Appearing before an audience of more than 8000 at Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem, Travers dedicated two songs to the Jewish refuseniks, "Sweet Survivor" and "Dodi Li." She also spoke there with relatives of those she had met in the Soviet Union. "It was very moving, this kind of link," she said.

She met a "broad range" of people in the USSR she said, "with no unified sense of one opinion. What bound them together was that they were a community." But "it is very difficult to function as a community when you have to go to the corner to make a phone call," she added.

Speaking into a microphone for Radio Free Liberty, which is heard inside the Soviet Union, Travers said to those she called her "friends," "I miss you."

# SPECIAL INTERVIEW SYNAGOGUE THAT REMAINS DESPITE URBAN DECAY SUBJECT OF EXHIBIT

By Rifka Rosenwein

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) -- When you walk down the streets of the South Bronx, says resident Moishe Sacks, you see many churches that used to be synagogues. "Then you come to Intervale Avenue and you can't say 'this used to be a synagogue.' And you know why? Because it still is a synagogue!"

The Intervale Jewish Center is the only synagogue still in use in the South Bronx, an area in New York City whose name has become synonymous with urban devastation and decay. The congregation is tiny; its members elderly and poor. Its spiritual leader and acting rabbi is Sacks, a baker. Its newest member is Dr. Jack Kugelmass, an anthropologist.

Kugelmass, a research associate at the Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, does not live in the neighborhood. But for the last three and one-half years, he has regularly attended Shabbat services and the Sunday brunches and study sessions held in the synagogue. He became interested in the synagogue when he was asked to write an article about it; he continued his visits when he decided to do his fieldwork project there. Now he just goes. When he speaks of the congregation, he says "we."

## Keeps Returning To Synagogue

"I don't want to keep going," he said in a recent interview. But he can learn so much there, he continued. "I find it difficult not to go."

The result of his research and interest is "The Miracle of Intervale Avenue," an exhibition of photographs, accompanying texts and a slide presentation that opened at the Jewish Museum June 16 and will remain on view through October 31. He is also writing a book about his experiences.

The point of the exhibit is to show "how people manage their own deaths," he said. The question is, he said, why, despite the efforts of family and relief agencies, do "these old people choose to stay?"

"Their main concern," he explained, "is how to manage the last stages of their lives. They want to die in dignity, which in effect means they want to live out the end in dignity."

## Worry About Who Will Say Kaddish

They also worry about immortality, about who will say Kaddish and who will commemorate their Yahrzeit, Kugelmass said. "To them, the inheritance is immortality," he continued. "They want to leave an object for their children, a house, a car. You sit in a luxury car; to these people, 'it will be them.'"

His other main hope for the exhibit is that it will "break the barrier between us and old people. It's not that these people are stupid and why don't they get out." Rather, "here are people dealing with the deck of cards life dealt them."

"These are us later in life. They don't demand pity, they don't demand money. They don't demand anything from us. They are giving us, giving us information on how to deal with life," Kugelmass explained.

The backdrop for their lives is almost the antithesis of life. In fact, Kugelmass sees the South Bronx "as a metaphor for death itself."

Located close to Manhattan, with large, roomy apartments, the South Bronx was once a large, thriving Jewish community. It was a step up from the Lower East Side for many immigrants and their children.

The exodus from the neighborhood began after World War II, when houses in the suburbs were being subsidized by the government, according to Kugelmass. The

Jewish community became an aging one, with no younger generation to replace it. "That in itself spells the end of a community," he said.

Massive riots were held in the area in the late 1960's. The '70's were just a "disaster," said Kugelmass. Both landlords and tenants were setting buildings on fire not because of a so-called "war" but for money, he said. "Anybody who could, got out," he added, "except for the die-hards."

"The area is grim," he admitted; he said the residents recognize this also. "There are miles and miles of devastation."

"Still," he added, "there are a half million people living there, and they are not all junkies and criminals."

## 2 Dozen Congregants

Around two dozen of them are congregants of the Intervale Jewish Center. For them, the synagogue serves as a focal point -- it provides companionship, social activities and, mostly, the opportunity to continue practicing Jewish ritual, especially the recital of Kaddish and Yahrzeit. As such, it plays a crucial role in their effort to maintain their independence and their dignity.

Many of the residents are close with their children and see them often, but like Mrs. Elsie Miroff, according to Kugelmass, they find the suburbs "boring." On the street, they court her. In the suburbs, she is a grandmother. She doesn't have the same authority as she has on the street."

Mrs. Miroff feeds some of the street people and some of the men who work part-time at the Hunts Point Market, which is nearby. "Mine bums," she calls them, and in turn they protect her. "There is a reciprocity," Kugelmass said, "which contributes to the safety" of the elderly people. They know almost everyone in the neighborhood and when they see a stranger, they always say hello, he said. "It means more security," he explained. "They know (the area) is dangerous, but not for them."

There are striking pictures in the exhibit of some of these elderly people surrounded by the street people. There is no fear in anyone's eyes.

## Always A Minyan

The synagogue building itself "is very decrepit," according to Kugelmass. It smells and suffers from constant leaking. "It wasn't significant 20 years ago," he said, unlike some of the grander synagogues that are now closed.

But here, today, Moishe Sacks goes over the weekly portion every Sunday at brunch, and here, every Shabbat, he somehow finds a minyan, the quorum of ten adult males necessary for the performance of synagogue ritual.

When there were only six men present one time, Sacks said it was okay because anybody over 65 is counted as two, according to the Internal Revenue Service, Kugelmass said. And when there are only nine, as there usually are, Sacks counts God as the tenth. Kugelmass is the ninth.

Sacks believes the synagogue will go on forever, Kugelmass said. As for Kugelmass, he just shrugs his shoulders and smiles.

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BONN (JTA) -- West German police are cracking down on the distributors of a parlour game, the objective of which is to get pawns representing Jews into squares representing Nazi death camps. Police in Zweibruecken in the Saar are investigating two rightwing extremists who allegedly produced the game. The State Prosecutor is expected to charge them with incitement to public disorder and displaying Nazi symbols.