

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ARENS CHARGES PLO USING CAPTURED ISRAELIS FOR 'CRUEL PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE' By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens today charged the Palestine Liberation Organization with using the eight Israeli soldiers captured during the war in Lebanon for the purpose of waging a campaign of "cruel psychological warfare." He also charged the Hadash Communist Party of collaborating with the PLO in this effort.

Arens addressed the Knesset in response to a motion by Hadash MK Meir Wilner who charged the Israeli government with mistreating prisoners at the Al-Ansar camp in south Lebanon where several thousand suspected Palestinian terrorists are being held. Wilner described Al-Ansar as a "concentration camp," that represented "a black spot in the Lebanon war which will take years, perhaps ages, to ease."

The Israeli Defense Minister rejected the charges by Wilner, saying that the camp was regularly visited by officials of the Red Cross. Arens maintained that if only a small percentage of Wilner's charges were true, the International Committee of the Red Cross would have complained about it. He also indicated that Israel was doing its utmost to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers.

### Israel Ready To Negotiate

Arens indirectly reiterated that Israel was ready to negotiate with the PLO for release of the prisoners. Besides the eight soldiers held by the PLO, the Syrians are said to be holding five soldiers and the body of one soldier. Another five soldiers were reported to have been taken captive, but their fate is unknown and they are considered missing.

When Arens asked that the Knesset strike the Hadash motion off the agenda, Labor MK Aharon Harel surprisingly moved to pass the motion "because of its importance" to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. But Harel's move caused anger from the Likud coalition and also from fellow alignment members.

"Once again you cooperate with Rakah," one unidentified MK said, apparently referring to a Hadash non-confidence motion submitted last week regarding the doctor's strike at which time the Labor Alignment voted for the motion. The motion was easily defeated last week. But the Hadash motion today was struck off the agenda when four Alignment members--Raanan Naim, Jacques Amir, Yitzhak Peretz and Tamar Eshel -- voted with the Likud.

### REFORM LEADER DEFENDS DIASPORA'S RIGHT TO SPEAK ON ISRAELI ISSUES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- Rabbi Richard Hirsch, the director general of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, asserted here that because of the distinct and unique relationship between Israel and world Jewry, the diaspora has the right to express its views on Israel's internal and external policies. He said the debate over the future status of the occupied territories was a direct case in point.

Addressing some 500 delegates attending the opening ceremony of the 22nd international conference of the Reform movement yesterday, Hirsch said: "Do diaspora Jews have a right to participate in this debate? Do we, as a world wide religious movement have a right to take sides in this conflict between two schools of Zionist thought? I submit that we not only have a right, but an obligation, both as individuals and as a movement."

According to Hirsch, "if diaspora Jews have the right to speak out in internal policies affecting the fate of Argentinian Jews and Soviet Jews, do they not have the right to speak on issues affecting the Jews of the Jewish State?" He said the issue was not only political but profoundly centered on religious tenets.

"We have before us two conflicting concepts of holiness," Hirsch said. "There are some religious Jews who professing love of the Holy Land and obedience to God, fan the flames of religious fanaticism, violate the civil liberties of minority groups, advocate rule by force and prevent the evolution of conditions leading towards compromise. We call their version of Judaism a perversion. Their love is blind, their Messianism false, and the zealotry dangerous. Their deeds defame the holy faith, desecrate the Holy One, and defile the Holy Land."

### INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR DEBATE REJECTED By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin rejected today a request that the Knesset discuss the need for him to appoint an advisor on intelligence. The Agranat Committee in its report on the 1973 Yom Kippur War recommended that the Premier have such an advisor.

Labor Alignment MK Michael Bar-Zohar introduced a motion for a Knesset discussion. He said there was a feeling among the public that Begin was not functioning properly because of his sorrow over the death of his wife, Aliza, last November, and the death of Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich last week. He said that in addition the ongoing problem of Lebanon was perhaps making the burden of the office too heavy for Begin.

The Premier ignored Bar-Zohar's personal comments, saying that the authority to appoint an intelligence advisor was his alone and was not a subject for the Knesset to discuss.

### KNESSET COMMITTEE TO TAKE UP ISSUE OF MISSING ARGENTINE JEWS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) -- A special Knesset committee made up of members of the Foreign Affairs and Aliya committees will take up the question of the some 1500 Jews that have disappeared in Argentina.

This was decided today after pressure from Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir persuaded the majority in the Knesset not to adopt a resolution by three MKs from different parties condemning the disappearances in Argentina and urging an independent inquiry. Shamir said that such a statement from the Knesset would ham the discreet, but energetic, efforts being

made by Israel to find out the fate of disappeared Jews. As the Knesset heard the motions of the three MKs—Yair Tzaban (Labor Alignment), Geula Cohen (Tehiya) and Dror Zeigeman (Likud) — relatives of missing Argentine Jews sat in the gallery with white kerchiefs around their head, the same symbol used by relatives of the disappeared in Argentina.

Cohen declared that as "a Jewish mother" she felt that she spoke for Jewish mothers throughout the centuries in demanding an inquiry. She said she spoke because they were "kidnapped as Jews." But, she added, "But even if not, if they disappeared as leftists, I have to fight and struggle for them, as I would for any citizen in Israel."

Zeigeman, recently back from a visit to Buenos Aires, spoke passionately against Israeli arms sales to Argentina. During the Falklands War last year, Israel had announced it would not enter into new arms deals with Argentina, he recalled. "Why should it be business as usual now? ..."

### Special Cruelty To Jews

Tzaban said the Knesset was one of the last democratic legislatures on earth to address itself to the issue of the disappeared persons in Argentina. Buenos Aires should be required to disclose what had happened to them, when they disappeared, who arrested them, if they were tried, imprisoned, executed, where they were buried, he declared.

Shamir, replying, said he joined his voice to the grief and outrage. There seemed to have been special cruelty shown towards Jews, he noted.

But it was unjustified to accuse the government of inaction, he continued. A Foreign embassy was naturally restricted, but Israel's Embassy in Buenos Aires had "gone beyond, far beyond, those restrictions" in its intercessions — and "a considerable number, not nearly sufficient, but still a considerable number" had been rescued and some of them were living now in Israel. "You can ask our Ambassador," Shamir said. "Ask the Jews in Argentina ..."

Shamir disclosed to newsmen a month ago that he had submitted to the Argentine authorities, during a visit to Buenos Aires in December, a list of 340 missing Jews and had subsequently been provided information about 33 of them. He said he had summoned the Argentine Ambassador to say that this was insufficient, and had been assured that Buenos Aires would make further efforts.

He said that this assurance seemed to mean that Argentina's April 28 declaration that the "disappeared" should be regarded as no longer alive was not necessarily "their last word."

### OTHER UNIONS SEEKING HIKES OVER 22 PERCENT CEILING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA) — The Histadrut is trying to hold down demands by a number of professional trade unions for a reopening of their contracts which limit them to a 22 percent salary increase in the wake of the end of the doctors' strike.

Spokesmen for the engineers, academics, nurses and technicians have said they would have been prepared to remain silent if the doctors had been granted a small increase above the 22 percent limit. But with the reports that the doctors have won a 60 percent increase, they say they now have no alternative but to demand new increases.

They say that the large extra increase represents a breach by the government of the overall work contract. "If the party of the first part (the government) breaks the agreement, then we, as the party of the second part, are also entitled to say the agreement is

no longer valid." Histadrut spokesmen have said in the past that it would not prevent unions from demanding increases if the employers yielded to one group.

But Yisrael Kessar, head of the Histadrut Trades Union department, said that the economic situation in general, and the good of the country, must also be considered. "That (the new demands) is one thing. It is another to make an effort to save the economy. We will do that. It is also for the good of the workers," he said.

### PENTACOSTALISTS WANT TO STAY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA) — The 15-member family of Pentacostalists who arrived here yesterday from the Soviet Union have been granted 90-day tourist visas but said they plan to apply for permanent resident status.

Piotr Vashchenko, 55, and his 54 year-old wife Avgustina, along with their 12 children, a daughter-in-law and a dog, arrived here after a more than 22 year struggle to immigrate from the Soviet Union. They joined a daughter, Lidiya, who emigrated here last year.

The well publicized plight of the Vashchenkos came after five members of the family slipped by Soviet policemen on the sidewalk in front of the United States Embassy in Moscow and sought asylum there five years ago, claiming religious persecution by the Soviet authorities.

Although they are not Jews, the Vashchenkos came here out of religious convictions. The Pentacostalists are members of a Protestant fundamentalist sect that stresses direct inspiration by the Holy Spirits.

Late in 1981, Lidiya, 32, went on a hunger strike to draw attention to the plight of those in asylum. In January 1982 she left the Embassy for medical treatment. Last March, Lidiya was suddenly summoned to the visa office and told to fill out an application to emigrate. She arrived in Israel April 6.

### EL AL REPORTED RECOVERING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA) — The El Al board of directors met in special session yesterday even though it has no legal status. But temporary receiver Amram Blum, who has been managing the company since it was closed down by the government last year, said he wanted to brief the board on recent developments, as he thought the airline was recovering sufficiently to enable him to hand management back to the directors shortly.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu noted that the airline appeared to be recovering faster than had been anticipated and was winning back passengers who had been attracted to other carriers by the El Al breakdown.

Corfu said El Al losses this year would amount to some \$60 million, half of it due to the government ban on the Israeli airline flying on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays. He indicated the government would cover the losses due to this move. Another \$30 million loss is reported to be due to debt repayments.

Critics of the government have suggested that one way of covering extra expenditure in payment to doctors after their strike is to allow to airline to fly a normal seven day week, thus wiping out the \$30 million dollar Shabat loss on income.

## SUPREME COURT APPROVES STATE TAX RELIEF FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court, in a case which renewed the deep schism in the Jewish community between friends and foes of government aid to private schools, rule 5-4 today that states may grant tax relief to parents for the costs of sending their children to such schools.

The high court upheld the constitutionality of a Minnesota law which permits parents to claim a state income tax deduction of up to \$500 a year for each dependent in grades kindergarten through six and up to \$700 annually for each pupil in grades seven to 12 for tuition, textbooks and transportation costs. The law was passed in 1955.

After tests in district court and an appeals court which upheld the Minnesota law, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. In response Jewish supporters and foes filed friend-of-the-court briefs. Opponents argued that such deductions by parents were just as unconstitutional as were direct governmental grants to such schools. A group of Orthodox organizations responded with a brief which contended there was no difference between such deductions by parents and charitable contributions to such schools and to other religious institutions.

### Jews Differed On Law

The major sponsors for the opposing brief were the National Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL); the National Parent-Teachers Association; the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); and the American Jewish Congress.

Each of the four major sponsors signed the brief on behalf of itself and a number of other organizations, including eight Jewish Federations; eight Jewish Community Relations Councils; and two Jewish Community Councils.

The brief for the measure was written by Nathan Lewin, a Washington attorney who is vice-president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA). Joining in the COLPA brief were nine national Orthodox Jewish organizations.

Minnesota is the only state now providing such tax benefits but experts here agreed that other states would be encouraged by the ruling today to adopt similar legislation.

### Special Relevance To Jews

The Supreme Court opinion was written by Justice William Rehnquist. Two of his statements, in his ruling, were viewed by Jewish observers as having special relevance to the battle within the Jewish community over government aid to Jewish day schools.

Rehnquist held that "a state's decision to defray the cost of educational expenses incurred by parents, regardless of the types of schools their children attend, evidences a purpose that is both secular and understandable." He also wrote that "an educated populace is essential to the political and economic health of any community, and a state's effort to assist parents in meeting the rising cost of educational expenses plainly serves this secular purpose of ensuring that the state's citizenry is well-educated."

### NEW HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP FORMED

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA) -- The formation of a new international human rights organization was announced here today, designed to provide unity and cohesion for Western nations and European countries to

speaking out against human rights abuses in the Soviet Union. The formation of The Interparliamentary Group (IPG) was announced at a joint press conference by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ) and its four initial co-sponsors in the United States: Sens. Dennis DeConcini (D. Ariz.) and Charles Grassley (R. Iowa), and Reps. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) and John Porter (R. Ill.).

Grassley said, "We will be speaking with one voice in the Western world for the plight of people who don't have the human rights we have." Porter said that by "joining together, Western European and American parliamentarians ... will work to maximize the pressures on the Soviet Union to end human rights violations."

According to Lantos, who said the formation of the group was "long overdue," the IPG will help bring maximum pressure in the field of human rights on the Soviet Union. "We have to speak in one voice stretching from Norway to New Zealand," he said. DeConcini blamed the number of people allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union on "fading" interest, and said, "The world united can bring about the public perception and pressure on the Soviet Union to be reasonable in their emigration policies."

The IPG headquarters will be in Washington and London and funded entirely from the private sector. It will be led by Paul Meek, the executive director of the UCSJ. It is expected to gain the support of as many as 1,000 legislators from the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, and Spain as well as other countries. Its first international conference will be held in Paris in May, 1984 where six issues of Soviet human rights performances will be addressed.

### Coordinate Human Rights Advocacy

Meek said the goal of the IPG is "to coordinate advocacy of human rights as an adjunct to bilateral and multilateral diplomatic efforts." It also hopes to complement the Madrid conference on human rights and carry out the goals of the Helsinki Final Act, Meek said.

Lynn Singer, president of the UCSJ, said the new organization was the product of discussions between the U.S. and West European officials "on how best to draw world wide attention to human rights abuses in the Soviet Union ... We hope to have everyone working together to draw public attention to human rights abuses."

Singer meanwhile released the text of a letter written by a 7-year-old Soviet Jewish boy, Avi Goldstein, from the town of Tbilisi, that was sent to Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine asking her to give the letter detailing Soviet harassment of his refusenik family to Soviet leader Yuri Andropov. Smith, who wrote to Andropov about U.S.-Soviet relations, was invited by the Soviet leader to visit the USSR this summer. Singer said she did not know whether Smith would deliver the Goldstein letter to Andropov.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Parliament has decided almost unanimously to comply with a government recommendation that the Dutch contingent in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) be withdrawn from Lebanon next October 19. Parliament agreed with the Foreign and Defense ministers who stated in a recent letter that since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982, the Dutch battalion assigned to UNIFIL has been unable to carry out its mission.

## NEW JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCED, DULZIN STILL CHAIRMAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- A new Jewish Agency Executive was announced today after seven months of inter-party wrangling which followed the most recent World Zionist Congress here last December, headed by Leon Dulzin of the Likud-Union of General Zionists as chairman.

Akiva Levinsky of the Labor Zionists, was named treasurer. Raanan Weitz of Labor and Matti Drobless of Likud-Herut, were named joint heads of the Settlement Department. Uri Gordon of Labor heads Youth Aliya; Yitzhak Meir of Mizrahi, heads traditional education, and Avraham Katz of Likud-General Zionists, heads Youth and Hechalutz.

Others named are Eli Tavin of Herut, head of education; Avraham Shenker of Mapam-Labor, heads the Community Services department. Eliazer Sheffer of Mizrahi heads the Young Leadership department. Yitzhak Warszawski of the World Confederation of General Zionists heads the Organization Department. David Avayou of the Sephardim heads the Department of Sephardi Communities; Avraham Avihai of Confederation is Keren Hayesod chairman. Moshe Rivlin of Labor is Jewish National Fund chairman.

### Grievances Assuaged

Mordechai Dayan of Herut was named deputy JNF chairman. Bernice Tannenbaum of Hadassah (Confederation) was named head of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization.

The posts of Gordon and Sheffer were a key to the inter-party jousting on appointments. The post for Dayan was established to assuage Likud-Herut grievances.

The focal dispute on the Aliya department has been put on ice until the next meeting of the Jewish Agency board of governors takes place in October. Meanwhile, Raphael Kotlowitz remains as head of the Aliya department and, at the same time, the opposition to him on the part of American members of the board of governors remains implacable.

Dulzin, who was re-elected executive chairman without opposition at the December Congress meeting, formally announced the make-up of the executive. The announcement followed a meeting of the Jewish Agency executive at which the dispute over Kotlowitz was high on the behind-the-scenes agenda.

The refusal of the American members to support Kotlowitz, reportedly because they feel he does not communicate well with diaspora communities, and their refusal to accept Tavin in his stead, sparked bitterness between them and Israeli Likud leaders. Premier Menachem Begin, in a reported manifestation of this bitterness, failed to attend the closing session of the Jewish Agency's annual assembly, as he had been scheduled to do.

Kotlowitz reportedly will continue to head the Aliya department, despite the Assembly's refusal to reappoint him to the post he has held for the past five-and-a-half years. Although the Diaspora Jewish leaders at the Assembly found Kotlowitz "unsuitable" for reappointment, the Assembly ended without choosing a successor. Under Agency rules, the incumbent Kotlowitz remains in office until a replacement is found at the October board of governors meeting.

### BRONFMAN MEETS WITH SPANISH, IVORY COAST LEADERS ON ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA) -- Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, had private

meetings here with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast. The subject of diplomatic relations with Israel figured prominently in both discussions, a WJC spokesman reported.

The spokesman said the meetings were "highly positive" and reported that Gonzalez invited Bronfman to pay an official visit to Madrid next fall. Bronfman was accompanied at his meeting with Gonzalez by Howard Squadron, immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Meanwhile, the leader of Liberia, Commander-in-Chief Samuel Doe, is seeking agreement of the People's Redemption Council, the representative body in Liberia, to open talks with Israel on the resumption of diplomatic relations, according to a Radio Monrovia broadcast monitored here by the WJC. Doe spoke of the possible "role Liberia could play to help establish genuine peace in the Middle East" and indicated that if given a mandate, he was prepared to talk with the Prime Minister of Israel.

### Doe Urges Negotiations

Doe noted, according to the broadcast, that in the ten years since Liberia and other African nations severed relations with Israel in accordance with the decision of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) after the October, 1973 war, no satisfactory progress has been made toward peace in the Middle East. Doe said "This is because we avoided direct talks with Israel."

He said Liberia firmly believes in the settlement of disputes by negotiations and while it remains committed to the Arab cause, "the settlement in Lebanon and the return of all Arab lands and the Palestinian question would be more fruitfully resolved through negotiations."

Doe said that if the Peoples Council responds positively to his proposal, "We will proceed in the spirit of the Camp David accords and Liberia's traditional belief in good will among nations, to give due consideration to the establishment of relations with Israel." He urged other African leaders to act more constructively toward the Middle East because "After ten years, our isolation of Israel has only helped to antagonize the achievement of peace in that area."

### BEN YEHUDA GRAVES DESECRATED

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA) -- The graves of three leading members of the Ben Yehuda family were desecrated last night on the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem.

The desecrated graves were of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the reviver of modern Hebrew, his wife, Hemda, and his son, Itamar Ben Avi. Slogans condemning the renewal of archaeological digs were smeared on the tombstones.

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BONN (JTA) -- Thirty-eight years after Hitler's death, the town of Hagen in North Rhine-Westphalia has decided to deprive the fuhrer of the honorary citizenship it bestowed on him on April 8, 1933, shortly after he became Chancellor of the Third Reich. The town council withdrew the honor because of Hitler's criminal acts. Hagen is the second West German town to do so; Paderborn was the first. More than a dozen other towns throughout Germany have failed to take similar action. The Interior Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia explained that the title of honorary citizen normally expires with the death of the person concerned.