

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Tuesday, July 12, 1983

No. 131

## U.S. SAYS DECISION TO REBUILD OLD JEWISH QUARTER OF HEBRON IS NOT 'HELPLESS' TO THE PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration asserted today that the Israeli government's decision to rebuild the old Jewish quarter of Hebron was not "helpful" to the peace process.

"We do not consider plans to build settlements in Hebron to be helpful in achieving an atmosphere on the West Bank conducive to the peace process," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said.

The decision on Hebron was made by the Israel Cabinet yesterday in the wake of the murder by Arabs last week in central Hebron of a 19-year-old American-born yeshiva student, Aharon Gross. The State Department on Friday condemned the murder as well as the apparent retaliatory burning of the Hebron central market, reportedly by Jewish militants.

Romberg, in his remarks today, repeated President Reagan's statement in his September 1 peace initiative in which Reagan said "further settlement activity is in no way necessary for the security of Israel and only diminishes the confidence of the Arabs that a final outcome can be freely and fairly negotiated."

Romberg did not appear to see any difference in rebuilding what had once been the Jewish quarter of Hebron until the 1929 massacres and the new settlements being created on the West Bank.

## PARENTS OF SLAIN YESHIVA STUDENT SAY GOVERNMENT MEMBERS ARE MAKING POLITICAL CAPITAL OF BOY'S DEATH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- The parents of slain yeshiva student Aharon Gross have accused members of Premier Menachem Begin's government of making political capital of the youth's death by stabbing in the Hebron market place last Thursday. They also complained that no representative of the government has visited or called them to express condolences in their grief or to explain the circumstances of their son's death.

The family, Orthodox Jews, emigrated from the United States in 1974 and live in the Kiryat Itri quarter, a religious neighborhood with a large American immigrant population.

Yehudit Gross, mother of the 19-year-old victim, singled out Science Minister Yuval Neeman, leader of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party for criticism, according to an interview published in the Jerusalem Post today. Neeman spoke at the youth's funeral, held in Jerusalem at midnight Thursday. According to Mrs. Gross he came uninvited and made misstatements about her son.

She said the family wanted a private service but agreed to have Defense Minister Moshe Arens speak for five minutes. "But ... Neeman came instead," Mrs. Gross said. "I wanted to stop him but didn't because of the place. He said Aharon had been among the anti-withdrawal protesters at Ophira (in Sinai in 1982) but that wasn't true. Neeman didn't know the facts and he didn't know Aharon," she said.

The young man's grandfather, Rabbi Yehuda Ginsberg, was also bitter. "The government has been so thoughtless," he said. "I am so ashamed. We came here because we belong in Eretz Israel and we are willing to pay the price ... Now every political group is trying to use this tragedy for its own advantage."

Aharon's mother added, "We don't want revenge. We only want to know what really happened." The family has sent telegrams to Begin and to Interior Minister Yosef Burg demanding to know why their son, stabbed by unidentified assailants, did not receive immediate medical treatment and why, although he wore ritual fringes as is the custom of Orthodox Jews, he was mistaken for an Arab.

The young man lay bleeding in the gutter for some time before he was taken by local Arabs to the Hebron hospital where he was pronounced dead by Arab doctors who believed him to be an Arab. According to some reports, fellow yeshiva students did not minister to him after the stabbing but engaged in a running gun battle with his attackers who fled in a car. Some accounts said Aharon was mistaken for one of the fleeing Arabs who was reported, erroneously, to have been wounded in the gun fight.

Mrs. Gross told the Post, "The American Vice Consul in Jerusalem came to our house immediately on Friday morning. He had recognized our name from a passport request ... But no one from our own government has come," she said.

## Wanted To Practice His Faith

According to Mrs. Gross, her son simply wanted to practice his faith and was not ideological. But politicians, such as Neeman, have made it appear that he was a militant. She said she selected the Hebron yeshiva for her son not for ideological reasons but because she wanted a school with a close rabbi-student relationship. The Hebron yeshiva is linked to the Gush Emunim zealots. Aharon was not active in the Gush Emunim, his mother said.

She said that before Israel returned Sinai to Egypt in April, 1982, many of his classmates went there to demonstrate against the withdrawal. But her son stayed in school and studied. He was studious, talented and helpful to all, she said. The young man's father, Alexander Gross, is a lawyer and army reservist. He was wounded in Lebanon last summer. The family has five other children.

## SOME KIRYAT ARBA JEWS WANT HEBRON AREA TO BECOME JEWISH SETTLEMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- Kiryat Arba Jews who ransacked and burned the Arab market place in Hebron following the stabbing of a yeshiva student there last Thursday, are demanding that the area be turned over to them for Jewish settlement.

The militants are supported in the Cabinet by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Science Minister Yuval Neeman, leader of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction. Sharon, now a Minister-Without-Portfolio, proposed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting that much of the market and the central bus station be made into a Jewish settlement because, he claimed, the land had been Jewish property before the 1929 Arab riots.

Sharon also proposed building a wide road through the center of Hebron to link Kiryat Arba with the Machpela cave, the Patriarchs' tomb sacred to Moslems and Orthodox Jews. While the Cabinet endorsed plans to greatly expand the Jewish presence in Hebron, there was little support among the ministers for Sharon's far-reaching proposals. Sources here said that while the Kiryat Arba demands appear to have been blocked, Sharon and Neeman will continue to press them on the government.

The curfew clamped on Hebron after the stabbing last Thursday was lifted this morning but tension between Arabs and Jews ran high. Violence almost erupted at the Machpela cave where Jews who claimed to have been "threatened" by Arabs cocked their rifles. They amny moved in quickly to end the confrontation.

#### PRO-PLO GROUP HOLDS CONCLAVE

DETROIT, July 11 (JTA) -- An organization calling itself the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, which claims a membership of 20,000, held a convention in Dearborn at which it pledged continued support for embattled Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

During its four-day convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Detroit suburb, the convention heard the PLO's deputy observer at the United Nations, Dr. Hatem Hussaini, claim that Arafat "is not on the ropes. He is getting stronger." The reference was to the fighting between PLO elements in Lebanon, and Arafat's leadership being threatened by Syrian-backed factions.

The convention received a message from Arafat calling for "revolution until victory" and a letter from President Reagan calling for the organization to join in the Middle East peace effort.

Meanwhile, last Friday, several hundred "Islamic" demonstrators marched in downtown Detroit carrying photographs and placards bearing the picture of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. They chanted slogans and carried signs calling for "death to American imperialism" and "cancer of the Middle East, Israel must not exist."

The Detroit area has one of the largest concentrations of Arab residents in the U.S., estimated at 125,000-200,000. The American Federation of Ramallah claims to be the largest Palestinian organization outside the Middle East, with 20,000 members in the U.S., 5,000 in the Detroit area. The group announced at its convention that it plans to build a \$1 million cultural center in the Detroit area.

#### SHAMIR IS CONFIDENT LEBANON WILL LIVE UP TO ITS MAY 17 AGREEMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today that Israel is confident that Lebanon will live up to the agreement it signed with Israel last May 17, despite the long history of broken agreements in the Middle East.

Shamir spoke before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in reply to Labor MK Yossi Sarid's assertion that President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon is moving toward annulment of the agreement. Gemayel was reported to have warned Secretary of State George Shultz a week ago that Lebanon might reconsider its agreement with Israel if the Israelis redeployed their troops in Lebanon without offering a timetable for complete withdrawal from that country.

Shamir said he was satisfied with the Israel-Lebanon agreement even though it has not been implemented because of Syria's refusal to pull its own forces out of Lebanon. He said there was considerable weight to words in relations between neighboring countries and noted that there are important elements in Lebanon who do not want their territory used again as a base for terrorist activity against Israel.

Shamir said it was in Israel's interest that Lebanon remains independent and that Gemayel proves to be a stronger President than his predecessors.

#### RUMORS NOTWITHSTANDING, BEGIN AND REAGAN WILL MEET AS SCHEDULED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's visit to Washington at the end of this month is on, despite rumors to the contrary here and in Washington. Officials close to Begin said this weekend that the July 27 meeting with President Reagan at the White House will take place as scheduled.

They said Begin's visit was likely to comprise mainly political talks, and few if any public appearances before Jewish or other groups. They said the visit would last four days -- the extent of the official sojourn in Washington.

Reports from Washington at the end of last week, citing American sources, said Begin wanted to defer the trip for health reasons. This was denied by sources close to the Premier here. But some of the sources do not hide Begin's lack of enthusiasm over the visit at the present time.

They indicate that the Premier feels the visit may not contribute positively to the relationship between the two countries if he is required to enter into a direct argument with Reagan over Israel's plan -- to which the U.S. objects -- for a partial redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon.

#### Unlikely To Meet With Jewish Groups

Despite the insistence by sources close to Begin that his physical condition is not a problem in connection with the imminent trip, observers cannot help noting that unlike on previous occasions, Begin this time apparently plans to forego public appearances before Jewish groups.

If this turns out to be the case, it will dovetail into the pattern of few and brief public appearances that the Premier has established here at home over the past several months. The conventional wisdom among political and media pundits to explain this behavior is that Begin is still depressed by the death of his wife, Aliza, last November and depressed, too, by the complicated and unsatisfactory outcome of the Lebanon war.

At a long-deferred meeting of the Herut Central Committee that finally convened in Tel Aviv last Thursday night, Begin made one of the briefest addresses he has ever made to his party. This inevitably added to the speculation that he is not at the peak of his form at this time.

#### RACIST GROUP PLANS TO APPEAL COURT DECISION DENYING IT TAX EXEMPT STATUS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, July 11 (JTA) -- The National Alliance, described by the American Jewish Congress as an openly racist group, plans to appeal a federal appeals court decision denying it tax exempt status, the AJCongress said it learned today.

A ruling which overturned a lower court decision upholding tax exemption for the Alliance was hailed by an AJCongress official as a major step in closing a tax loophole used by such organizations as the Alliance to finance virulent anti-Semitic and racist propaganda.

Norman Redlich, co-chairman of the AJCongress commission on law and social action, said this was the first known decision denying a federal tax exemption to a group whose program consists of issuing racist propaganda.

The Alliance, a Virginia corporation with its office in Arlington, had argued that it was entitled to tax exemption because it served an "educational function." The federal district court for the District of Columbia, had ordered the Internal Revenue Service, on May 27, 1981, to grant the exemption. The IRS appealed the lower court decision.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned last June 28 the lower court order, ruling that the Alliance did not meet requirements set up by Congress for tax exemption because Alliance materials were not "educational" under "any reasonable interpretation" of that term.

The stated purpose of the Alliance is "arousing in white Americans of European ancestry an understanding of and a pride in their racial and cultural heritage and an awareness of the present dangers to that heritage."

#### Sees No Danger To First Amendment

Redlich said that decision, if upheld on any further appeals, would insure that American taxpayers would not be forced to subsidize the publication and distribution, under the guise of educational activities, of crude anti-Semitic and other racist materials. Redlich, who is dean of the New York University law school, said the appeals court decision did not in any way endanger First Amendment rights. The AJCongress filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the IRS position.

Redlich said the Alliance's principal publication, "Attack 1" published in newspaper format, contains stories, pictures and editorials alleging that "non-whites" -- principally Blacks -- are inferior to white Americans of European ancestry, and are aggressively harmful and dangerous, and that "Jewish control" of United States government policy is harmful to the interests of white Americans of European ancestry.

The appeals court decision declared that "even under the most minimal requirement of a rational development of a point of view, National Alliance's materials fall short. The material may express emotions felt by a number of people, but it cannot reasonably be considered intellectual exposition."

If the Alliance implements plans to appeal, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told, it has two options. It may ask for a re-hearing of the case by the Court of Appeals or it may seek a Supreme Court review of the appeals court ruling. The JTA also was told AJCongress officials do not have information on when the Alliance will appeal the circuit court ruling or which option it plans to choose.

#### PLIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA) -- Fact-finding missions to Ethiopia from the U.S. have a difficult time learning of the plight of the Falashas because the Ethiopian Jews are intimidated by the government, a Jew who escaped from Ethiopia last November asserted here today.

Simcha Desta, in a Capital Hill briefing for Congressional staff members, said that any meeting of Ethiopian Jews with foreign visitors are always infiltrated by government spies. In addition, he

noted that if foreign visitors complain to the Ethiopian government about the treatment of Falashas, Ethiopian Jews are arrested after the foreigners leave.

Desta said Jews in Ethiopia are persecuted because of their religion. He said that while Christians are arrested for political reasons, Jews are arrested only for practicing their religion.

He said the Ethiopian government has closed synagogues and Jewish schools and has forbidden the teaching of Hebrew and the practice of Jewish religious tenets. He said that when a foreign group comes to Ethiopia, the synagogues are reopened and then closed as soon as the foreigners leave.

Desta was accompanied to the briefing by David Makovsky, president of the North American Jewish Students Network, and Seth Vogelmann, chairperson of the Network's National Ethiopian Jewry Task Force.

Makovsky, who was recently in Ethiopia with a group that included two Israelis, said they were able to have intimate conversations with the Falashas because all spoke Hebrew. But, he said, wherever he went he was accompanied by a guard carrying a Soviet-made Kalachnikov rifle.

#### Urges Americans To Speak Up

The briefing was scheduled today by Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) to arouse Congressional awareness of the plight of the Falashas, Lantos and Sen. Paul Tsongas (D. Mass.) have introduced concurrent resolutions in the House and Senate in support of Ethiopian Jewry.

Desta, who now lives in California with his wife and young daughter, said he was imprisoned and tortured for nine months for trying to escape with his family from Ethiopia. He said that when a Jew escapes from Ethiopia, his family and friends are tortured in reprisal.

The young Ethiopian Jew, who plans to immigrate to Israel soon, called on Americans to speak up for the rights of Ethiopian Jews. He also urged that U.S. Consular offices in Ethiopia and neighboring countries assist Ethiopian Jews in getting to the U.S., Israel or other "safe" countries.

He noted that President Reagan has authorized 3,000 refugee immigrants from Africa for 1983 and only 1,000 such visas have been used so far. He said many of these entry visas could be given to Ethiopian Jews.

#### PROTEST AGAINST CITY OF DAVID DIG

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- About 2,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews caused a mammoth traffic jam in downtown Jerusalem this evening in a protest demonstration against the resumption of archaeological excavations in the City of David just outside the Old City walls. Several policemen were injured in clashes with religious zealots. Twenty-five protestors were arrested.

The Education Ministry last month licensed Hebrew University archaeologist Yigal Shilo to continue with the digging after it was suspended because of claims by Orthodox Jews that ancient Jewish cemeteries were being desecrated. The area where digging is permitted, known as Area G, was delineated in an agreement reached between the Ministry and the Chief Rabbinate.

The Orthodox demonstrators said they did not seek a license from the "Zionist police" for their prayer and psalm-singing session in what is known as "Shabbos Square," a traditional Jerusalem site for Orthodox rallies. Cordons of police prevented attempts by the demonstrators to move toward the digging site. But a melee developed in which a policewoman was knocked unconscious and several regular and border policemen sustained injuries.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES SUCCESS OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN MOSCOW IN 1948 DOOMED USSR-ISRAEL RELATIONS By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, July 11 (JTA) -- Harrison Salisbury, former national editor of The New York Times and correspondent for that newspaper in Moscow from 1949 to 1955, says in a recent memoir that the success of the Israel Embassy in Moscow was one of the reasons which prompted Stalin to a demented attack against Soviet Jews.

In his book, "A Journey for Our Times" (Harper & Row), an autobiographical account of his experiences in the Soviet capital, Salisbury reveals that the Israel Embassy was the envy of all other legations.

"The quality of the Moscow diplomatic corps was not high. Expertise at the American Embassy after (George) Kennan's forced withdrawal was thin ... The extraordinary skills of the Israelis would soon be lost," Salisbury writes.

"They had staffed their mission with Russian-born, Russian-speaking diplomats. They had unrivaled access to friends, relatives, coreligionists -- one reason, I thought why Stalin developed such paranoia about them."

Salisbury says that when Golda Meir took up her position as Israel's Ambassador in the Soviet capital in 1948 long lines of Jews queued up outside the Metropol Hotel in order to shake hands with her.

"That exhibition in central Moscow within sight of the Lubyanka (prison) hit Stalin's anti-Semitic nerve and may have touched off the cosmopolitanism drive. In an indirect way, it may have caused Stalin to decree the deaths of the members of the Jewish anti-Fascist Committee," Salisbury says.

### Cites Other Developments

He also writes about other developments that led to attacks against Jews and Israel at the time. Salisbury says that during the halcyon days of Israeli-Soviet relations Jaffa oranges were being sold in Moscow for the equivalent of \$5 each in local stores.

Moscovites attributed the availability of the Israeli citrus to Anastas Mikoyan, the Soviet minister responsible for food imports. Rumor had it, says Salisbury, that the Russians had paid Israel a penny-and-a-half for each orange, the resulting profit going directly into Kremlin coffers.

Salisbury recounts that on his arrival in the Soviet capital in 1949 he found the city under a siege mentality. Western diplomats were virtually under house arrest in their Embassy compounds. Soviet citizens, with rare exception, were petrified to be seen talking to Westerners.

### Anti-Semitic Jokes Abound

While he was not aware at that time what had happened to the Jewish intelligentsia, Salisbury reports that a major staple of Moscow talk consisted of anti-Semitic jokes. In his memoir, Salisbury records some of those anti-Jewish stories and recalls that on a number of occasions he chided his Russian friends for engaging in such anti-Semitic banter.

The response was always the same, says Salisbury. After telling the most nauseating anti-Jewish stories, they would, upon being challenged by him, insist that there was no such thing as anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union because it had been officially banned in the Soviet Constitution.

By referring to notes he made during his almost six-year stint in Moscow, Salisbury is able to reconstruct the atmosphere of hysteria which was circulating in Russia in the years before Stalin's death. One of the elements in that hysteria was the report of economic crimes found in Soviet newspapers.

The perpetrators were identifiably Jewish in each case. He cites one newspaper account of the summary execution of three Jews reported in the Soviet press in 1950. Their names gave them away. The death penalty was the talk of the town because it was unprecedented.

Salisbury says that Stalin's wild accusations against Jewish physicians (later retracted under Khrushchev) were widely accepted as true by the Soviet people. During the early 1950's Salisbury had occasion to visit friends in a Moscow hospital and he recalls the vicious conversations he heard in that institution about the wickedness of Jewish physicians.

### 'NEW DE-NAZIFICATION' PROCESS IN GERMANY SPARKS POLITICAL BATTLE

By David Kantor

BONN, July 11 (JTA) -- Demands for the resignation of a prominent radio executive because of his Nazi past has touched off a political battle between the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

Richard Becker, 57, director general of Deutschlandfunk (DLF) a major West German radio station, admits that he joined the Waffen SS as a teen-ager but has rejected calls for his resignation because of "the political perplexity of a 17 or 18-year-old man." Becker is a member of the SPD and a longtime trade union activist.

But only two weeks ago, Theo Loch, a member of the CDU, was forced to resign as director of WDR television in Cologne because of his past membership in the Waffen SS.

### Brandt Attacks The Process

Former Chancellor Willy Brandt, leader of the SPD, spoke out yesterday, apparently in support of Becker. He issued a statement attacking attempts to start a "new de-Nazification" process like the one introduced by the occupying powers after World War II. He condemned "the practice of choosing at random people who are playing a role in public life" and disqualifying them for their former membership in Nazi organizations.

Brandt recalled that the SPD had decided as early as its 1946 convention that young persons "seduced by Nazi propaganda" were not responsible for Nazi crimes unless they were personally involved in them.

Becker said that at age 17 he was taken in by the slogans of the Waffen SS and volunteered. But, he added, "I have totally broken with my youthful mischief and did not make known my membership in the Waffen SS" when he was appointed to head the DLF.

CDU Bundestag member Willi Weiskirch complained that while his party's activists, such as Loch, are being removed from their jobs because of past membership in Nazi organizations, SPD supporters have been excused. He accused the SPD of opening a campaign against CDU members who once belonged to Nazi formations.

Becker, in his remarks, did not comment on Loch's resignation but insisted that since the end of World War II he has proven his dedication to democracy. Loch went through the de-Nazification process after the war and was labeled a "fellow traveller" rather than a Nazi. His past was known when he was employed by WDR but it was not raised again when he was promoted.