

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

Wednesday, July 20, 1983

No. 137

BEGIN CALLS OFF WASHINGTON VISIT; 'PERSONAL REASONS' CITED

By David Friedman (Washington) and David Landau (Jerusalem)

July 19 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Menachem Begin will not be coming to Washington next week for "personal reasons," the White House announced this morning.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said Begin informed President Reagan of his change of plans in a five-minute telephone conversation. He said the Premier did not explain what he meant by "personal reasons" nor did Reagan ask him. The two had been scheduled to meet at the White House on July 27.

Speakes said both Reagan and Begin agreed that they would try to reschedule the meeting "sometime later this year."

When Reagan was questioned about Begin's cancellation of his visit -- after he bid farewell to Amin Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalisa, the Emir of Bahrain -- the President would say only that he was told it was for personal reasons. Begin and Reagan last met in June, 1982 and were to have met again last November when the Premier was visiting the U.S. But Begin cut his visit short because of the death of his wife, Aliza.

Possible Reasons Cited

In Jerusalem, Begin's aides would not explain what "personal reasons" prompted the Premier's decision not to go to Washington at this time. They denied vehemently that he was ill or physically incapable of making the trip. But they did let it be known that Begin was less than enthusiastic about it and believed that nothing could be gained from a meeting with Reagan at this time.

Some observers suggested that he wanted to avoid a face-to-face quarrel with Reagan over U.S. objections to Israel's plans to redeploy its forces in Lebanon to shorter, more defensible lines. Others cited Begin's dour and doleful mood of late, as reflected in his limited and uncharacteristically low key public appearances. The Premier was said to be still deeply depressed by the death of his wife.

While the cancellation of his trip to Washington was unexpected, it had been rumored for several weeks that it might be put off. Those rumors were constantly denied by Begin's spokesmen. Only this morning, aides announced that Begin would fly to Washington next Monday, hold two days of talks with Reagan and top Administration officials, receive a delegation of national Jewish leaders in Washington, and fly home to Israel Friday morning.

ADMINISTRATION SURPRISED BY BEGIN'S DECISION TO CANCEL VISIT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration, which for weeks has been denying reports that either Israeli Premier Menachem Begin or President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon would cancel their trips to Washington, appear-

ed surprised by Begin's decision to cancel, announced today. No one could give any reason for Begin's decision except the unexplained "personal reasons" given by Begin himself.

One issue that was of immediate concern is Israel's plan to redeploy its forces in Lebanon which has been hanging fire pending Begin's visit to Washington. State Department spokesman John Hughes stressed today that discussions on this issue have been going on and would continue without Begin having to come to Washington. He pointed out that there are "good channels" both in Washington and Jerusalem for communications between Israel and the U.S.

No Effect On Gemayel Visit

Hughes said Begin's cancellation of his trip would have no effect on the Gemayel visit here. Anything that is accomplished could be communicated to the Israelis, he said.

Gemayel, who arrives here today, will meet with Senate and House members tomorrow and with Secretary of State George Shultz at the State Department and Vice President George Bush at the White House on Thursday. He meets with Reagan at the White House Friday after first going to the Pentagon for a meeting with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Gemayel also plans to meet with the Emir of Bahrain, Amin Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalisa, at the Bahrain Embassy here. An Administration official said that Lebanon was discussed at the meeting between the Emir and Reagan and that the Emir had emphasized the need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the Syrians and Palestine Liberation Organization as well as Israeli. But, the official noted, "no magic solutions" were offered.

REPORT GEMAYEL AND HUSSEIN MEET IN FRANCE TO COORDINATE POLICY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 19 (JTA) -- Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Jordan's King Hussein held a surprise meeting in Cannes last night to coordinate their stand on the eve of Gemayel's visit to Washington for talks with President Reagan and other Administration officials. Lebanese sources said the two had agreed on a joint policy based on backing Lebanon's independence and territorial sovereignty.

The sources said Gemayel will ask Reagan to press Israel not to break the tripartite agreement concluded with Lebanon and the United States and not to undertake unilateral partial withdrawal. Hussein, the sources said, also backed Gemayel's call for American reassurances and promises to Syria that Lebanon will not become a hostile territory nor harbour any anti-Syrian elements.

Hussein, the Lebanese said, supports American and Lebanese reassurances and came out in favor of close diplomatic contacts between Beirut and Damascus to obtain a Syrian withdrawal from the Bekaa valley.

ISRAEL'S BOND WITH ITS DRUZE COMMUNITY APPEARS TO BE THREATENED BY Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) -- Israel's long standing "blood bond" with its Druze population appeared to be threatened today because of the fighting between Druze and Christians in Lebanon. Young leaders of Israel's Druze community warned that this might happen because of the Israel army's alleged failure to protect Lebanese Druze.

The Druze, a non-Arab Moslem group, have always been loyal to the Israeli state, serve in the army and hold positions in government. But that relationship became strained since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, and particularly since fighting broke out between Israel-backed Christian Phalangists and Druze villagers in the Israel-occupied Shouf mountains.

Druze List Of Demands

Druze speakers at a press conference here today said hundreds of Israeli Druze wanted to desert to Lebanon to help their brethren who, they said, were facing annihilation. Zeidan Atachi, a former information officer at an Israeli consulate in the U.S., and Sa'id Halabi demanded that Israel get the Phalangists out of the Shouf mountains, open the roads to Druze villages, return the villagers' weapons, and pay reparations for Druze orchards and vehicles damaged in recent weeks.

They also demanded an inquiry into the "treatment of the Lebanese Druze by various security branches" of the Israeli forces in Lebanon. Reporters were told that Druze officers serving in Lebanon were invited to resign two months ago if Israeli policies conflicted with their loyalty to their Druze brethren in Lebanon. The officers were told that Israel was about to organize a Christian Lebanese army headed by Maj. Saad Haddad.

QUIET PRAYERS, NON-VIOLENT RALLIES MARK TISHA B'AV

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) -- Tisha B'Av was observed here with quiet prayers, a noisy but non-violent demonstration against autopsies and grumbings from the Aguda Israel members of Premier Menachem Begin's coalition who were unable to secure the release of 11 ultra-Orthodox Jews jailed for rioting last week.

The holiday, a day of fasting in memory of the destruction of the Temple, brought throngs of tourists to the Western Wall where they mingled with Israeli worshippers, among them former President Yitzhak Navon and his son, Erez.

Several dozen members of the "Temple Mount Faithful" held prayer services near the Mograbi Gate which gives access to the Temple Mount. The group has been trying for years to win permission to pray on the Mount itself which is the site of the El Aksa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, two of the holiest shrines of Islam.

Jews are barred from worshipping there to avoid friction with Moslems. But the "Faithful" seemed satisfied with a Supreme Court order allowing a "reasonable number" of them to hold services near the Mograbi Gate without stipulating that they stand at least five yards away from the gate.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews in the Geula quarter rallied against autopsies, an annual Tisha B'Av event in recent years. But there was none of the violence that marked the demonstrations in the Mea Shearim quarter last week against archaeological diggings near the Old City walls.

The Aguda Israel Knesset faction appealed to the Justice and Interior ministers for the release of the jailed rioters for Tisha B'Av. MKs Shlomo Lorincz and Menachem Porush got 11 of the detainees to sign a pledge to appear in court for their hearings if they are released. But those efforts were to no avail.

The men remained in jail over Tisha B'Av and Aguda MKs hinted that there would be trouble in Premier Menachem Begin's coalition if Jerusalem police continue to take strong measures against Orthodox troublemakers.

APPEALS PROCESS MAY DELAY DEPORTATION OF MAN WHO ALLEGEDLY COLLABORATED WITH NAZIS DURING WWII

PHILADELPHIA, July 19 (JTA) -- The prolonged legal process of appeals may delay for years the deportation of Serge Kowalchuk, a 65 year-old retired tailor of Ukrainian origin who allegedly collaborated with the Nazis in the mass murder of Jews during World War II.

Kowalchuk, who stood trial here in 1981 on charges brought by the Justice Department, was found guilty of having lied about his past activities when he obtained admission to the United States as a displaced person in 1950 and naturalization in 1960. Federal District Court Judge John Fullam ruled on July 1 that Kowalchuk be stripped of his U.S. citizenship.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Riley, Kowalchuk is expected to appeal Fullam's decision, which could take "a few months." Another appeal, to the Supreme Court, could follow. If both appeals fail, the government can begin deportation proceedings.

But, Riley said, that would only bring Kowalchuk's case back to the appeals courts. "At best, if everything runs smoothly and expeditiously, I would expect that at least two or three years will pass before Kowalchuk is deported," the U.S. Attorney said.

OSI Presented Evidence

At his trial two years ago, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) presented evidence that Kowalchuk assisted the Nazi-controlled Ukrainian militia in killing 5,000 Jews in a brickyard near his home in Lyubomyl in the Ukraine in October, 1942. Kowalchuk admitted that he had lied about his membership in the militia to obtain entry into the U.S. but insisted that he never collaborated with the Nazis as the Justice Department charged.

According to the defendant, he worked for the militia as a minor clerk and made out duty rosters. He denied having had any knowledge of the brickyard massacre. He said he lied to the U.S. immigration authorities to protect relatives still living in the Soviet Union.

Judge's Ruling Is Ambiguous

Judge Fullam's ruling was ambiguous as to the degree of Kowalchuk's complicity. He expressed doubt that the defendant had actually participated in the killings but found that he must have known of the harsh measures the militia was taking against Jews. According to Fullam, testimony by both the defense and the prosecution was "uncontradicted by any other evidence" and therefore no conclusions could be drawn.

The judge also noted that Kowalchuk had shown no anti-Semitic behavior since he entered the U.S. But

he ordered him nevertheless, to surrender his naturalization documents.

COURT RULES THAT WAR CRIMINALS SERVING JAIL TERMS ARE ENTITLED TO LEAVE FROM PRISON

By David Kantor

BONN, July 19 (JTA) — The constitutional court in Karlsruhe has ruled that Nazi war criminals serving prison sentences are entitled to leave from prison, as are other prisoners, regardless of the gravity of their crimes.

The ruling, by the highest court in West Germany, reversed a decision by a court in Hessen in the case of two former Nazi officials who sued the State after their applications for leave were denied in 1979 because of the serious nature of their crimes.

The prisoners, aged 78 and 79, are serving sentences of 23 and 16 years, respectively. They had been found guilty of the mass killing of Jews during World War II. But the constitutional court maintained that the prison authorities should be guided not only by the nature of the crimes but other relevant considerations. According to the court, the latter include the age and state of health of the prisoners and the length of time already served.

The court acknowledged that complicity in crimes of the Nazi era demanded severe penalties but it ruled that this does not justify a denial of rights granted all prisoners under the law.

RED CROSS REPS VISIT ISRAELI POWS HELD BY THE PLO IN LEBANON

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 19 (JTA) — Representatives of the Red Cross visited the six Israeli prisoners of war held by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon last week. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said today that the visit took place last Friday, July 15, and the POWs were found in good condition.

According to the ICRC, the visit was conducted under its regulations. The POWs were able to speak freely with the Red Cross representatives without witnesses present. The delegation included a doctor.

The visit was the first since the middle of March. The ICRC had been concerned over rumors last June that the prisoners were transferred to Syria or Libya. The recent fighting that broke out within PLO ranks caused additional concern that the Israeli POWs might be harmed. But those concerns proved needless.

The ICRC here expressed satisfaction that the visit was allowed after prolonged negotiations. But it refused, for security reasons, to say where the prisoners are being held.

Syria holds three Israeli POWs who are visited by the Red Cross regularly every three weeks. But two Israelis held by Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command have been visited only once early last May.

ISRAEL MIGHT RECONSIDER BUYING 75 U.S. F-16 FIGHTER-BOMBERS

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) — Israel might reconsider its decision to buy 75 American F-16 jet fighter-bombers for economic reasons, it was reported here today.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens is believed to want the advanced aircraft, but their total cost of \$3 billion could be a deterrent at a time when the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel are urging drastic budget cuts. According to reports, Israel would buy the planes, but fewer than 75 of them.

The F-16s were a cause of friction with the U.S. last year when President Reagan suspended the sales process because of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The sale was reinstated after Israel and Lebanon signed their withdrawal agreement last May 17. But the delay escalated the cost of the planes.

400 SATMAR HASIDIM HOLD RALLY TO PROTEST DIGS AT CITY OF DAVID

By Rifka Rosenwein

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA) — An estimated 400 Satmar hasidim converged on the Israeli Consulate in mid-Manhattan today to protest archaeological digs at an ancient Jewish cemetery in Jerusalem and the arrest of religious demonstrators at the site.

Carrying signs saying, "Let Our Sages Rest in Peace" and "Stop Maiming Men, Women and Children Indiscriminately in Jerusalem," the hasidim condemned the "atrocities" committed against "peaceful religious demonstrators" in Jerusalem. They charged the Israeli police with "clubbing and striking" and using tear gas on the protesters.

In a statement released earlier, the Satmar stressed that the demonstration was being called for Tisha B'Av, a day marked by fasting and mourning to commemorate the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Babylonians and the Romans. The statement noted "how sad and ironic" it was for Jews "to have to ... protest the tragic desecration of a cemetery near the site of the temples" on Tisha B'Av.

Israel's Consul General Naphtalie Lavie told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he felt it was "disgusting that Jews should demonstrate against the rebirth of Israel on the day of the destruction of Israel."

Lavie said that he had accepted an offer by the Satmar to meet with a delegation of hasidim, but on the condition that a demonstration would not accompany the meeting. "They preferred a demonstration," he said.

The dig at the City of David near the Old City of Jerusalem has sparked clashes between the ultra-Orthodox Neturei Karta sect and police. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek and others have demanded that Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, a leader of the sect, be deported.

This afternoon's protest rally was peaceful and without incident. The hasidim stayed behind police barricades set up across the street from the Israel Consulate listening to speeches in Yiddish and English, and lamentations traditionally recited on Tisha B'Av. Occasionally they roared when descriptions of Israeli "atrocities" were cited.

"They stand on the same sidewalk that the Khomeini people stood last week," Lavie observed. He was referring to a protest rally by supporters of Iran's ruler, during which demonstrators carried placards stating, "Zionism is Racism" and "The Arab Kings are Puppets of the Zionist Imperialists."

HAIFA (JTA) — A tripartite agreement for research cooperation has been signed between the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, and the Technical University of Aachen and the Nuclear Research Institute of Juelich, both in Germany. This agreement expands an earlier two part agreement for the exchange of scientists between the Technion and the University of Aschen signed a year ago. The three institutions seek to increase their cooperation in research and academic areas in the fields of science and technology.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES CANADA ACCUSED OF BIAS AGAINST GERMAN JEWISH INTELLECTUALS BEFORE AND DURING WORLD WAR II By Arnold Ages

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, July 19 (JTA) -- Harold Troper, co-author with Irving Abella of "None Is Too Many," a book which details Canada's restrictive immigration policies against Jews before and during World War II, told the Canadian Society of Germanists that Canada's attitude towards German Jewish intellectuals was even more strident during that period.

Troper, who delivered his paper at the annual meeting of The Learned Societies of Canada (where more than 50 academic disciplines meet for scholarly exchanges), said that Canadian government policy was part of the larger immigration philosophy endorsed by Canadians from the early years of the century.

Those policies were an expression of Canada's belief that only Northern European types would make the proper kind of immigrant needed to develop Canada's vast rural areas. Jews and Italians (and other peoples) were not considered suitable for this kind of settlement population.

When the Nazis took over in Germany, Troper related, many German Jewish intellectuals tried to obtain asylum in Canada and, unlike the situation in other countries (the United States, for example) they met with a total blockade.

Produces Grim Evidence

In surveying the Canadian university scene Troper produced grim evidence of the attitude of Canadian academics towards the prospects of German Jewish intellectuals arriving in Canada. The initial response to the German Jews was that there were no academic vacancies. Troper said ironically that even if there had been any vacancies no German Jews would have been invited because in the 1930's and 1940's the Canadian universities did not employ Jewish academics. That situation did not change until the 1950's.

Troper, who teaches history at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in Toronto, quoted from documents in which university spokesmen during the pre-war years warned ominously about the spectre of Jews inundating the universities if German Jewish intellectuals were allowed into Canada.

In the late 1930's at a meeting of national scope at which Canadian professors debated academic policies (the predecessor of The Learned Societies of Canada) and listened to scholarly papers, a resolution was introduced on the issue of German Jewish immigration into Canada.

The assembled Canadian academics voted unanimously to urge the government in Ottawa not to open its doors to those prospective immigrants. Troper pointed out, with considerable poignancy, that because of Canada's short sightedness and self-interest the country lost an opportunity to enrich itself through the acquisition of some of the world's finest minds.

The same myopia actuated Canadian government policy with regard to the German Jews who were sent to Canada by Britain as enemy aliens along with other German nationals. The Canadian government refused to permit these Jewish anti-Nazis to involve themselves in activi-

ties which might have helped the Allied war effort against the Axis powers.

During the question period a number of professors expressed incredulity with regard to Canada's wartime policy towards Jews. Asked by one professor whether any German Jewish intellectuals made it into Canada at that period, Troper replied that a handful had gained entrance through the subterfuge of listing their religion as Protestant in application forms. "I would that many more had done so," said Troper.

FOUR MOSCOW JEWS ARRESTED

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA) -- Four Moscow Jews were arrested last Friday night for holding a private prayer service, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported. Of the approximately one dozen persons present at the service, those arrested were Mikhail Abramov, Igor Brisman, and Mikhail Rudan.

The arresting officer, Capt. Mikhail Stepanov, told them, "until you leave this country, you will live by our rules," the SSSJ reported. The apartment's owner, Mark Feldman, was arrested when he went to the police station to ask about his friends. All were given 15-day sentences. The SSSJ spokesman said that such sentences usually are served in local jail but had no information on the four arrestees.

MAN BEING HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER OF EMIL GRUNZWEIG By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) -- A 35-year-old Jerusalem man with a past criminal record is being held in connection with the murder of Emil Grunzweig, killed last February 10 when a grenade was thrown into a group of Peace Now demonstrators demanding the dismissal of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

A magistrates court here ordered a 10-day extension today of the detention of Haim Turjeman, a resident of Jerusalem's Musrara quarter. The police testified that they had information that Turjeman was in possession of weapons and explosives which he intended to use for terrorist purposes. He is suspected of a connection with the grenade throwing but not of the actual murder.

Turjeman was released from jail 17 months ago after serving time on previous convictions. He told the court that he knew nothing about the Grunzweig murder and had nothing to do with the grenade attack.

Judge Yaacov Bezalal said that based on the testimony presented to the court there was an "unfounded possibility" that the subject was indeed involved in the crime. He remanded him in custody for another 10 days because of the grave nature of the crime and to allow police to complete their investigation.

The investigation has been in progress for more than five months. Several suspects have been detained for questioning. All were released.

SHARON THINKING OF QUITTING CABINET

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) -- Ariel Sharon is unhappy with his limited role in the government since he was forced to resign as Defense Minister and is thinking of quitting the Cabinet according to "close friends" quoted in a Maariv report today. According to the report, he is "chaffing at his enforced idleness." He did not attend the weekly Cabinet meeting last Sunday and rarely appears at his Jerusalem or Tel Aviv offices, Maariv said. He spends most of his time on his ranch in the Negev. The report triggered speculation over repercussions Sharon's departure might have on Premier Menachem Begin's coalition.