

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN DENOUNCES KILLING AND WOUNDING OF PALESTINIAN ARAB STUDENTS IN HEBRON AS A CRIME

By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin denounced the killing of three Palestinian Arab students and the wounding of 33 by masked gunmen in Hebron last month as a crime "which we not only regret, but if we shall find out who did this evil thing to our neighbors, no doubt he will be brought to court, whoever he is, of course."

Begin, who was addressing a dinner in honor of the 35th anniversary international conference of Israel Bonds, told the 500 Bond leaders, "We want to live with our neighbors in mutual respect and peace." He declared that "the crime perpetrated against an Arab inhabitant is a crime" and warned that there must be due process of law.

Focusing on the agreement Israel and Lebanon signed last May, but which Lebanon has still not ratified, Begin said "it is clear" to the United States that Syria is responsible for stopping "the peaceful solution from coming into being."

He noted that because Syria refused to recognize the agreement "we had to make the decision to redeploy our forces, to defend our men who are defending the Galilee." Syria was reported last week to be beefing up its tank positions in the Bekaa valley and saturating the area with minefields.

### Reiterates Support For Camp David Accords

Begin reiterated Israel's support of the Camp David agreements with Egypt and Israel's commitment to implement them. "As an international agreement, we should all be faithful to it," he said. "We negotiated in good faith, but those negotiations have not been disrupted by us ... We are prepared to do our share to reach a peaceful solution. Now somebody else should be told to follow the peaceful example of Israel."

In this same spirit, Begin reaffirmed Israel's invitation to King Hussein of Jordan to "join immediately the autonomy negotiations" regarding Judea and Samaria within the context of the Camp David accords.

The spirited Premier, who appeared to have regained some of his strength and buoyancy, was greeted by the 500 Israel Bond leaders with a standing ovation and a chant of "happy birthday" in honor of his 70th birthday which was marked last month. He appealed to the assembled leaders "to help develop the economy of Israel, especially in this time of great difficulty."

Begin, in thanking the delegates for their assistance to Israel, declared: "Our people have suffered greatly and made many sacrifices in defending Israel. Why? Because Israel is a just-cause .... When you meet friends, tell them so. A just cause will always win the game."

At the conclusion of the dinner, 70 of the 500 Bond leaders present pledged between \$25,000 to \$1 million in Bond purchases.

## U.S. WELCOMES LIBERIA'S MOVE TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The United

States welcomed today Liberia's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. But the State Department seemed to go out of the way to stress that the decision by the African country was made on its own.

"The United States welcomes the government of Liberia's independent decision to resume relations with Israel," Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said. "It has made this important move on its own initiative. We continue to encourage other countries to extend full diplomatic recognition to Israel."

At one point in reading the statement, Romberg made a slip of the tongue calling Liberia "Libya." Romberg, who had accompanied Secretary of State George Shultz to Mexico for President Reagan's meeting with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, had explained earlier that he had not returned to Washington until 4 a.m.

### SPECIAL TO THE JTA EGYPT IN DRIVE TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD

By Judith Kohn

CAIRO, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Egypt has injected some new vigor in recent days in its drive to re-establish relations with the Arab world.

The latest campaign, which has been given prominent coverage in the news and editorial columns of the government-controlled press, has included a visit by Osama El-Baz, political advisor to President Hosni Mubarak, to Amman Saturday, where he delivered a letter from Mubarak to Jordan's King Hussein on recent developments in the region. A similar letter was to be delivered to President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, where El-Baz was headed from Amman.

At the same time, an active correspondence between Mubarak and President Gaafar Nimeiry of the Sudan has reflected Egypt's interest in renewing its traditional role as the pivotal point of political movement among the Arab states.

Egypt was stripped of that function following the conclusion of its peace treaty with Israel and the breaking of relations by most Arab countries.

"What is happening in the Arab arena," Mubarak's most recent message to Nimeiry on developments in Lebanon, the West Bank and the Iran-Iraq war, is reported to say, "is not the responsibility of any one state or group of states, but rather calls for a collective Arab move arising from a common ground that will help to settle the crises confronting the Arab nation today."

Mubarak reportedly called for the drafting of a definitive Arab program for Lebanon that will "deny (Israel) any pretext for postponing its withdrawal."

### Currying Favor With Iraq

The recent flurry of diplomatic activity in Cairo has also included an exchange of visitors with Baghdad, among them Iraqi Foreign Minister Atriq Aziz, who met with Mubarak here last month; an Iraqi delegation of journalists which followed; and Egypt's Minister of Finance and Foreign Trade, currently visiting Iraq.

Although no formal relations exist between Egypt and Iraq, Egypt has consistently stressed that it maintains good relations with Baghdad, as it does with most

of the Arab countries which removed their embassies from Cairo four years ago.

Egypt has also supported Iraq in the Persian Gulf war, which has undoubtedly made the Iraqis more amenable to Egyptian appeals for more tangible ties. A branch of a main Iraqi bank is expected to open in Cairo later this month.

#### Renewed Contacts With Syria

Adding a more novel feature to the Egyptian diplomatic drive and recent hints of renewed contacts with Syria, Egypt has consistently pointed to Damascus as one of the few capitals with which relations have not been resumed.

In an interview with the weekly Akhbar El Yam last week, however, Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali hinted at possible contacts between Egypt and Syria to break the deadlock in Lebanon, saying "Egypt believes that dialogue with Arab brothers is always useful and needed."

Similarly, the omission of Syria by Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Ghali, among the Arab countries with whom he noted Egypt had no relations, prompted the somewhat sensational headline in the London-based Arabic-language weekly Al-Magalla, which conducted the interview: "Are There Secret Ties Between Egypt and Syria?" The minister declined comment when asked directly if such ties existed.

#### CABINET AGAIN FAILS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON BUDGET CUTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The Cabinet met in special session today to try to reach agreement on budget cuts for various ministries, but for a second consecutive day failed to reach an agreement.

Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, who had recommended a slash of 55 billion Shekels from the government budget, including 20 billion Shekels from the defense budget, was enraged by the failure of the Cabinet to arrive at an agreement and by the apparent lack of support from Premier Menachem Begin for his economic package. Aridor threatened to resign, but under pressure from his Cabinet colleagues, he reportedly backed down from his threat.

The differences between the Treasury and the Defense Ministry continued to be the sticking point in the Cabinet deliberations. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said he was prepared to accept a cut of 8.5 billion Shekels, instead of the 5 billion Shekel cut he was willing to accept last week.

The Treasury appeared willing to accept a compromise on its original 20 billion Shekel cut in the defense budget by postponing some of the reductions to next year, but remained unwilling to settle for Arens' proposal.

Defense officials say a cut of the magnitude the Treasury is seeking would damage major military projects, such as the development of the new Lavie fighter plane, and would impair and thereby endanger the nation's vital defense needs.

As soon as the Cabinet session ended, Begin ordered the ministers to work out their differences and come up with an agreed formula. Aridor, Arens and Deputy Premier David Levy began to hold a meeting in an effort to reach an agreement. The Cabinet did not discuss other austerity measures proposed by the Treasury.

Last week Israel devalued the Shekel by 7.5 percent. The Treasury wants to introduce new taxes, slash welfare benefits, trim education programs and cut health, communications and transportation budgets.

#### CHINESE CANADIAN GROUP PROTESTS DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-SEMITIC AND OTHER RACIST MATERIAL

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) has protested to the Canadian Justice Minister over the distribution of anti-Semitic and other racist material purportedly originating in Idaho and asked that federal anti-hate legislation be changed to make it a more effective weapon.

The protest was in the form of a letter to Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan in which Dr. Albert Wu, president of the Chinese organization, declared that the organization's Edmonton chapter had informed the National Council that "hate literature against the Jews and non-whites was recently distributed in Olds, Alberta."

Wu wrote that the material bore the name of a group calling itself "White Aryans" and listing its address as P.O. Box 362, Hayden Lake, Idaho, 83835. He stated that the Nationalist Party, headquartered in Toronto, "claimed the responsibility of the distribution of the material and intends to distribute more hate material in the Edmonton and Calgary districts." Wu added that, as a national organization "committed to the promotion of harmonious race relations and the enhancement of the multi-cultural and multi-racial nature of Canada," the CCNC was concerned "about the destructive nature of such hate literature and the grave threat to public peace by groups like the Nationalist Party."

Wu complained that "while few would disagree that groups like the Nationalist Party are undermining the fabric of our multi-cultural mosaic," the official of Ontario Attorney General's office, David Allen, said the Nationalist Party "is not violating the Criminal Code of Canada."

Wu concluded that "perhaps the time has come for the Minister of Justice and federal and provincial attorneys-general to discuss the possibility of amending section 281 of the Criminal Code of Canada and means to enforce it."

#### SAGUY RESIGNS FROM THE ARMY

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Military headquarters here yesterday confirmed that Maj. Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, former director of military intelligence, was leaving the army. Saguy reportedly announced his resignation from the army earlier yesterday.

Saguy was relieved of command of the intelligence corps this year in accordance with a recommendation by a commission of inquiry studying the Phalangist massacre of Palestinian refugees in Beirut last year. The commission judged Saguy, on the basis of his own testimony, to have shown indifference and a lack of concern about what was going on in the refugee camps.

#### JNF OF S. AFRICA TO ESTABLISH ITS SECOND FOREST IN ISRAEL

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund of South Africa is in the process of establishing its second forest in Israel. It will be a 250,000-tree forest in memory of 53 South African Jews who fell in Israel's wars. The forest will be in Ilaniya in the lower Galilee, the site of the first Jewish settlement in the area, dating back to 1899. Ilaniya is historically linked with leaders of the early Zionist movement, including David Ben Gurion, A.D. Gordon and Yitzhak Ben Zvi. The new forest area will eventually include camping and recreational facilities to help in the further development of Moshav Ilaniya.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 5743

By Kevin Freeman

(Part One Of A Series)

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The year 5743 was highlighted by the continuing crisis in Lebanon, where one year after Israel launched its "Peace for Galilee" operation, the Israel Defense Force appeared bogged down in Lebanon's internal factional fighting.

There was, however, an agreement concluded between Israel and Lebanon for an Israeli troop withdrawal, but the accord lay dormant as Syrian President Hafez Assad stubbornly refused to agree to a simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian troops, contrary to what the United States was earlier led to believe.

U.S. diplomacy, besides being ruffled by Assad's intransigence, was shaken by the failure of President Reagan's highly touted September 1 Mideast peace initiative. The proposal needed support from King Hussein of Jordan. But while he appeared to stand behind it, Hussein was undercut by the Palestine Liberation Organization whose approval he needed to enter negotiations with Israel on behalf of the Palestinian people. Without a PLO mandate for Hussein, the Reagan proposal appeared all but finished, lying by the way side of many failed Middle East peace efforts.

Search For Peace Remains Elusive

Israel's search for peace remained elusive. And its peace with Egypt, although intact, unravelled at certain points. The Egyptian Ambassador to Israel was recalled after the massacre of Palestinian civilians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, and at year's end, the Ambassador was not returned.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, however, continued to affirm his commitment to the Camp David accords, although there was no movement on the autonomy talks as outlined in the agreements.

The massacre at the Palestinian camps resulted in Israel's condemnation from the world community. On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Christian Phalangist forces loyal to assassinated Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel were allowed, under Israeli supervision, to enter the west Beirut camps to root out terrorists suspected of hiding there.

The result was the killing of more than 600 civilians. Israel's judicial commission of inquiry into the massacre assailed Israel's highest ranking leaders for willfully ignoring the possibility of vengeance against the Palestinians by Gemayel's loyalists.

With more than 500 casualties suffered in Lebanon since the start of the war, Israel reluctantly agreed to begin a redeployment of its forces to more defensible and safer lines, raising fears that Lebanon would be partitioned into separate Israeli and Syrian spheres of influence. Premier Menachem Begin, who turned 70 this year, unexpectedly cancelled a scheduled visit to Washington and speculation rose anew that he was becoming more dismayed with the Lebanon situation and that he remained deeply saddened by the death of his wife and confidante, Aliza.

THE MIDDLE EAST:  
SEPTEMBER 1982 --

President Reagan proposes a Mideast peace initiative calling for the creation of a Palestinian "entity" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in "association" with Jordan, while demanding a

freeze on Jewish settlement activity on the West Bank. Israel rejects the proposal, saying it deviates from the Camp David accords.

The Arab League member states issue a peace proposal at the conclusion of a summit conference in Morocco, later to be known as the Fez Plan, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank with Jerusalem as its capital. Despite a call for guaranteed "peace among all states in the region," Israel denounces the Fez proposal as a "renewed declaration of war on Israel."

Pope John Paul II, in a highly controversial move, meets privately for nearly 30 minutes with PLO chief Yasir Arafat. Israel expresses "profound disappointment" with the meeting, saying it will be "recorded in the national memory of the State of Israel and the Jewish people."

Israeli troops enter west Beirut following the assassination of Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel. Within 48 hours, the world is shocked when hundreds of Palestinian civilians are massacred by Gemayel's Christian Phalangist forces. Premier Menachem Begin condemns all criticism of Israeli involvement in the massacre as a "blood libel," but eventually succumbs to intense domestic pressure to establish a commission to conduct a formal inquiry into the circumstances of the massacre.

## OCTOBER --

An Arab League delegation headed by King Hassan of Morocco confers with Reagan in Washington, but according to Administration officials, fails to meet U.S. requests for Arab recognition of Israel and for negotiations without preconditions.

Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon tells the judicial commission of inquiry that while it was assumed that when Israel sent the Phalangists into the Palestinian refugee camps there would be civilian deaths, "None of us, myself included, ever for one moment in our worst dreams anticipated or feared a horror like that."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak issues a sharply worded denunciation of Israel's actions in Lebanon and warns that it could have "grave repercussions" on their relations. Egyptian Ambassador to Tel Aviv, Saad Morad, is recalled to Cairo.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, elected to succeed his older brother, Bashir, makes an official visit to Washington indicating that he will look to the U.S. as his main source of financial and military assistance, and in a speech to the United Nations, notes his reluctance to sign a peace treaty with Israel at this time.

## NOVEMBER --

Begin tells the commission of inquiry "none of us ever imagined" that the Phalangists would perpetrate a massacre in the refugee camps. The commission later issues a bombshell, notifying Begin and eight other top Israeli officials that they "may be hamed" if certain potentially damaging conclusions are reached on the basis of their testimony to date.

A Defense Ministry report concludes that the collapse of a seven story building housing the Israeli local military headquarters in Tyre, which kills 90 people, including 76 Israelis and 14 Arabs, was caused by a leak from cooking gas cylinders in one of the first floor rooms.

The West Bank civil administration announces it has withdrawn the requirement that all foreigners seeking permits in the territory must sign a pledge to refrain from "any act or rendering of any service" to the PLO "or any other hostile organization as defined by law."

## DECEMBER --

Hussein meets with Reagan in Washington and while he reiterates his support for the President's September 1 peace initiative, does not provide any indication that he is willing or able to join the U.S., Egypt and Israel in negotiations based on the Camp David formula.

Israel and Lebanon begin their long awaited negotiations, with the U.S. as an active partner, to establish the framework for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and future relations pertaining to normalization and security arrangements.

Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang says in Cairo that if Israel withdrew from occupied Arab territories and allowed for the establishment of a Palestinian state, his country would acknowledge Israel's "right to existence and independence."

(Continued Tomorrow)

## SYNAGOGUE IN CONNECTICUT DAMAGED BY SUSPECTED ARSON

WEST HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 15 (JTA) -- A Conservative synagogue was hit by a suspicious fire early this morning, the second synagogue here to be torched in five days. Both the Emanuel Synagogue this morning and the Young Israel Synagogue last week were hit in pre-dawn hours.

The fire at Emanuel Synagogue was discovered at 3 a.m. when a barking dog awakened a neighbor, who called the Fire Department. The main damage was to the small sanctuary but some Torah scrolls were destroyed in the main sanctuary. The fire was put out quickly. Calls began to come to the synagogue soon after people learned of the fire, offering money and volunteer aid.

Jeffrey Mines, chairman of the community relations committee of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation said "We are shocked and horrified at this major act of vandalism within five days in which two synagogues have sustained major damage from fires committed by an arsonist, according to police."

He added that "we are receiving full and complete cooperation from Governor William O'Neill, appropriate state officials, and the town of West Hartford and its mayor and police officials."

## Receiving Full Community Support

Mines disclosed that a "substantial" reward is being organized, with contributions from the Federation, West Hartford, and the state. He added that "we are receiving full community support and the Federation has full confidence in those empowered to conduct the investigation."

Mayor Charles Maties said "This is not an attack against the Jewish community but against the entire town of West Hartford and a threat to our American way of life." He said everything would be done to help the congregation.

The Young Israel fire was reported at 3:30 a.m. last Wednesday. It destroyed many religious articles and prayerbooks, as well as the synagogue's main halls, but the synagogue's Torah scrolls suffered only minor damage. As was the case in the Emanuel fire, many West Hartford area residents offered help, as did other local synagogues and churches. Help offers came from individuals in both fires from both non-Jews and Jews.

## NEW WAR ON HUNGER BEING WAGED IN ISRAEL, SAYS JNF PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- A new war is being waged in Israel, "not with jets and guns, but with land-reclamation and research. This is a war on hunger." This is how the president of the Jewish National Fund, Charlotte Jacobson, described the intensified efforts now under way in Israel to increase food production in hitherto arid, unproductive land.

Mrs. Jacobson, who is chairman of the Hadassah national convention being held here this week, was

commenting on Israel's example in transforming the Negev and Arava deserts into rich farms yielding record winter crops of fruits and vegetables, much of it exported to European markets.

The urgency of the world hunger problem, Mrs. Jacobson said, "can be seen in the fact that just to keep up with the ever-increasing demands for food, agricultural production worldwide must increase by 3.5 percent yearly." But, she added, "the world's increase is less than 3 percent while Israel's agricultural growth rate is 5.3 percent, the highest in the world."

"During the last 30 years," Mrs. Jacobson pointed out, "a veritable army of scientists and researchers in Israel has found a way to reclaim historically useless land for agriculture through such revolutionary methods as water-sparing drip irrigation, use of indigenous geo-thermal water sources, plastic sheeting and other devices that have helped Israeli farmers increase their harvests by more than 1000 percent since 1950."

This battle, the JNF president said, "is being fought most successfully in Israel's arid regions where intensive JNF land-reclamation has leveled sand dunes, cleansed sand of excessive salt and created dams and earthworks for trapping winter flood waters. Once the land infrastructure is created the fruits of research are employed effectively."

## Cites JNF-Sponsored Projects

Among JNF-sponsored research projects for which the agency is raising funds in the United States are studies of the use of drought-resistance and salt-tolerant plants for agricultural application, studies of underground drainage with the aim of increasing winter yields, the effect of extensive afforestation in tempering the climate and preventing erosion and the exploitation of winter flood waters through new systems of damming and channeling.

Mrs. Jacobson cited the Hadassah-supported land-reclamation projects at Kikar Sdom in the northern Arava where land once deemed uninhabitable is now bearing record harvests of melon, tomatoes, peppers, date palms and other premium market crops. One established moshav at Neot Hakikar is self-supporting and two other satellite moshavim are being settled.

Perhaps the most thrilling aspect of this, Mrs. Jacobson concluded, is that not only is Israel self-sufficient in its food requirements, but its rapidly advancing agricultural know-how is being shared with 34 different nations -- "literally showing the way to a hungry world."

## C.O.L. INDEX ROSE BY 6.3% IN JULY, SECOND HIGHEST JULY HIKE SINCE 1948

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose by 6.3 percent during July, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced today. It was the second highest July increase since 1948, exceeded only by the July 1982 rise of 9.2 percent.

The Bureau said the increase was held down by a seasonable drop in the prices of fruit and vegetables, in abundant supply this year. Without that drop the July index would have risen by 7.1 percent. The inflation rate is at present running at the pace of 125 percent this year. Since January, the C.O.L. index has risen by 60 percent.

The July increase announced today does not include the effects of this month's 7.5 percent devaluation of the Shekel, which will only be felt for part of this month, when the August index figure is published in mid-September.