

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## REPORT CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MAY BE NEXT BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRY TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The Central African Republic will probably be the next Black African country to resume diplomatic relations with Israel, it was reported today by Israel Radio. According to the report, Israel and the Central African Republic signed an agreement to resume ties several weeks ago.

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire was reported instrumental in persuading the republic to follow Zaire and Liberia in their resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel. Zaire renewed its ties last May, and Liberia did so last week.

### Liberia Seeks Israeli Military Aid

Meanwhile, President Samuel Doe of Liberia met with Defense Minister Moshe Arens today and the two discussed possible Israeli military aid to Liberia. Talking to reporters after their meeting, Arens said Liberia is "very concerned" about Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi "and Libyan subversion throughout Africa." Liberia had already asked Israel to supply intelligence on Libyan activity in Africa.

Arens said that no details have been worked out on this issue of military aid but that Israel would probably start by providing military advice and training to Liberia and might provide arms later.

In previous meetings over the last two days of Doe's four-day state visit to Israel, it was agreed that Israeli agricultural experts would soon leave for Liberia to examine that country's farm problems and draw up an aid plan. There was also agreement to help Liberia set up national air and shipping lines and for Israel to send eye specialists.

## LIKUD LEADERS TRY TO PERSUADE TAMI NOT TO QUIT THE COALITION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Likud leaders, led by Premier Menachem Begin, made strenuous efforts today to persuade Tami Party officials to change a decision made yesterday by the party's secretariat to quit the coalition, but without success.

Tami leaders, led by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan, met with Begin and argued strongly against government plans for a 10 percent increase in the sales tax on consumer goods, asserting that many of the items which will be affected by the increase are not in the luxury category and that the tax would hurt low-income families. The proposed increases are part of a series of major changes in government income and outlays aimed at bringing Israel's runaway inflation under control.

Begin did not reply to the complaints by the three-member Knesset faction but asked Uzan to postpone action to permit further talks in the hope some arrangement could be made by which Tami would remain in the Likud-led coalition. Uzan said he did not believe any Treasury action could change Tami's pullout decision unless the proposed additional sales tax on luxury items was cancelled.

Tami leaders also are unhappy about some of the budget cuts Avidor has proposed, one involving plans to charge an estimated 330-Shekel education fee monthly for school children.

The cancellation of increased sales taxes was indirectly rejected by Finance Minister Yoram Avidor who emerged yesterday from a self-imposed silence during the swirl of controversy created by his proposals to cut the next government budget by 55 billion Shekels.

Defending his economic policy, Avidor criticized at a press conference efforts of "pressure groups" for changes in his budget proposals. He also criticized those who proposed budget cuts and then, when such cuts were introduced, continued to criticize the government.

Uzan denied today that Tami has started talks with the Labor Alignment opposition to form a new government if the Likud-led coalition falls, declaring that Tami did not intend to bring down the government only to create an alternative government. However, during a TV interview yesterday, Uzan said the days of the current coalition were "numbered." Tami's central committee meets next week to approve the Tami secretariat's recommendation to quit Begin's coalition.

## REPORT HUNGARY AGREES TO RETURN TO JEWISH CONTROL A JEWISH CEMETERY IT CONFISCATED 13 YEARS AGO

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Rabbi Sender Deutsch, a leader of the Satmar Hasidic movement, returning from a visit to Hungary, reported today that the Hungarian government agreed to return to Jewish control a Jewish cemetery it confiscated 13 years ago.

Deutsch said the agreement followed intermittent negotiations during the 13 years and that it marked the first time any East European government has returned to a Jewish community a cemetery it had seized to be used for other purposes. Deutsch said the government had planned to use the burial site for a housing project.

The Satmar leader said he had brought with him documents signed by the Hungarian government returning the cemetery to the Jewish Community Council in Budapest. The cemetery is located in Ujhely, which is about 100 miles from Budapest. He said the transfer took place on August 16, and that the only stipulation required of the Jewish community was to maintain the cemetery and build a fence around it.

He said he had participated in the negotiations, along with Imra Haber, president, and Lajos Bakos, vice president of the Community Council. During the 13 years, the cemetery has been maintained by the Hungarian Jewish community with the help of the Satmar movement in America, he said.

A number of leading Hasidic rabbis are buried in the Ujhely cemetery, including the Yismach Moshe, Rabbi Moishe Teitelbaum, the grandfather of the late Satmar Rebbe, Joel Teitelbaum, and the great grandfather of the present Satmar leader, Rabbi Moishe Teitelbaum.

Declaring that the Ujhely cemetery is now in possession of the Hungarian Jewish community, Deutsch added that ownership is shared between that community and the Satmar community in Brooklyn.

He said Teitelbaum had visited the grave of his great grandfather in July to pray there, adding that the movement hoped the agreement with the Hungarian government would be "the beginning of an extended return of cemeteries and other Jewish properties, confiscated by East European governments, to Jewish groups in those countries."

#### VILLAGE LEAGUE LEADER SAYS DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL, PALESTINIANS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE MIDEAST PEACE

ATLANTA, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- A leading West Bank Palestinian declared here that the only way to peace in the Middle East "is by direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians." Mustafa Dodin of Hebron, head of the Arab Village Leagues on the West Bank, addressing the 88th annual convention of the Jewish War Veterans, stated:

"We are Palestinians living under occupation; we call for a termination of that occupation, but the only means to achieve that end is through direct negotiations." Dodin, who claimed that the Village Leagues represent 70 percent of the West Bank's Palestinian population and are "the only ones leading the masses," said "We accept the Reagan initiative as the beginning of efforts to find a just and durable peace."

Dodin asked the JWV delegates to join with his organization in "condemning terror from any group for any reason." He noted that members of the Village Leagues had been constantly harassed by the PLO and the Jordanian government because of their call for peaceful coexistence with Israel and because they were an indigenous, local movement.

With Dodin at the JWV convention was Riad Khateev, now head of the Ramallah Village League, whose father, the former Ramallah chief, and 23-year-old brother were assassinated. Dodin stated the PLO claimed responsibility for that murder.

#### Criticizes State Department

Dodin criticized the U.S. Department of State for attempting to have King Hussein come to the peace table with PLO chief Yasir Arafat's approval. Having been a political advisor to Hussein for five years, Dodin observed "You will wait 100 years before King Hussein will come forward with Arafat," for Arafat would get all the credit and Hussein would lose his kingdom.

Dodin also charged that the U.S. State Department has met with terrorists of the Middle East, but has refused to meet with his group. He believes, however, that the United States is the "only third country which can contribute to peace."

#### Opposes A Divided Jerusalem

Urging that the time is ripe for fruitful negotiations, he envisioned an ultimate solution to involve a return to pre-1967 borders. Since the Egyptians do not want Gaza, he said, Gaza should be part of a West Bank/East Bank state. Dodin further stated, "Jerusalem should not be divided again; Arabs and Jews should contribute to an administrative council for the city."

When asked by JWV delegates if he rejected the idea of a West Bank confederation with Israel and Jordan, Dodin said he did not reject this idea and at one time had discussed positively with Hussein the idea of "cantons."

Declaring "we don't want an army," Dodin also observed that demilitarization of the West Bank would be a good idea. He urged JWV delegates, "I beg you to support our mutual struggle for peaceful coexistence. We believe in the brotherhood of man, of Arab and of Jews. God meant for us to live in peace."

Stanley Zwaik, national commander of the JWV, said his organization did not agree with all of Dodin's

statements, but expressed the JWV's gratitude that the Village League leader had made the long journey from Hebron to bring his message of peace to Americans.

#### PRO-APARTHEID REMARKS LEADS TO RESIGNATION

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Adi Halpern, the Likud Party's municipal election director, who has been preparing Mayor Shlomo Lahat's campaign for the local council elections later this year, handed in his resignation Monday after a reportedly stormy meeting with Lahat.

The Mayor called him to his office to complain about Halpern's remarks in the weekend edition of a local Tel Aviv newspaper in which he praised South Africa's system of apartheid and said he thought this system should also be applied in Israel against the Arabs.

Lahat told Halpern he was strongly opposed to these sentiments and demanded his resignation, which was handed over on the spot.

#### DINITZ CALLS FOR NEW INFORMATION PROGRAM TO COUNTER ANTI-ISRAEL TREATMENT FROM MEDIA OVERSEAS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- One of the lessons Israel should learn from the worldwide negative treatment Israel received from the media over its campaign in Lebanon is the need to coordinate the overseas information program of the government, Simcha Dinitz, former Ambassador to the United States, said.

Speaking at the 19th annual America-Israel dialogue here, sponsored by the American Jewish Congress, which this year focused on the problem of Israeli information treatment overseas, Dinitz suggested appointment of a deputy minister in the Foreign Ministry to be responsible for such coordination.

He said absence of coordination among the various government agencies dealing with overseas information was one of the key reasons for Israel's "information failure" in Lebanon. He suggested that a deputy minister was the best approach to the problem, rather than "complicating" Israel's political system "with yet another minister."

The dialogue began with a screening of a film which criticized NBC coverage of the war in Lebanon. The screening was followed by a defense of NBC by Paul Miller, the NBC Israel Bureau chief.

Dinitz suggested that reporters in west Beirut had been hostile to Israel, at least in part, to justify the fact that they had not covered the "rape of Lebanon" during the prior seven years.

Joshua Muravchik of the Center for Strategic Studies in Washington, also criticized American media coverage of the war. However, he declared, this was less a matter of biased reporting than a reflection of the psychological atmosphere in the United States which, he said, views negatively any use of force and maintains that negotiations should be used to solve all problems.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Richard Murphy, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, met with Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir here Wednesday. Following the meeting, Murphy said the three talked mainly about the situation in the Mideast and the possible role of Saudi Arabia in a settlement of the crisis in Lebanon. Murphy's recent nomination by President Reagan as Assistant Secretary is awaiting Congressional approval.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 5743

By Kevin Freeman

(Conclusion Of The Series)

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- A dominant event in the concluding months of the year 5743 was the election in Israel of Chaim Herzog to succeed Yitzhak Navon as the sixth president of the Jewish State. Rabbis Avraham Shapiro and Mordechai Eliahu were elected to become Israel's Askenazic and Sephardic chief rabbis, respectively. The Knesset rejected efforts to amend the Law of Return with the controversial "Who is a Jew" amendment. And the government finally formulated proposals to balance the national budget.

INSIDE ISRAEL:  
JANUARY 1983 --

El Al, Israel's national airline, which has been grounded since September and placed in the hands of a temporary receiver pending a decision on whether to liquidate it or reorganize it on a more efficient basis, is revived, beginning passenger service to Nairobi and Johannesburg.

A Jerusalem District Court upholds the conviction of Samuel Flatto-Sharon and orders the former independent MK to report to police on March 1 to begin serving a nine-month prison term for bribery and other violations of the law in his election campaign for the Knesset in 1977.

A survey published by the National Insurance Institute says that more than 300,000 Israelis live below the poverty line which is defined by a monthly income of 16,000 Shekels for a family of four.

The Israeli press is nominated for the Golden Pen Award by Finnish and Scandinavian journalists of the International Association of Publishers, sponsors of the award, for its coverage of the war in Lebanon.

## FEBRUARY --

A Jerusalem Post public opinion poll shows an increase in the number of Israelis ready to exchange occupied territories for peace. A poll conducted also by the Post shows strong bi-partisan opposition to Israeli arms sales to countries governed by dictators.

The Israel Philharmonic leaves for Japan for the first visit there in 23 years to give nine concerts under the baton of its musical director, the noted Indian conductor, Zubin Mehta.

## MARCH --

Maj. Gen. Yehoshua Saguy resigns as chief of military intelligence, and Brig. Gen. Amos Yaron is stripped of his command, both a result of the findings of the Israeli commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre.

Rabbis Avraham Shapiro and Mordechai Eliahu win substantial victories in chief rabbinate elections to become Israel's Askenazic and Sephardic chief rabbis, respectively.

Chaim Herzog, the Labor Alignment candidate, is elected Israel's sixth President by secret ballot in the Knesset, providing a stunning political set-back for Premier Menachem Begin's coalition government. Herzog succeeds President Yitzhak Navon.

The Cabinet accepts the appointment of Deputy Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Moshe Levy, as the new Chief of Staff to replace Gen. Rafael Eitan when he retires in April.

A bill to amend the Law of Return to recognize converts to Judaism only those persons converted according to halacha, is defeated by a vote of 58-50 in the Knesset when the Liberal Party faction of the coalition joins the Labor Alignment to oppose the bill.

## APRIL --

More than 3500 athletes from 30 countries participate in the 12th Hapoel Games, one of the largest sports gatherings ever to be staged in Israel.

In the biggest heist in Jerusalem's and possibly Israeli's history, \$5 million worth of rare and precious clocks and watches are stolen from L. A. Mayer Memorial Institute for Islamic Art in West Jerusalem's residential area of Katamon.

A public opinion poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrachi Institute and published in Maariv shows a steady increase in the percentage of Israelis who oppose any territorial concessions on the West Bank.

Israel marks the 35th anniversary of the independence of the Jewish State.

## MAY --

The Israel Bat Dor Company has a highly successful series of sold out performances in Kenya, despite efforts by the PLO and their supporters to have its tour banned.

The prototype of Israel's new Lavie fighter plane should be flying by 1986, according to Moshe Arens.

Two Knesset committees demand the right to see the Karp report submitted to the government more than a year ago by a special panel that investigated Jewish vigilantism on the West Bank.

## JUNE --

One of the most crippling public service walkouts in Israel's 35 year history comes to an end as government employed doctors halt a four-month strike in exchange for an agreement by the government to accept binding arbitration of their grievances.

Deputy Premier Simcha Erlich, one of the founders of the Likud coalition and a leader of the Liberal Party, dies at Bikur Holim Hospital, five days after suffering a stroke. He was 67.

An opposition motion to investigate the government's conduct into the war in Lebanon is rejected by the Knesset in a 56-50 vote.

The Satmar Rebbe, Rabbi Moishe Teitelbaum, arrives in Israel on his first visit since becoming head of the Hasidic movement and is greeted in Jerusalem by 20,000 of his followers.

The controversial proposal imposing an 0.3 percent tax on all bank withdrawals, designed to finance the continued presence of the Israel army in Lebanon, is killed by its promoter, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor.

## JULY --

The Knesset votes 62-50 to approve the appointment to the Cabinet of Liberal-Likud MK Sarah Doron as Minister-Without-Portfolio, making her the first woman in the all-male Cabinets presided over by Begin since Likud was first elected to office in 1977.

Shlomo Argov, Israel's Ambassador to Britain, whose attempted assassination on June 3, 1982 triggered the invasion of Lebanon, bitterly condemns the war as unjustified and brands the war policy as one of "adventurism."

Controversy envelops the Knesset following the sudden and unexpected introduction and passage of a controversial archaeological bill at a midnight vote that is designed to curb excavations by archaeologists because of the possible presence of Jewish graves.

Tensions between Orthodox Jews and Arabs in Hebron heighten when 19-year-old yeshiva student Aharon Gross is fatally stabbed in the Hebron market place by Arab assailants, and members of the Jewish township of Kiryat Arba retaliate by burning Arab property in the city's central market.

Two weeks later, masked gunmen open fire with automatic weapons and toss a grenade into a crowd of students on the campus of the Islamic College in Hebron, killing three Arab students and wounding 33 others.

## INSIDE ISRAEL: AUGUST --

Ovadia Soffer, the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, is appointed as the new Israeli Ambassador to France, replacing Meir Rosenne.

Avraham Ahituv, the former head of the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, writes in Davar that West Bank settlements are a "psychological hotbed for the growth of Jewish terror" and that settlers sometimes take the law into their own hands because they feel they have the Likud government's support. A West Bank Gush Emunim leader denounces Ahituv's article as a danger to national security.

The Supreme Court sentences the former Minister of Labor, Social Welfare and Absorption, Aharon Abu Hatzeira, to three months in prison in connection with a lower court conviction that found him guilty of fraud, theft and breach of the public trust.

The government makes public a list of new economic measures to balance the national budget, of which two of the major decisions are to cut back on the government financing of political parties and reverse an earlier decision to designate the October 25 municipal elections a national vacation day. Most of the proposals, however, are still subject to approval by either the Knesset Finance Committee or the full Knesset.

## A \$100,000 ANNUAL AWARD CREATED FOR INDIVIDUALS AIDING JEWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The creation of the "Jabotinsky Prize: Shield of Jerusalem" was announced at a press conference here yesterday. The \$100,000 prize is intended to be "The Nobel Prize of Jewish World," Eryk Spektor, chairman of the Jabotinsky Foundation, a New York-based, non-profit educational organization, declared.

He said that the prize will be presented annually to a man or a woman, Jewish or non-Jewish, who is deemed to have done the most during the prior two years "for the defense of the rights of the Jewish people."

Spektor pointed out that the "principles behind the Prize assert that a person who protects the legitimate rights of any single group of individuals defends the rights of all people. Therefore, in our view, the Shield of Jerusalem Prize is intended to be a major humanitarian award for service to the Jewish people and, through this, to all of mankind."

The first Jabotinsky Prize will be presented in New York on November 14 at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Spektor said.

The recipient of the Prize will be selected by a panel of "distinguished international jurors" from a list of candidates submitted by major Jewish organizations as well as other groups and individuals, Spektor said. He said the jurors this year will include:

Morris Abram, attorney and educator; Milton Friedman, Nobel Prize-winning economist; Reuben Hecht, an Israeli industrialist; Charlotte Jacobson, president of the Jewish National Fund; Milton Petrie, philanthropist; Judge Simon Rifkind, jurist and attorney; Prof. Henry Rosovsky, dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and Lord Weidenfeld, a British publisher and government advisor.

## BASKETBALL STAR LEAVES ISRAEL By Haskell Cohen

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Earl Williams, the American-born Black basketball star of the Maccabi Tel Aviv team whose conversion last year to Judaism triggered considerable controversy, announced here he has signed a new contract to play for a team based in Bologna, Italy.

A former player with the Detroit Pistons and Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association, Williams' tough and often aggressive play surprised many basketball officials here. Williams is remembered for striking an opposing player in an international game in Greece two years ago, touching off a riot that involved the entire Maccabi squad.

Williams announced his conversion to Judaism last summer and it startled some Israeli National Basketball League coaches. "This can't be the Earl Williams I used to know when I was affiliated with the Detroit Pistons during Williams' stay there," said one former assistant coach. "It just doesn't sit right with me."

The issue of conversion for basketball players arises from a rule which allows each team to bring in one non-Israeli player of Jewish birth and one of non-Jewish birth. When a non-Israeli player of non-Jewish birth becomes a convert, his action makes room for acceptance by an NBL team of another non-Israeli player.

But the conversion rule, because of the view that some conversions are done for the sake of the basketball teams and not because of a sincere interest in Judaism, has been amended beginning this year. The new ruling allows for each team to acquire two foreign players, regardless of religion or race.

## WEIZMAN MAY BE BACK IN THE LIMELIGHT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman may soon be back in the political limelight. Premier Menachem Begin has asked Weizman to meet with him, the first official meeting between the two men since Weizman left the Cabinet in 1980.

The former defense chief is scheduled to brief Begin on his talks in Cairo, where he went on private business but met with a number of government officials, including President Hosni Mubarak. There was speculation here that the Premier would use the opportunity to urge Weizman to return to the Herut movement and to political life.

Weizman, who as Defense Minister played a major role in the Camp David meetings of September 1978 and in subsequent negotiations of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, left the Cabinet because of serious policy differences with Begin.

There had been talk late last year that Weizman intended to establish a new centrist political party to participate in the next Knesset elections. But Weizman, himself, has refrained from either confirming or denying such a move. A new political party headed by him could constitute a threat to both Likud and the Labor Alignment in the manner of Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change which won 15 seats in the 1977 elections, contributing to Labor's defeat by Likud.

Weizman reportedly discussed with Egyptian leaders ways and means to normalize the relations between the two countries, which have been in deep freeze since the war in Lebanon began, to renew the autonomy talks, and to enable the return of the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i has left for Cairo, at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart, Ahmad Illal. This is the first official visit by an Israeli minister since the Lebanon war began.