

**ISRAELI FORCES CONTINUE TO POUND PLO FORCES IN LEBANON**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- Israeli sea and air forces continued to pound Palestine Liberation Organization forces in Lebanon today, both those loyal to Yasir Arafat and the Syrian-backed dissidents who oppose him.

For the second time in 12 hours, Israel Navy gunboats shelled targets in Tripoli in northern Lebanon where the PLO chief and some 4,000 of his fighters are awaiting evacuation by Greek ships flying the United Nations flag. Israel Air Force planes bombed PLO positions in Bahamdoun on the Beirut-Damascus highway. The town is the headquarters of the anti-Arafat PLO faction led by Abu Moussa.

The shelling of Tripoli yesterday and today was apparently responsible for delaying the departure of Arafat and his men. Five Greek car ferries which were due to begin the embarkation at Tripoli today have not yet sailed from Larnaca, Cyprus. Their masters reportedly postponed sailing because of the danger.

According to one report, Arafat himself had asked for "some hours" delay. The port area of Tripoli sustained damage from the Israeli shelling, several fires were started and one or two ships in the harbor were reportedly hit.

**No Guarantee Of Safe Conduct**

Israel has refused to guarantee safe conduct to Arafat and his men although it did not interfere with the evacuation of more than 70 PLO wounded in an Italian ship Saturday. Israel's policy apparently is to keep the PLO uncertain of what to expect. It has succeeded so far to the extent that Arafat reportedly has decided to leave his heavy equipment, including tanks and artillery, behind in Lebanon if and when he leaves.

Although Israel is not expected to attack the evacuation ships it would clearly prefer a renewed battle between Arafat loyalists and dissidents to Arafat's departure with his men and probably regrouping in some other Arab country. The dissidents have already warned that they will renew their attacks if the Arafat forces are not out of Lebanon in the next day or two.

**U.S. AGAIN URGES ISRAEL NOT TO IMPEDE PLO'S DEPARTURE FROM TRIPOLI**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration again urged Israel today not to "impede" the Palestine Liberation Organization from leaving Tripoli in northern Lebanon.

But State Department spokesman John Hughes stressed, "The Israelis have stated that 'we (Israel) have not said anywhere that we will attack.'" PLO chief Yasir Arafat and some 4,000 of his men if they leave Tripoli aboard Greek ships flying the United Nations flag.

"The U.S. hopes and expects that impediments such as recent Israeli actions to the expeditious evacuation of Arafat and his forces will not be removed," Hughes said. He did not say what Israeli

actions he was referring to but apparently he meant the shelling by Israeli gunboats of the Tripoli harbor.

But when it was suggested that this action was preventing the PLO from leaving, Hughes replied, "I am not sure Israel has prevented the PLO from leaving?" He would not discuss whether the Israeli action would be a departure from the recent agreements between Israel and the U.S. for cooperation in the Middle East. He noted however that in general, it is not unusual for "good friends and good allies" to have "differences of opinion."

**Departure Of PLO Cited As A 'Good Thing'**

The State Department spokesman re-stated the U.S. position that the departure of Arafat and his loyalists would be a "good thing," not out of concern for the PLO but out of concern for the people of Tripoli and because the U.S. sees it as within the "framework" of its objectives in Lebanon.

"We noted last week our strong hope that the city and people of Tripoli would be spared from further bloodshed caused in part by the prospect of renewed fighting by PLO factions," Hughes said. "We believe that the evacuation from Tripoli of PLO forces loyal to Arafat would address this concern and would be consistent with our objective of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon."

**Rumsfeld Visits Baghdad**

Meanwhile, Hughes said that Donald Rumsfeld, Reagan's special Mideast envoy, was in Baghdad today. He would not give any details of Rumsfeld's visit to the Iraqi capital except to say that it was in connection with his duties as special envoy for the Middle East and for the situation in Lebanon.

Hughes said the U.S., as it has stated in the past, would be pleased to exchange ambassadors with Iraq if Iraq made such a request. Iraq broke diplomatic relations with the U.S. during the 1967 war and Rumsfeld is the first high U.S. official to visit that country since then. But Hughes stressed that the U.S. has "absolutely" no intention of changing its neutral position in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

**INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE FINDS NEGLIGENCE BY ARMY COMMAND WAS A FACTOR IN BOMBING ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI MILITARY HQ IN TYRE**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The committee investigating the November 4 car bomb attack on Israeli military headquarters in Tyre found negligence by the army command was a factor in the deaths of 61 persons, including 29 Israeli soldiers and border policemen.

The committee's final report was submitted to the Cabinet yesterday by Maj. Gen. Amnon Reshef who headed the inquiry. The Cabinet directed the Defense Minister and the Chief of Staff "to draw the appropriate conclusions for the future" and to deal with "those found to have acted inappropriately ... In accordance with standard Israel Defense Force procedure."

The committee said its findings were to be presented to the military police investigative branch,

indicating that court martial proceedings could be brought against certain individuals. The report found instances of security negligence on the part of both the local command in Tyre and the IDF's northern command which is responsible for Israeli forces in Lebanon.

The report released last night followed an interim report by the committee which drew criticism in the Knesset and from the public for being too vague and failing to pinpoint blame. Responsibility for the attack in Tyre was claimed by the Islamic Jihad, a group which took credit for similar attacks on U.S. and French military headquarters in Beirut a month earlier.

#### Failure To Implement Security Precautions

The report said that the local IDF command and the northern command failed to implement security precautions ordered by the General Staff. It noted that a General Staff directive called for the placement of an armored vehicle at the entrance to the Israeli compound but no such precaution was taken.

The committee, however, was unable to draw clear conclusions as to whether other apparent lapses of security were due to negligence and if they contributed to the death toll. In that category the report listed the absence of two IDF guards from their posts at the time. The committee also could not determine whether the gate at the entrance to the compound would have been sufficient to block the explosive-laden vehicle had it been locked instead of unlocked.

#### ISRAELI OFFICIALS DENY REPORT THAT LEVY MET HUSSEIN IN PARIS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- Government officials flatly denied today an Israeli Radio report that Deputy Premier David Levy met with King Hussein of Jordan in Paris. Knowledgeable sources here dismissed the report as highly unlikely.

The report originated with the State-owned radio's Paris correspondent after Levy, who was in the French capital for a meeting with President Francois Mitterrand last week, abruptly cancelled plans to return to Israel yesterday to attend the weekly Cabinet meeting. He also cancelled, on short notice, an interview on Radio Monte Carlo. The latter said it was told that Levy had been called to an important political meeting. Levy gave no reason for his change of plans.

#### NEW AGREEMENT GIVES ISRAELI WORKERS A 17.9% C.O.L. HIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- Israeli wage-earners will receive a 17.9 percent interim cost-of-living allowance next Sunday under an agreement signed last night by Histadrut and the Employers Association. The advance, to ease the shock of record inflation in the last two months, will be followed next month by the regular c.o.l. increment of nearly 50 percent due on January salaries.

The agreement averted a threatened series of wildcat strikes in most branches of the economy. It was signed after a day of protest rallies at some 300 factories all over the country. At the same time, Ezra Sadan, Director General of the Finance Ministry, authorized an adjustment of income tax brackets to make sure that the workers' gains are not nullified by placing them in higher tax brackets.

The last c.o.l. allowances were wiped out by the 21.1 percent rise in living costs in October, the all-time record for a single month, followed by a 15.2 percent increase in November, the second highest monthly increase and the highest ever for November.

The agreement signed last night brought no relief to Israeli merchants engaged in the import-export trades or to citrus growers. Longshoremen at Haifa and Ashdod are continuing their work slowdown which has caused thousands of tons of produce to rot on the docks. Negotiations with the stevedoring companies broke down last week causing citrus growers to stop harvesting at the peak of the export season.

Imported goods bound for Israel have been dumped at Limassol, Cyprus by ships which refuse to enter Israel's strikebound ports. Other ships have been diverted to the port of Eilat via the Suez Canal. This adds to the cost of goods because of the longer voyage and canal tolls.

Meanwhile, disgruntled employees of the Defense and Welfare ministries have stepped up their work sanctions, refusing to negotiate their grievances through outside mediators. Railway workers have threatened a three-day strike this week.

#### JEWISH STUDENT AT GRENADA SCHOOL EXCUSED FROM TAKING EXAM ON SABBATH FOLLOWING COMPLAINT BY THE ADL

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- A decision by the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners that the St. Georges University Medical School of Grenada, now using temporary facilities in New Jersey, cannot force a Jewish student to take an examination on his Sabbath, has been hailed by Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

The decision of the medical school to accommodate Steven Cohen of Mineola, Long Island followed a complaint by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that the university had discriminated against Cohen, one of the students evacuated from Grenada after the U.S. marine invasion. Cohen is now continuing his studies at the medical school's facilities at St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston.

The ADL asserted St. Georges denied Cohen's request for a three-hour delay in taking an examination scheduled for Saturday, December 17, during the Jewish Sabbath.

In an affidavit submitted by the ADL to the State Board of Medical Examiners in Trenton, Cohen declared he had offered "to pay for a proctor to sit with me in another room at St. Barnabas during the 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. scheduled test period and then to begin my test at 5:30 p.m. after the Sabbath."

#### Must Comply With U.S. Laws

In a letter to the medical examiners board, submitted with the affidavit, Jeffrey Sinsensky, ADL legal affairs department director, declared that as long as the Grenadan school operates in the United States, it must comply "not only with United States laws but also with New Jersey policy mandating non-discrimination in education, and to show the same respect for individual rights accorded to all students" in New Jersey.

The Board of Medical Examiners then adopted a resolution which noted the state's policy of accommodating the religious practices of students and added that the board "recommends and expects that the (St. Georges) university recognize the religious needs of its students."

Sinensky said the ADL had contacted Charles Janousek, executive secretary of the examiners board on December 12 after his protest letter to St. Georges Chancellor Charles Modica failed to remedy the problem.

While he was attending classes in Grenada, Cohen said in his affidavit, the school refused to accommodate him in connection with classes, laboratories or written examinations held on Saturdays. He said being sometimes forced to take written examinations on Saturday, the only day they were given, caused him "a great deal of moral anxiety."

Cohen said he did so because, while the medical school was in Grenada, he took the examinations as scheduled, "on penalty of being effectively barred" from a medical career. Since the school is presently operating in the United States, he asserted, he should not be subjected to "religiously discriminatory conduct directed at American citizens" in the United States.

### University Chancellor Criticized

Berman noted that students at St. Georges University must sign a form requiring they will abide by all school regulations, including scheduling of classes and examinations on any day of the week. He cited a statement by Modica that the form was meant "to force students to recognize the 'real world of 1983' and the needs of the medical profession."

Berman responded that it was Modica "who perhaps is out of touch with the real world of 1983 where hundreds of thousands of Sabbath observers are their Jews, Seventh Day Adventists or members of other Christian Sabbath observing groups, enjoy positions of leadership in virtually every occupation." He added that Modica, in his statement of university policy, "has succeeded in insulting people of all religions."

### STATE DEPT. MUM ABOUT REPORTS OF A SECRET U.S.-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The State Department refused to comment today on reports that President Reagan has signed a secret agreement, including U.S. military aid to Israel in 1986. However, it stressed that the U.S. was committed to maintaining Israel's "qualitative military edge."

Department spokesman John Hughes noted that the Administration is still working on the 1985 budget and has not even begun considering figures for the 1986 fiscal year. "Of course, our commitment to Israel's qualitative edge in the region is well known and we remain prepared to make our best effort, subject to Congressional authorization and appropriation, to meet Israel's military assistance needs," Hughes said.

Israel Radio reported yesterday that Reagan added a secret annex to the Israel aid requests promising to "show understanding of Israel's defense needs and fix appropriate military aid." The document was given to Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens last week, according to Israel Radio.

Both Israel and the U.S. have denied any secret agreement were made during Shamir's visit to Washington at which the U.S. and Israel agreed to have closer military cooperation.

Israel is to receive \$1.7 billion in military aid in the 1984 fiscal year which began last October 1, half of which is a grant, and \$910 million in economic aid, all of it a grant. It was reported last week

that Israel will receive \$1.4 billion in military aid in the 1985 fiscal year, less than this year, but all of it a grant.

Hughes noted last week that the U.S. is considering making all of its military aid on a grant basis with the percentage of grant to loan being worked out on a country-by-country basis.

Egypt's Foreign Minister, Kamal Hassan Ali, was in Washington today, apparently discussing the aid question, too. Egypt is to receive \$1.3 billion in military aid this year, of which \$450 million is a grant. It reportedly will get \$1.1 billion in fiscal 1985, all a grant.

### GERMAN TOURISM TO ISRAEL IS RISING

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- German tourism to Israel, which dropped sharply last year, is rising again and there is a good chance that the downward trend may be reversed, according to Eli Noy, director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Frankfurt.

He reported that 17,000 German tourists went to Israel in October, up 17 percent from the same month last year. The figure for all of 1983 is expected to be 108,000, compared to 107,500 in 1982. In that year, German tourism declined by 31 percent from the 1981 total, due to the war in Lebanon and the bitter personal attacks on former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt by former Premier Menachem Begin during the 1981 Israeli election campaign.

Tourism from other countries to Israel also fell last year but the decline from Germany was steepest. Unlike the United States, Britain and France, Germany has few Jewish tourists to send to Israel. Jews are the only tourists who will travel to Israel in times of political strain and image problems.

But Noy believes that the prospects for 1984 are good. He noted that all of the major German tour operators have included Israel in their packages for next year, indicating that they consider the country to be politically acceptable once more and safe. But hopes for a significant increase have not yet materialized.

One problem is the continuing decline of the West German Mark relative to the U.S. Dollar, the basis for calculating the cost of tours to Israel. The Mark was selling at 2.75- \$1.00 in Frankfurt last week, a 19-year record low for the German currency.

Since Israeli hotel owners refuse to list their prices in Marks and charge tourists on the basis of daily exchange rates, Germans asked to book their tours in advance are wary because they cannot know what the final price will be.

### A TEARFUL REUNION

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- What had expected to be a formal dedication ceremony of the opening of a new pavilion at the Jewish old age home in Sao Paulo turned into a moving and tearful scene between President Joao Figueiredo, and an 83-year-old resident of the home, Irene Grunwald.

As the President moved through the crowd of old people and guests he spotted Grunwald, a long time friend of his late mother. He embraced her and tears came to his eyes. The President then posed for the photographer of Rio's leading daily, *Jornal do Brasil*, holding a flag bearing the inscription *Shalom* which was offered to him by one of the home's residents.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA NUMBER OF WOMEN RABBIS NEARS THE 100 MARK IN JUNE GRADUATIONS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- There are currently 17 women rabbinical students in the final year of their Reform studies and two women candidates in their final year at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) whose expected ordination next summer will bring to 94 the total number of American women ordained as rabbis since such ordination began 11 years ago, according to an annual Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey.

Moreover, assuming that the 15 women Reform candidates now in their next-to-last year, and the five women Reconstructionist candidates also in the same year, complete their studies and are ordained, the total of ordained women rabbis will substantially top 100 by the summer of 1985.

Twelve women were ordained as Reform rabbis last May, and two as Reconstructionist rabbis in June, according to data provided by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), the Reform seminary, and the RCC.

Those two ceremonies brought to 75 the total number of women ordained as rabbis since Sally Preisand was ordained by the Reform seminary as the first woman rabbi in American Jewish history. The RCC is now located in Wyncote, Pa., near Philadelphia. The HUC-JIR has campuses in New York, Cincinnati and Los Angeles.

There are now five more Reform women rabbinical candidates in their final year of studies than during the 1982-83 year but the same number -- two -- for each of those academic years at the RCC.

Currently, including the women candidates in their last year of study, there are 73 women and 119 men studying for the Reform rabbinate, for a total of 192 Reform rabbinical candidates during the current academic year. There are 27 men and 21 women studying for the rabbinate this year at the RCC, for a total of 48 Reconstructionist rabbinical candidates.

### A Chapter Expected To Begin

A completely new chapter in the history of preparation of American Jewish women for rabbinical study is expected to begin next September when the rabbinical school of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) in Manhattan is expected to admit its first class in its history of women candidates for the Conservative rabbinate.

That step was made possible, after years of frequently heated debate in the Conservative movement, by the decision of the JTS faculty last October 24 to admit women to the JTS rabbinical school. While no official data is available as yet, it is expected that the entering class of women candidates for the Conservative rabbinate at the JTS will be between 25 and 30.

A majority of the women ordained to date as Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis hold pulpit posts, most of them as assistant rabbis, with a few advanced to associate rabbis, a generalization that also applies to newly-ordained male rabbis.

No woman has yet been reported to have achieved the rank of senior rabbi at what, by definition, would be a large urban or suburban congregation. However, in recent years, a growing number of women rabbis have been appointed "solo rabbis." This term refers to pulpit positions in congregations too small to either need or afford more than one

rabbi. Some of the women rabbis have taken Hillel posts. Others have been named to teaching, administrative and organizational staff positions.

## BULK OF IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING IN ISRAEL ARE FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- Western countries now account for the bulk of the immigrants arriving in Israel. Aliya from the Soviet Union is at its lowest ebb and immigration from Rumania is also down, according to figures released last week by Yehuda Dominitz, Director General of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department.

But there are serious problems. As many as 40 percent of single olim from the West return home because of absorption difficulties -- mainly in finding housing. That was disclosed recently by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, at a meeting with representatives of the immigrants' associations in Israel -- a meeting described as "stormy."

Dominitz, addressing a seminar for the directors of absorption centers and immigrant hostels, stressed the significant rise in immigration. Some 15,028 olim arrived from January through November this year, compared to 12,200 in the January-November period of 1982. Of this year's number, 10,527 came from the West compared to 8,160 in the same period last year.

### The Trend Of Aliya

The number of American immigrants rose by 30 percent -- 3,157 from January-November, 1983 against 2,438 in the same period of 1982. Aliya from France amounted to 1,952 through November of 1983 compared to 1,506 in 1982.

The trend shows signs of continuing although the increase in total aliya last month was only slight compared to November, 1982. In the latter month, 1,119 olim arrived. In November, 1983, the arrivals numbered 1,174. Of that number, 704 were from the West and the rest from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe.

Dominitz reported that only 57 Jews left the Soviet Union last month, the smallest number on record since the USSR began to allow Jews to leave more than a decade ago. Of the 57, 26 came to Israel. So far this year, only 371 Soviet Jews came to Israel compared to 683 in the same period last year.

About 166 Jews arrived from Rumania last month compared to 226 in November, 1982. Total aliya from Rumania this year amounted to 1,113 compared to 1,364 last year.

### Complaints About Bureaucratic Duplications

At their meeting with Dulzin, spokesmen for the immigrants associations complained bitterly about bureaucratic duplication between the WZO and the various government departments handling immigration.

They claimed that some 20,000 olim are presently living in hostels because there is no adequate housing for them. The immigrant leaders reportedly directed their sharpest criticism at the Housing Ministry for refusing to make more homes available to the newcomers.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Long term refusenik Eitan Finkelstein arrived in Israel last Friday, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. Finkelstein, a physicist from Vilnius waited for permission to emigrate to Israel since 1971. He arrived in Israel with his wife Aleksandra and his nine-year-old daughter, Miriam.