

Vol. LXII - 67th Year

Friday, February 17, 1984

No. 33

**ANGRY MOOD IN ISRAEL OVER IMMINENT  
ABROGATION OF THE MAY 17 ACCORD**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- President Amin Gemayel's abrogation of Lebanon's May 17, 1983 withdrawal and security agreement with Israel is considered virtually certain by Israeli officials and his announcement to that effect is believed to be imminent.

Although apparently reconciled to the cancellation of what was the second formal accord between Israel and a neighboring Arab state, Israel's mood is one of anger. Interviewed on Israel television's Arabic program tonight, Premier Yitzhak Shamir warned that an abrogation of the pact would "hurt Lebanon more than Israel." He reiterated that with or without the agreement Israel would take all necessary steps to protect its northern borders. (See related story.)

Reports from Beirut today said that Gemayel has signed a peace plan, worked out by Saudi Arabia, which calls for abrogation of the May 17 agreement and for the replacement of the multinational force in Beirut by a United Nations force. The eight-point plan has been sent to Damascus for approval by Syria, which is expected.

(In Washington, Administration officials confirmed that Gemayel agreed to the new plan but according to White House spokesman Larry Speakes, "We have problems with certain elements of the plan." He would not elaborate.)

**No Opposition To French Proposal**

Earlier today, Shamir repeated what he told the Knesset yesterday -- that Israel would not oppose the French efforts for a new UN force in Lebanon to replace the MNF. He stressed, however, that the UN would not protect Israel's northern border. Israel would require better means for that and did not consider a UN force equipped or motivated to prevent the return of Palestine Liberation Organization fighters to south Lebanon.

According to Shamir, however, a UN force could be helpful as a buffer between the Israel Defense Force and the forces of Syria and its allies now concentrated further north.

**Warning To Lebanese Druze**

Shamir sent a stern warning to the Druze in Lebanon not to act counter to Israel's interests unless they wanted to find themselves in direct conflict with the IDF and their Israeli Druze brethren serving in the IDF.

There is also concern in government circles over reports that a considerable number of PLO fighters are incorporated in the Druze forces which are winding up their successful offensive against the Lebanese army.

The Druze have joined up with Shiite Moslem militias in the southern suburbs of Beirut. According to some reports, PLO elements have deployed in villages only a few kilometers north of the IDF lines along the Awali River in south Lebanon.

Israeli sources have reported, however, that the Druze renewed their pledge that the PLO would not be permitted to operate freely in the area and that

once the fighting ceased, the PLO units would be transferred further north to the Bahamdoun-Aley district in the Shouf mountains.

(In Washington today, State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said the U.S. has heard reports that PLO units have re-infiltrated into Beirut. "We are aware of reports of such re-infiltration, can't confirm it from here, but the reports are very disturbing and we take the matter very seriously," Romberg said.)

**With The Presidents Conference In Israel:  
SHAMIR WARNS THAT ISRAEL WILL  
PROTECT ITS NORTHERN BORDER**  
By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir warned tonight that a unilateral abrogation by Lebanon of its May 17 agreement with Israel "would be, first and foremost, a blow to Lebanon's own sovereignty, to its people and to their chances of freeing themselves from the Syrian grip."

Shamir, who spoke at a Knesset dinner marking the end of the four-day mission here of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Israel will not "renounce our signature nor our readiness to carry out the terms of that agreement bilaterally." But he stressed that no matter what happens, "we shall now protect our interests and ensure the security of our northern border."

Shamir also warned that Israel "will not tolerate any attempt at reestablishing in Lebanon a terrorist base of operations against Israel or against Israelis in southern Lebanon."

**Egypt Urged To Return To Spirit Of Camp David**

Turning to Egypt, he said that "apparently the Egyptian government has decided to sacrifice its relations with Israel for the sake of reintegration into the Arab fold." He was referring to what he said Egypt had been calling the cold peace with Israel.

Shamir called on the Egyptian government "to go back to the path of peace and to the spirit of Camp David. We are ready to resume contacts with Egypt, to discuss all pending issues, to renew the peace process and the autonomy talks. We hope that the U.S. government will exercise its influence on Egypt for the purpose of advancing these objectives."

**Role Of USSR Assessed**

Discussing the Soviet Union, Shamir expressed the hope that the election of Konstantin Chernenko as the new leader of the USSR would mean a re-examination of Soviet policy toward the Middle East and toward Soviet Jewry.

"They could make a substantial contribution to the stability and peace of this vital region of the world by stopping the supply of vast quantities of the most sophisticated weapons to Israel's enemies," Shamir said.

He said the Soviet Union should now "show greater understanding of Israel's national aspirations and legitimate striving."

He also urged Chernenko "to recognize the right of Jews to repatriation in their homeland, Eretz Yisrael, and to open the gates for their exit."

He declared that "let us resolve tonight, you the leaders of American Jewish organizations, and we representing the government of Israel, to revive the struggle on behalf of our brethren in the Soviet Union and to pursue it with the utmost vigor until the Soviet authorities will again open the gates and let our people go."

Julius Berman, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said the purpose of the some 70-member delegation's mission was to demonstrate that Jews are "one people that cannot be divided by physical barriers or by the actions of any tyrant."

#### DIFFERENCES ON MAY 17 ACCORD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's attitude toward the Israel-Lebanon May 17 accord appeared to be schizophrenic this week as President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz offered diametrically opposed views.

Reagan, at a question-and-answer session yesterday with reporters at a White House breakfast, was asked if his Administration would be willing to accept abrogation of the accord if that were a condition for the survival of President Amin Gemayel's government in Lebanon. The President replied:

"I have to say with regard to the agreement, since we're not a party to it, we did help and encourage the development of it; we're not a party to it, so there's no way that we should have a position one way or the other on whether it is abrogated or not. That is up to the parties involved. And, no, it would not change our position that as long as there's a chance for peace there we're going to keep striving."

Shultz, at a hastily called press conference at the State Department later in the day, told reporters, "We continue to support the May 17 agreement. Those who would dispense with this agreement must bear responsibility to find alternative formulas for Israeli withdrawal" from Lebanon.

With The Presidents Conference In Israel:  
U.S. ENVOY SAYS THE AMERICAN  
EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM  
TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM IN THE 1950's  
By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis said here that he regards Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and knows it is an "affront" to Israel to have the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv rather than in Jerusalem. It should have been moved there in the 1950s, Lewis said.

The U.S. envoy made his remarks to 70 American Jewish leaders representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at a dinner at the Jerusalem Hilton Tuesday night. He explained that over the years it had become difficult for the U.S. to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem because of the belief that the move would harm the U.S. ability to make peace in the Middle East.

The situation could be resolved eventually only through a peace agreement that included a section on Jerusalem, Lewis said. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing next week on a resolution by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) asking that the embassy be moved to Jerusalem.

The U.S. has up to now refused to recognize Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem which it regards as an issue subject to negotiation. This has caused embarrassment on many occasions when ranking American officials have refused to meet with Israel government officials who have their offices in East Jerusalem. No

American official has visited East Jerusalem in other than a private capacity.

Lewis denied charges made to the visiting Americans by Deputy Premier David Levy Tuesday that the U.S. failed to consult with Israel on its moves in Lebanon. "We don't always do it so well," he said referring to consultations. "We have done it well or better with Israel than with any of our other friends," he added.

Responding to a question, Lewis said the U.S. plans to "underscore" to West Germany the significance of the deep feelings expressed during the visit of Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Israel against the proposed sale of German arms to Saudi Arabia. He said the U.S. could not oppose the sale because Saudi Arabia was its main arms purchaser. But it could express its concern about the effect it could have on relations between its close friends, Lewis said.

STRAUSS' TRIP TO SYRIA  
DISMAYS THE BONN GOVERNMENT  
By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Franz Josef Strauss' unannounced, unofficial trip to Syria has dismayed the Bonn government and raised speculation as to the precise intentions behind the conservative Bavarian leader's visit to Damascus for talks with President Hafez Assad.

Strauss heads the Christian Social Union, the ruling party in Bavaria and a close ally of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU). But Kohl was reported to have been surprised and angered on his return from the funeral of Yuri Andropov in Moscow, to learn of Strauss' self-appointed mission.

Aides to Strauss said he was responding to a personal invitation from Assad at a time when contacts between Damascus and the West are at an extremely delicate stage owing to the situation in Lebanon and the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict. They refused to say whether Strauss considered his mission to be an attempt to mediate between the United States and Syria. He had not been asked to undertake such a role.

#### Possible Move To Sell Arms To Syria

There are also rumors that Strauss may be trying to open the way for weapons sales to Syria by Bavarian-based arms manufacturers. Sources here recall that he initiated joint Franco-German arms sales to Syria several years ago, a deal approved by the Bonn government at the time because it involved weapons systems jointly produced by France and West Germany.

But according to many observers, the Bavarian leader's venture into personal diplomacy in the Middle East may be an attempt to undermine the position of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a leader of the small Free Democratic Party (FDP) which is the CDU's coalition partner.

Genscher had served as Foreign Minister in the Social Democratic Party (SPD)-FDP coalition headed by former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. When the SPD was unseated by the CDU in last year's elections, Strauss sought to replace Genscher as Foreign Minister and was angered when Kohl refused to appoint him. He has since been pressing for a government shuffle that would reduce the influence of the FDP which represents a liberal element in Kohl's coalition.

Spokesman for the SPD opposition said today that Strauss' strip to Syria and his other foreign policy activities damage West Germany's reputation and are a burden on relations with other countries. The Foreign Ministry made it clear that Strauss had not been assigned any mission on the government's behalf.

# With The Presidents Conference In Israel: JEWISH LEADERS DENOUNCE MUBARAK FORGIVING A U.S.-PLO DIALOGUE By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations denounced Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's statement at the White House Tuesday as violating the spirit of Camp David.

"President Mubarak's latest public statement in Washington blaming Israel for the continuing turmoil in Lebanon, calling on the United States to negotiate with the terrorist PLO and omitting any reference to either Camp David or the peace treaty gives still further grounds for fear that the peace treaty is unravelling," the Presidents Conference said in a formal statement yesterday.

The some 70 persons attending the four-day Presidents Conference learned of the Mubarak statement when they woke up yesterday morning and immediately wanted to express their outrage. They unanimously approved the statement before beginning their day-long sessions.

"We call on President Mubarak publicly to declare his country's continuing commitment to the Camp David framework and its peace treaty with Israel and to work in accordance with those commitments," the statement said.

"And we urge our own country, as a full partner in the peace process, to insist that Egypt fulfill its treaty obligations towards Israel as the foundation for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

## Arens Concerned About Egypt's Attitude

At the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, after the group had been briefed privately on security problems, Defense Minister Moshe Arens also voiced concern about Egypt's attitude. He noted that Israel had given up the Sinai in return for a "piece of paper" with a commitment for "long-term peaceful relations."

He said Israel was not sure that commitment was being kept. He said that because of this Israel now had to take into consideration Israel's southern border and the fact that Egypt is undergoing a large-scale new arms buildup. Arens noted that Egypt was receiving almost as much military aid as Israel from the U.S., which it would not be getting if it had not signed the peace treaty. He said Israel would not be concerned about the military buildup if Egypt was keeping its commitments under the peace treaty.

As for the northern border, Arens was pessimistic about the future in Lebanon. He said Israel must maintain its "security zone" there. "By the looks of it, this is what we will be doing for some time," he said.

## Peres Calls For talks with Jordan

Earlier, in Jerusalem, Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres told the American Jewish leaders that he was worried that Mubarak was putting his prestige behind the PLO. He said PLO leader Yasir Arafat was not a moderate but had brought tragedy to his people and had prevented peace.

Peres called for the beginning of negotiations with Jordan based on a "package of peace." This package should include talks with Jordan and the Palestinians based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said Israel should not reject the Reagan initiative despite its disagreement with some of its points. He said Egypt and Israel should begin anew negotiations on autonomy.

## CHILE URGED TO EXPEL WAR CRIMINAL

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has called on Chile's Minister of Interior, Sergio Onofre Jarpa, to act affirmatively on the request of his country's Jewish community that Nazi war criminal Walter Rauff be expelled from Chile. During World War II, some 250,000 Jews were murdered in Europe by the movable gas vans invented by Rauff.

In a cablegram to the Chilean official, Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, said that "world public opinion and international law demand that Walter Rauff be brought to justice for his crimes against humanity. Now, the Jewish community of Chile has appealed to you, asking for the expulsion of Rauff. We... urge that you, using the powers of your office, respond affirmatively to the request of the Comité Representativo de Entidades Judías de Chile," the representative organization of Chilean Jewry.

Foxman also cabled West German Justice Minister Hans Engelhard calling on his government to request that Chile expel Rauff so that the Federal Republic of Germany could bring him to trial there. Engelhard replied that his government "is now investigating what measures can be taken or solution found" regarding Rauff's expulsion or extradition to the Federal Republic, Foxman said.

## Other Developments Disclosed

Meanwhile, Foxman disclosed a number of other developments in connection with Rauff:

\* B'nai B'rith of Chile, acting on behalf of B'nai B'rith International, presented a letter to Interior Minister Onofre Jarpa urging him to favorably consider the request of the government of Israel that Rauff be expelled.

\* Leaders of the Peruvian Jewish community met in Lima with Chilean Embassy officials to also call for Rauff's expulsion for his "crimes against humanity." They told the Chilean diplomats that the statute of limitations does not apply to such crimes.

\* There has been increasing support from the non-Jewish community of Chile to expel Rauff, with demonstrators outside his home calling him a "Nazi assassin" and demanding he be tried for war crimes.

Foxman said that because the government forced thousands of Chileans into exile for political reasons many in Chile now ask "who is more deserving of being a Chilean, the war criminal Walter Rauff or those deprived of their nationality and forced to live outside of Chile?"

## JENO AWARDS FOR 1983 ANNOUNCED

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- The 1983 Fernando Jeno Awards for literary achievements will go to six writers and poets from Israel, the United States, Canada, Argentina and Mexico, it was announced here today by the panel of judges representing the Cultural Commission of the Central Jewish Committee of Mexico.

The recipients of the \$500 prize are Israeli writers Yosef Oren of Rishon LeZion and Zeev Milikowsky of Kibbutz Ilon; Yehuda Elberg, a novelist from Montreal; poet Eliezer Aronowsky, formerly of Havana and now a resident of Miami; Dr. Marcos Aguinis, an Argentine Jewish writer who is a member of the Argentine government; and Dr. Jaime Laventman, of Mexico. They are being honored for works in Yiddish, Hebrew and Spanish.

## WORLD'S FIRST TORAH REGISTRY SYSTEM HAS BEEN DEVELOPED

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- For the first time in history, a system to mark and identify Torah scrolls has been developed, it was announced here today at a press conference by Rabbi Israel Miller, honorary chairman of the Universal Torah Registry (UTR).

The registry system, using micro-perforations, marking paste and a Certificate of Registry, is the culmination of nearly three years of research by chemists, cryptologists, computer scientists and security experts. Their search was guided by principles laid down by leading rabbinic authorities, Miller said. "It represents a unified response by all facets of the Jewish community to a most serious problem," he said.

Miller pointed out that "Our aim is to ensure that each Torah in the United States, Canada, Israel and around the world has a unique code and a corresponding Certificate of Registry."

The UTR was created in consultation with synagogues, rabbinic, communal and law enforcement groups coordinated by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York, in response to a rash of thefts across the U.S. and around the world. The system is expected to be implemented in Israel, Europe and other parts of the world.

### Recognized A Compelling Need

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the JCRC, said: "We were faced with scores of Torah thefts in the metropolitan area and, even if the police had a lead, they found that Torahs could not be identified. We recognized the compelling need for an approach that would protect synagogues and others owning Torahs, discourage thieves and do away with a potential market."

According to JCRC officials, prices for a Torah scroll range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Stolen scrolls are sold to unsuspecting congregations, according to law enforcement officials.

### Extent Of Torah Thefts

The extent of Torah thefts in the New York area was outlined by Louis Weiser, chairman of the Jewish Security Monitoring Unit of the JCRC. He said that the disappearance of nine Torahs from the Hebrew Center of the East Bronx late last month brought the number of Torahs stolen since 1980 to over 200, and this represents only the number of Torahs reported stolen.

"There are no consolidated statistics on a national level, but reports to the JCRC from around the country indicate the scope of this awful problem," Weiser said. The worst year was 1981 when the theft of a total of 138 scrolls was reported on the East Coast alone. In 1982, in the light of additional security measures and one arrest, the thefts fell off to several dozen. There was an increase in reported thefts in 1983, and nine thefts already in 1984.

### A 'Set Of Fingerprints'

The Torah registry system has been compared to a "set of fingerprints" for every Torah by Deputy Inspector Paul Donnelly, Commanding Officer of the Bias Incident Investigating Unit of the New York City Police Department. "When we asked victims to describe their stolen Torahs, they couldn't," he said, "and those purchasing Torahs had no way to tell if they were buying a stolen Torah."

According to Rabbi Emmanuel Holzer, chairman of the UTR, a key aspect of the Torah registry system is the special Certificate of Registry. The certificate has been produced for the UTR by the American Bank Note Company. To protect buyers, a certificate of registry will have to be produced by the seller of a Torah.

Each Torah will be encoded using "microperforations." Torah owners will receive a kit with all the components necessary to apply the approved markings to register their Torahs, including superfine needles, an invisible marking substance and special marking guides.

Each Torah will be marked in 10 specific locations. There will be a one-time membership fee of \$40 and a registration fee of \$15 per Torah which covers a five year period. Holzer said, "We wanted a system that would be affordable so that no one would be excluded by the financial burden."

Rabbinic scholars gave two general guidelines for a marking system that any marking not be visible to the naked eye and that any mark not be representational (recognizable in any known language.) The community experts indicated that the system should be inexpensive and easily applied by members of any congregation. Finally, the security experts expected the system to be immune from tampering and readable by law enforcement personnel.

### RAYMOND GEBINER DEAD AT 81

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA) -- Raymond Gebiner, executive secretary of HIAS Council of Organizations and a leading figure in the Jewish labor and Workmen's Circle movements for several decades, died of a heart attack on February 9 while vacationing in Puerto Rico. He was 81 years old.

A columnist for the Jewish Daily Forward and host of WEVD's weekly radio show, "The Voice of HIAS," Gebiner joined HIAS in 1950 as a Yiddish writer for the public relations department. He retired officially in 1975, but continued on as a consultant for the organization that helped him to immigrate to America from his native Poland when he was 19 years old.

Gebiner studied at Columbia University, Cooper Union and the Rand School. From 1928-45 he was a Workmen's Circle school teacher. He went on to become the educational director of Local 60 of the ILGWU and director of the Children's Colony at Camp Eden of the Jewish Socialist Farband.

Gebiner held a number of leadership posts in the Workmen's Circle and was a member of the Executive Boards of the Jewish Labor Committee and the Yiddish Writers' Union.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Official census statistics from Ireland indicate a sharp decline in the country's Jewish population during the past decade, the World Jewish Congress reported Thursday. Figures released by the Irish census bureau in Dublin show that for the period 1971-1981 the Jewish population had dropped some 20 percent at a time that the general population had increased by 15 percent. In 1971, census records indicated that there 2,128 Jews in the country. The most recent data cites an estimated figure for the Jewish population being between 1,500-1,900.