

Vol. LXII - 67th Year

Monday, February 27, 1984

No. 38

CABINET IN APPARENT AGREEMENT THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO REDEPLOY THE IDF IN SOUTH LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- The Cabinet was apparently in agreement today that now is not the time for a redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon.

A communique released after today's session said "no decisions" were made on the issue which has been under debate for the past two weeks. This was taken to mean that the IDF will remain on its present lines along the Awali River for the time being. Cabinet sources said armored patrols would continue their probes north of the line.

Differences among the ministers over south Lebanon had been reported in the media before today's regular weekly Cabinet meeting. A group of five or six, led by Deputy Premier David Levy, was reported to favor an IDF pullback to lines closer to the Israeli border and to oppose beefed up patrols into areas the IDF evacuated months ago. The stated purpose of the patrols was to prevent the reinfiltration of Palestinian terrorists into those areas.

There were no indications today whether the Levy group continued to press its views. Cabinet sources said no vote was taken but intimated that there was broad agreement that now is not an opportune moment for a decision to redeploy the IDF.

According to political observers, Premier Yitzhak Shamir prefers to wait until the situation in Lebanon is clearer before Israel announces any unilateral move. It was also reported by reliable sources that the U.S. would prefer Israel not to pull its forces back to a more southerly line at this time. The last of the U.S. marines in Beirut embarked on ships of the Sixth Fleet today.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAYS TRANSFER OF U.S. EMBASSY FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM IS IMPORTANT TO ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- A senior Israeli official affirmed today that the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was an important issue for Israel. He told reporters after the Cabinet meeting that the present situation in which the U.S. and other countries maintain their Embassies in Tel Aviv is "abnormal and unjust" and that the government of Israel regards this matter with all seriousness.

The official stressed that Israel did not initiate the current moves in Congress to seek a transfer of the Embassy. But once the moves had begun in Congress, Israel saw "no reason" to stop them.

Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) has introduced a bill (S. 2031) requiring that the Embassy be moved to Jerusalem. He said his bill has 28 sponsors in the Senate. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Reps. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) and Benjamin Gilman (R. NY).

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee heard testimony last week from proponents and opponents of the move. One of the opponents was Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State for Political

Affairs, who contended that moving the Embassy would undermine America's ability to play an effective role in the Middle East peace process.

ALBERTA ASSEMBLY MEMBER FORCED TO RETRACT STATEMENT ABOUT THE NUMBER OF JEWS KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- A member of the Alberta Assembly was forced to retract a statement he made to a reporters last week questioning the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Bohdan Zip, a conservative representing Calgary's Mountainview district, was apparently reprimanded by Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed after he was quoted as telling a reporter that Jews inflated the number of deaths in order to win sympathy for Israel. Following a meeting with Lougheed, Zip said: "I hereby retract all statements by myself made Wednesday, February 22 regarding events during the second World War."

He insisted, however, that the reporter had quoted him out of context. He said the reporter came to him for information about Eastern European history because Zip is of Ukrainian descent. Zip is the second member of the Alberta Assembly who retracted remarks questioning the Holocaust within the past 12 months.

Last year, Stephen Stiles, another conservative, apologized publicly for similar statements. Both Stiles and Zip made their comments against the background of the upcoming trial of Jim Keegstra, former mayor of Eckville, Alberta, who is charged with violating Canada's anti-hate laws, a criminal offense.

Keegstra was removed from his teaching post at the Eckville high school last year after parents complained that he was indoctrinating his pupils with anti-Semitism. It was Keegstra's contention that the Holocaust was a hoax and that Jews are the root of all evil in the world. The date for his trial is expected to be announced in court this Wednesday.

WALTERS PUTS JACKSON ON THE SPOT OVER HIS ALLEGED ETHNIC SLURS

MANCHESTER, N.H., Feb. 26 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson denied that he was anti-Semitic during an exchange with Barbara Walters of ABC-TV on a PBS nationally televised program last Thursday night where he and the other seven Democratic Party presidential hopefuls were being interviewed five days prior to the first primary of the 1984 campaign year.

Asked repeatedly by Walters, the interviewer, if he had ever called New York Jews "Hymies" and New York "Hymietown," and if he had made the statement, "I am sick and tired of hearing constantly about the Holocaust," and that "Jews don't have a monopoly on suffering," Jackson insisted that he was not anti-Semitic and that he either did not recall making the statements or they were taken out of context.

Asked specifically if he was anti-Semitic, Jackson replied: "I am not anti-Semitic. I have supported Israel's right to exist. I also support the Palestinians' right to exist."

As to his "Hymie" remarks, Jackson said "I have no recollection of that -- and furthermore, I have indicated that those who've said it, I've not seen them make that statement face-to-face." He also insisted

that his statement about the Holocaust was taken out of context. He said the point he was trying to make was that both Blacks and Jews "have known suffering."

Jackson repeated his charge that "certain members" of the Jewish community -- whom he has never identified -- have been "hounding" his campaign. He said it was "unfortunate" that "there is this continuous struggle, as it were, between Black leadership and Jewish leadership I expect to meet with some leaders and presidents of some Jewish organizations very soon."

Jackson's statements have created widespread tension between him and the Jewish community and there have been denunciations of his attitude toward Israel and his uncritical acceptance of PLO chief Yasir Arafat. During the television interview here, Walters asked him if the statements he made and attributed to him "might be interpreted as anti-Israel and anti-Semitic." But Jackson failed to respond directly.

PERES WARNS AGAINST FURTHER SYRIAN ADVANCES

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres told a gathering of more than 600 supporters of Israel that Syria will have to "bear the consequences" of further troop deployment into southern Lebanon, and warned that Israel needs no country's permission to defend its borders.

Addressing delegates gathered for the closing assembly of the 18th Annual mid-winter conference of the Israel Histadrut Foundation at the Konover Renaissance Hotel, Peres cited both the Lebanese conflict and the four-year war between Iran and Iraq as primary obstacles in Middle-East peace-making efforts.

The Labor Party leader said that the Soviet-backed Syrians are more interested in forging a formidable standing of power in Middle East affairs than in actually taking over or occupying Lebanon. He expressed hope that such jockeying for position doesn't lead neighboring Egypt away from its peace accord with Israel and that Egypt will "remain a force for peace in the Middle-East, not for the PLO."

Says That Syria Must Be Contained

The former Israeli Defense Minister also warned that Syria must be contained in its advances to the south. "We do not need the permission of Syria, nor the consent of the Lebanese government to defend ourselves, as we are capable; to keep a watchful eye on the southern part of Lebanon, so the northern part of Israel will no longer and not again be endangered by terroristic forces."

"We do not want to become the policeman of Lebanon, nor the policy-maker of the Lebanese destiny," Peres explained. "We do not have the slightest ambition to gain an inch of her territory, nor a drop of her waters. Nor do we want to become an influential spirit in her policies."

Peres added that Israel's "sole purpose" is to "stop the shelling of our kibbutzim, our towns and villages, which was initiated from the southern part of Lebanon by the PLO. We shall do what is necessary to achieve the defense of our country."

Peres believes that an Iranian victory over Iraq will send far-reaching political shockwaves throughout the Middle East. "The whole position of the moderate Arab countries will be in danger to an extent that nobody can today really fault them

for even imagining. An Iranian victory may endanger the safety of Saudi Arabia, the independence of Kuwait and the stability of Jordan."

Peres characterized Iran's 84-year old leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as a belligerent mad-man having "no mercy for other people, nor his own young children that he sends to the front to be killed and to try to kill others."

Peres reinforced Israel's determination to create an environment for peace with the Arab countries and to solve the Palestinian conflict "peacefully and fairly; not by the force of the sword, but by the wisdom of compromise." The problem today in achieving a permanent solution to the Palestinian problem "is not how to conclude negotiations, but how to commence them," he said.

The Israel Histadrut Foundation raised almost \$7 million in pledges and commitments during its three-day conclave, according to Dr. Sol Stein, chairman of the Foundation's management committee.

EBAN: IRANIAN VICTORY WOULD BE MORE DANGEROUS FOR ISRAEL THAN IF IRAQIS WIN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- A victory by the Iranian forces would be more dangerous for Israel than if the Iraqis win the Persian Gulf war, Abba Eban, former Israeli Foreign Minister said here.

Vowing preference for neither side in the bloody four-year-old conflict, he said he did not want to see Israel become the prime target for an irredentist Shiite Islam led by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. Such a prospect made it all the more important for Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon and so avoid having to rule the half a million Shiites living in that area, Eban said.

Such a withdrawal, he argued, would have to involve a security arrangement with Syria, which he described as being "contractually available" for an agreement like that which led to the Golan Heights disengagement 10 years ago.

Unlike that occasion, though, he expressed skepticism about the possibility of excluding the Soviet Union from the negotiating process, especially as the United States had so compromised itself in the eyes of Syria's President Hafez Assad.

Eban told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, however, that although a Labor government would be flexible over the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967, there was no reason to repeal the legislation, enacted by the Likud government, extending Israeli law to the Golan area. "We would deal with it pragmatically, and not juridically," he said.

On the wider Arab-Israeli front, Eban foresaw no likelihood of negotiations in 1984. He blamed the diplomatic stalemate on the U.S. presidential elections, the inflexibility of the present Israeli government and on Arab "rimidity." He observed: "All you can do is try to hold the line and hope for new opportunities in 1985."

LEVINSON SUICIDE EXPECTED TO HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN LABOR PARTY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- The suicide of Yacov Levinson is expected to have serious repercussions within the Labor Party and Histadrut and may bring to a head long simmering power struggles in both those institutions, political observers said today.

Levinson, former board chairman of the Bank Hapoalim who was under police investigation for

alleged illegal financial transactions involving overseas companies, shot himself to death at his Ramat Gan home last Thursday. A note found by his body accused the present managers of the bank and leaders of Histadrut of hounding him with false accusations.

The 52-year-old banker was buried Friday at Kibbutz Tzora. No officials of the trade union federation or the bank were among the hundreds attending the funeral services. Levinson's widow made it clear she wanted none of them present and would not have any Labor Party personalities speak at her husband's grave.

Nevertheless, the Histadrut Central Committee convened today for a brief memorial service. They were summoned by Yisrael Kessar, Deputy Secretary General of Histadrut. Secretary General Yeruhim Meshel who is in Rumania, did not cut short his visit on hearing of Levinson's death. Meshel is said to have been Levinson's principal foe and to have hoped to replace him as Bank Hapoalim board chairman. The bank is presently headed by Giora Gazit whom Levinson chose to succeed him when he resigned as chairman last year.

Levinson's death is expected to heighten the struggle for leadership of the Labor Party between party chairman Shimon Peres and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin. Political circles said Levinson was supported and defended by younger elements in the Labor Party hierarchy who are associated with Peres while his opponents were found mainly among Rabin's backers.

Peres is due back shortly from a visit to the U.S. and is expected to take a stand on the issue of Meshel's continued leadership of Histadrut. Meshel reportedly has been grooming Kessar to take over as Secretary General and intends to make a bid for the chairmanship of the Bank Hapoalim. He also seeks the presidency of Hevrat Haovdim, a Histadrut holding company once headed by Levinson. Both positions wield great financial power.

But in the aftermath of Levinson's suicide, sentiment seems to have turned against Meshel. There are growing demands for his resignation as Secretary General of Histadrut and his appointment to the top posts at the Bank Hapoalim and Hevrat Haovdim appear in doubt.

The suicide is also expected to trigger a close examination of Histadrut and Hevrat Haovdim activities. Likud Party spokesmen are already demanding a probe of possible connections between the Labor Party and Levinson's alleged offenses. The Labor Party insists that Levinson's activities as a banker were in no way connected with his membership in the party. The police are continuing the investigation.

ISRAEL EXPRESSES DISMAY OVER U.S.-PLO INDIRECT CONTACTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- Officials here confirmed today that Israel has "expressed its dismay" to the United States over indirect contacts between the Reagan Administration and the Palestine Liberation Organization reportedly held during a nine-month period that ended in June, 1982.

The protest was conveyed by the Israeli Ambassador in Washington, Meir Rosenne, to Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, at a meeting at the State Department last Thursday. Rosenne asked for a clarification of the reports which appeared in The New York Times

on February 19. Last Wednesday night the Israeli envoy told a press conference at Zionist Organization of America headquarters in New York that he did not believe the published report.

Israel regards any U.S. contacts with the PLO to be in violation of the 1975 undertaking not to have any dealings with the PLO until it accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

The officials here said today that the reported contacts "do not help the cause of peace" and stressed that Israel would never negotiate with the PLO even if it recognized Israel.

The Reagan Administration's first reaction to the Times report was an expression of disbelief by National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane in a television interview on February 19. But Secretary of State George Shultz confirmed to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on February 23 that the contacts had taken place but that little came of them.

According to the Times, they were conducted through an American intermediary, John Mroz, described as a specialist on Middle Eastern affairs who reportedly had 50 meetings with PLO chief Yasir Arafat over the nine-month period and reported on them to Nicholas Veliotis, then Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

The Times said then Secretary of State Alexander Haig had agreed to the contacts at Veliotis' suggestion as a means of drawing the PLO away from the Soviet orbit. Haig subsequently confirmed that he knew of the contacts. The White House insists that President Reagan had no such knowledge.

SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION ACTIVIST GRANTED EXIT VISA

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish emigration activist Valery Godyak was granted an exit visa and has left the Soviet Union, according to information received by The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

After Godyak, a 42-year-old Moscow physicist, first submitted his application for an exit visa to Israel in 1979, he was promptly dismissed from his job because of his "anti-Socialist act" of desiring to reunite with relatives in Israel. In 1981, Godyak and his wife Etalina, whose parents live in Israel, were refused exit visas on the grounds of "regime" considerations, in spite of the fact that Valery's work had never involved "secrets," the Conference reported.

HERZOG TO VISIT BRITAIN IN MARCH

LONDON, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- Chaim Herzog, Belfast-born President of Israel, is to visit Britain next month with his wife. Although the visit is not an official one, the couple are to lunch with the Queen at Windsor Castle.

There is speculation that the couple will also visit the Irish Republic. Herzog was born in Belfast but grew up in Dublin where his father, the late Isaac Herzog, was for many years Chief Rabbi of Ireland, before becoming Chief Rabbi of Palestine in the mid-1930's.

The President is a popular figure here. He reached the rank of Brigadier in the Black Watch Regiment of the British Army in World War II and has often been heard giving Middle East war commentaries on BBC radio and television.

The Herzogs are visiting Britain for a week as guests of the Anglo-Jewish community. One of the President's engagements is to address the Anglo-Israel Associations annual dinner.

THREE PROMINENT LAWMAKERS TELL COLLEGIANS THAT THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY ARE VITAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- Three prominent non-Jewish Congressmen advised more than 600 college students gathered here to lobby on behalf of Soviet Jews that their efforts are vital to the success of their cause and important to America's policy on human rights.

Senators Orrin Hatch (R. Utah), Dennis DeConcini (D. Ariz.) and Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) addressed the eighth annual International Student Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry last Thursday.

The gathering was coordinated by the Student Coalition for Soviet Jewry in cooperation with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, and the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations. The students, from some 50 colleges across the country, represented 37 states. During their stay they visited about 200 Congressmen.

Hatch, who is a Mormon, termed the student's lobbying efforts important and noted that his own awareness of the plight of Soviet Jews was brought about by last year's gathering of college students here. He pledged to help the campus coalition "in every way I can" and said he believes that the U.S. should link human rights to its relations with the Soviet Union.

Obligation To Be The Voice of Soviet Jews

Kemp told the collegians that "it is important to recognize that we have an obligation to be the voice" of Soviet Jews. He noted that when Soviet Jews attempt to speak out on their own behalf, they frequently are imprisoned or confined to mental hospitals. "If we don't speak out, nobody will," he declared.

"It is essential," Kemp emphasized, to lobby everyone: conservatives, people from Kansas as well as New York and others who seem "unlikely" supporters of the cause. "There is no issue more unifying than the struggle for human rights," he stated.

"America cannot be America if it does not stand up for human rights, one of its foundations," Kemp declared. "Israel and the United States are one, Jew and gentile are one. It is our obligation to fight for human rights."

DeConcini said that he and his staff have written frequently to Soviet leaders, including the late Yuri Andropov. Quoting a Soviet Jew with whom he exchanged letters, DeConcini said: "Our only hope is that you keep in contact with us."

JEWISH AGENCY ANNOUNCES NEW PLANS FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS IN THE NEGEV

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency has announced major new plans for social and cultural projects in the Negev, totalling some \$6 million. The sum is to be spent over a two-year period and comes, according to the Agency spokesman, in addition to the regular Agency programs for individual settlements in the Negev and Arava.

The spokesman stressed that the Agency's plan is not in any way intended to substitute for government plans and activities in the region. Among the projects included in this new and ambitious scheme are:

- * Libraries in the Arava Kibbutzim of Grofit, Yehiel and Samar.

- * Youth clubs in Merkaz Sapir (also in the Arava), and in the Moshavim of Idan, Tsafar and Paran. Each of these centers will cost \$150,000.

- * A large theater in Merkaz Sapir -- to serve the entire Arava region. The sum earmarked for this: half a million dollars.

- * Swimming pools in kibbutzim Telalim and Retamim and Moshav Kadesh Barnea.

- * A new live-in facility in the Sde Boker College (\$300,000).

- * A regional sports facility in Tamar (\$450,000).

- * Eight baby creches at the Eshkol Regional Authority.

- * A youth club in Mitzpe Rimón (\$400,000.)

- * Enlargement of the community center in Dimona (\$250,000.)

EAST BERLIN'S JEWISH COMMUNITY RECENTLY RECEIVED A SHIPMENT OF HEBREW BOOKS FROM ISRAEL

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- East Berlin's 300-member Jewish community recently received a shipment of Hebrew books from Israel, the Religious Department of the East Berlin Ministry for Cultural Affairs has confirmed. The books were sent at the request of the East Berlin Jewish community.

They consist largely of prayer books but include textbooks on the Hebrew language, the geography and history of Israel. Members of the East Berlin Jewish community told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they are further encouraged by the fact that two East Germans will receive this year's Martin Buber Award of the West German Association for Christian-Jewish Cooperation. They will be cited for promoting understanding between the two religious communities.

The awards ceremony will be broadcast on West German television which is watched in East Berlin and can be received in most parts of East Germany. West German television programs on Israel and Jewish affairs are watched by large numbers of East Germans, according to East Berlin Jews. They cited, as an example, a recent one-hour telecast on Premier Yitzhak Shamir and his wife.

AFL-CIO RESOLUTION DEPLORES WEST GERMANY'S MOVE TO SELL ARMS TO SAUDIS

BAL HARBOR, Fla., Feb. 26 (JTA) -- The AFL-CIO has adopted a resolution declaring it "deplores" the move by the Government of West Germany to develop a close military relationship with Saudi Arabia.

"The AFL-CIO calls upon the United States government to make known the profound distaste of the American people" towards the decision of the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said the resolution adopted by the Labor Federation's Executive Council which met here last week. "It must be reversed."

The resolution said: "The Saudi Arabian government has proclaimed a holy war against Israel and has joined directly and indirectly in every Arab war against Israel. It has financed military supplies to other Arab armies and terrorist organizations dedicated to Israel's destruction. It is bad enough that Western governments should provide military weapons to Saudi Arabia ... In light of history, the German people should be particularly sensitive to this issue."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Representatives of the International Red Cross visited three Israeli prisoners-of-war held by Syria last week and reported them to be in satisfactory condition, according to a report from Geneva. The IRC representatives last visited the Israeli POWs at the end of December, 1983.