

**REAGAN URGES AMERICAN JEWS TO  
SUPPORT U.S. ARMS SALE TO JORDAN**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 13 (JTA) — President Reagan, while stressing his commitment to maintain strong close ties between the U.S. and Israel, urged American Jews today to support the sale of U.S. arms to Jordan.

"Such assistance to Jordan does not threaten Israel but enhances the prospects for Middle East peace by reducing the dangers of the radical threat" from Syria and Iran, the President said in a speech to the 2,000 persons from across the country who attended the 4th National United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Stephen Greenberg of South Orange, N.J., chairman of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet, told Reagan that the organization is made up of Jewish men and women aged 40 and under who are members of the generation that "reaped" the benefits of the immigration to the U.S. by their parents and grandparents who came here seeking freedom and a better life. He noted that the UJA is committed to volunteerism and in 1983 raised more than \$600 million and this year is 20 percent ahead of that figure.

Reagan, in his speech, at the conclusion of the three-day conference, discussed a wide range of issues, including a re-affirmation of the "long-standing American commitment" that the U.S. "will neither recognize nor negotiate" with the Palestine Liberation Organization until the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

But he did not mention his proposed constitutional amendment for voluntary prayer in public schools which he had been urging before various groups in recent weeks.

**Spells Out Jordan's Needs**

Although Reagan was applauded several times, the audience was silent as he expressed the need for American arms to Jordan as a means of promoting peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"Jordan is crucial to the peace process," the President stressed.

"For that very reason, Jordan, like Israel, is confronted by Syria and faces military threats and terrorist attacks. Since the security of Jordan is crucial to the security of the entire region, it is in America's strategic interest -- and I believe it is in Israel's strategic interest -- for the U.S. to help meet Jordan's legitimate need for defense against the growing power of Syria and Iran."

Reagan said that "Arab governments and the Palestinian Arabs must decide whether to reach peace with Israel through direct negotiations." He said he believed that if the Arabs do step forward, "Israel will once again have the courage to choose peace."

However, Reagan reiterated his belief that his September 1, 1982 Middle East peace initiative "remains the best option for all parties." He said: "It is time for the Arab world to negotiate directly with Israel and to recognize Israel's right to exist. We hope the government of Israel will understand that continued settlement activity in the West Bank and

Gaza will make the peace process more difficult. Peace can only come through the give-and-take of direct negotiations."

While Reagan did not mention his Administration's opposition to proposed legislation in Congress to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, he did say that the "status of Jerusalem" was one of the issues to be negotiated in the peace talks. "Only the U.S. can advance this process," he said.

"If there is any hope for those negotiations, however, we must preserve our credibility as a fair-minded broker seeking a comprehensive solution," he said, echoing the Administration's position against the embassy move. "We must not undermine our role," he said. On Israel itself, Reagan declared: "The friendship between Israel and the U.S. is closer and stronger today than ever before and I intend to keep it that way."

**Cites Strong U.S.-Israel Friendship**

He noted that since he took office this relationship has grown and he pointed specifically to the new U.S.-Israel strategic relationship which "has been elevated and formalized"; the negotiations now going on to establish a free trade area between Israel and the U.S.; and the Administration's proposal for 1985 that all economic and military aid to Israel will be a grant.

The President also noted that Israel's closeness to the U.S. was demonstrated at the United Nations where even the NATO allies vote with the U.S., only six out of 10 times while Israel joins the U.S. nine out of 10 times.

Reagan received a standing ovation when he repeated his pledge that "If Israel is ever forced to walk out of the UN, the U.S. and Israel will walk out together."

**U.S. Will Not Tolerate Anti-Semitism**

He said that the anti-Zionism expressed at the UN "is just another mask for vicious anti-Semitism, and that's something the U.S. will not tolerate." He declared that "silence is never an acceptable response to anti-Semitism," adding that the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick, has "defended Israel and stood up for human rights with persistence and courage."

Reagan also rejected anti-Semitism in the U.S. "We must teach tolerance and denounce racism, anti-Semitism and all ethnic and religious bigotry wherever they exist as unacceptable evils," he said.

**Plight Of Soviet Jewry Cited**

The President urged "support" for "Soviet Jews in their struggle for basic rights" and called on "all Americans to observe the International Day of Concern for Soviet Jewry" this Thursday.

Reagan noted the "near standstill" of the emigration of Soviet Jews and the ban against learning Hebrew in the USSR. He specifically mentioned the plights of Jewish activists Anatoly Shcharansky, Lev Elbert and Iosif Begun. At the end of his address, Greenberg said he had been wearing a bracelet for three years in honor of Begun and he gave it to the President expressing the hope that it will provide better luck for the Jewish activists.

The President concluded his speech by saying that "This Sunday as Jews the world over observe Purim, they'll celebrate not only the ancient deliverance of Jews from the wicked, but a modern joy as well -- the miracle of the State of Israel. Permit me to join you and all Jews in your fervent and triumphant affirmation -- Am Yisrael Chai!"

# **NEW OMINOUS SOVIET EDICT REPORTED**

NEW YORK, March 13 (JTA) -- An edict against "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" was expanded by Soviet authorities last month to include anyone receiving "financial" or other "material" assistance from "foreign organizations or persons acting on behalf of such organizations," according to information made available to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). Violation of this edict carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in a labor camp and five years internal exile.

The edict is an expansion of paragraph two of Article 70 of the Russian Republic's Criminal Code together with the corresponding sections of the other 14 republics. Paragraph two used to apply only to those previously convicted of "especially dangerous crimes against the state" or of crimes committed in wartime.

## **Implications Are Severe**

The implications of the expansion are severe, according to Morris Abram, NCSJ chairman. Because no specific forms of material aid are cited, anyone receiving packages from abroad could be open to prosecution, he noted. The reference to foreign organizations is equally vague, Abram, a prominent attorney, said. They do not have to be "anti-Soviet," nor must their "agents" be members.

Abram pointed out that the expansion of the edict could serve as a pretext for further jeopardizing contacts between Soviet Jews and the West. Observing that the new clause was implemented before Yuri Andropov's death, Abram said it appears to be a continuation of the restrictive measures effected under the late Soviet leader.

He noted that, in following the trend toward efficiency set by Andropov, it may be an attempt to streamline criminal procedure by allowing a broad range of potential "offenders" to be subsumed under one statute.

## **PATT, RETURNING FROM OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAIRO, PREDICTS NO EARLY IMPROVEMENT IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TIES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA) -- Minister of Commerce Gideon Patt has expressed regret that the Egyptian government refuses to divorce trade relations from its political differences with Israel. Patt, just returned from a three-day official visit to Cairo, predicted no early improvement in the ties between the two countries.

He had attended the opening of an international trade fair in Cairo as the guest of Egypt's Economics Minister, Mustapha Said. He had lengthy discussions with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali, in addition to his talks with Said.

The Egyptians, Patt said, reject Israel's approach which would separate trade from political issues such as the Israeli presence in Lebanon, the Palestinian autonomy talks, the boundary dispute at Taba and other matters that have soured relations between Jerusalem and Cairo. Declining trade between the two countries is directly related to Egypt's unhappiness over the state of political relations, Patt said.

He blamed this "linkage" for the drop in Israeli exports to Egypt from \$25 million in 1982 to half that value in 1983. Egyptian exports to Israel remained static at \$5 million during both years.

## **Cites 'Economic Absurdities'**

According to Patt, the Egyptians are only harming themselves. He cited as "economic absurdities" the fact that Cairo now imports chicks from Europe at 55 cents each whereas it used to buy them from Israel at 30.5 cents each. Moreover, up to 40 percent of the European fowl do not survive the trip to Egypt. The mortality rate of chicks bought in Israel was much lower, he said.

"Or take chicken coops. They (the Egyptians) used to buy them from us. Now they get them from a British firm which imports them from Israel," Patt said. Nevertheless, several Israeli firms displayed their products at the Cairo fair and reported lively interest.

## **ISRAEL IN LAST-MINUTE EFFORT TO DISSUADE BONN FROM SIGNING AN ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA**

By David Kantor

BONN, March 13 (JTA) -- Israel is making a last-minute effort to dissuade the Bonn government from signing an arms deal with Saudi Arabia. The Israeli Ambassador here, Itzhak Ben Ari, warned today that such a deal would only increase tensions in the Middle East.

He also said Jerusalem was very much concerned over plans by several major West German arms manufacturers to open factories in Egypt.

But the Israelis are disturbed most by the probability that Bonn will sell advanced weaponry to the Saudis. It has been campaigning against this for months and has enlisted the support of American Jews to put direct pressure on West Germany and to get the American Administration to do the same.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who was in Washington last week, said no final decision has been made on arms sales to Saudi Arabia. But he indicated that the deal would be made. He insisted that the arms would be of a defensive nature and pose no threat to Israel. He specifically ruled out the sale of Leopard II tanks to the Saudis, considered by experts to be the best and most advanced tank in the world.

Israel's Minister for Economic Affairs, Yaacov Meridor, said in an interview in Die Welt last week that he believed that Bonn, in the end, would not sell arms to Saudi Arabia. His remarks coincided with statements by government officials here that the government is not irritated by Israeli and Jewish objections to the sales.

Ben Ari said Israel was worried by the plans of such companies as Krauss Maffei and Thyssen Henschel to build tank assembly plants and other weapons factories in Egypt. Krauss Maffei produces the Leopard II. But company officials say Egypt is not interested in that tank but in a lighter version yet to be developed.

Ben Ari denied press reports here that Israel may be interested in buying arms from West Germany. The reports indicated that Bonn offered arms to Israel if the Israelis toned down their campaign against arms sales to Arab countries.

## **WEST BANK ARAB LEADERS WHO MET WITH ARAFAH ARE REPRIMANDED**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 13 (JTA) -- West Bank Arab leaders who met with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat in Amman, Jordan, last week despite an official ban on contacts with the PLO, have been reprimanded by the head of the Israeli civil

administration in the territory. But no further action will be taken against them, according to Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, coordinator of activities for the West Bank and Gaza. Jewish settlers on the West Bank have demanded that the Arabs be put on trial for violating Israeli law and that any Israeli officials who condoned their trip to Jordan should also face legal penalties.

#### Returned 'Frustrated And Despairing'

Ben-Eliezer said on an Israel Radio interview that the group returned from Amman "frustrated and despairing." They had gone there to present their views to King Hussein who was meeting with Arafat to try to work out a joint Jordan-PLO approach to peace talks with Israel.

According to Ben-Eliezer, members of the group told him they found Arafat "broken down and worn out with nothing to propose" and that Hussein had given them no hope.

Ben-Eliezer said he hoped the visit had convinced the West Bank Arabs that their only negotiating partners were Israelis with whom they would have to live for a long time. "If they realized that, then their visit was worthwhile," he said.

#### SERIOUS RIFT DEVELOPS IN LEBANESE RECONCILIATION TALKS

By Edwin Eytan

LAUSANNE, March 13 (JTA) -- A serious rift developed in the Lebanese national reconciliation conference here today when the participants, having agreed in principle on the urgent need for a cease-fire, were unable to agree how it would be supervised and in what framework. The differences were so acute that the conference degenerated into a shouting match at one point, some of those present reported.

Eight Lebanese leaders representing the main factions in Lebanon are attending. The original proposal for a cease-fire was that the heads of the four largest militias -- Walid Jumblatt of the Druze, Nabih Berri of the Shiite Moslem Al Amal, and Camille Chamoun and Pierre Gemayel, representing the Christian Free Lebanese Forces--would jointly declare a cease-fire of indefinite duration. This would be signed by President Amin Gemayel.

Jumblatt and Berri objected on grounds that Gemayel should not be given the prerogative of an arbiter because like themselves, he is no more than the head of one of the warring factions.

A serious split developed at the outset of the conference over who and what elements will control the truce. Some participants, mainly the Christians, wanted the army to undertake the task. Others insisted that the militias be formally mobilized and assume the role of the national forces.

Foreign Minister Abdel Khalim Khadam of Syria, newly promoted First Deputy Vice President, sat in silence as the various Lebanese leaders fought a verbal battle over their differences. When the conference opened, he had urged all of the participants to reach an understanding and finally end years of fighting and bloodshed in Lebanon. His subsequent silence was seen by some participants as a tactic "to let us fight it out and only later (Syria would) enforce a ceasefire, showing the positive role Syria played."

#### U.S. Playing No Role In The Talks

Most observers are convinced, however, that Syria genuinely wants a lasting truce in Lebanon in order to better enforce its domination over that country. Several foreign diplomatic observers, including an

American official, conferred today with most of the participants. They said that it was an informative session and that Washington is playing no role whatsoever in the conference proceedings.

The conference is the second round of Lebanese reconciliation talks. The first round, held in Geneva, ended in failure last November 4. Since then, President Gemayel has formally repudiated his May 17, 1983 withdrawal and security agreement with Israel, as demanded by Syria.

Some observers noted that while Israel's presence was an important factor at the Geneva meeting, it is Syria's influence which dominates the proceedings in Lausanne. The Syrians are not only here but seem to be in effective control, the observers say.

Nevertheless, despite its physical absence, Israel exerts an indirect influence on the current talks. Most of the participants are wondering how Israel will react to whatever emerges from this conference and what the consequences will be.

#### JAMAICAN JEWISH LEADER HONORED

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 13 (JTA) -- The government of Jamaica has announced that the spiritual leader of the Jewish community in the country, Ernest Henriques de Souza, has been named a recipient of the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation in the field of religion, the World Jewish Congress reported today.

To commemorate the 21st anniversary of Jamaica's independence, the government struck a special medal called the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation which was awarded to 1,000 persons in various fields who had given over 20 years of service to the country.

The naming of Henriques de Souza as the recipient in the field of religion marked the first time in the history of the country that any Jewish leader had been honored for his religious contribution to the nation. Six other members of the Jewish community were also named medal recipients in other fields.

Henriques de Souza has been the leader of the United Congregation of Israelites, the central representative body of Jamaican Jewry and the WJC affiliate here, for over 37 years. Since 1978, the tiny community, numbering some 350, has been without a rabbi and Henriques de Souza has served the dual function of justice of the peace and religious teacher. As director of the synagogue on the island, he founded the B'nai B'rith chapter in Jamaica.

The other members of the Jewish community who were honored for their contributions in a secular capacity were in the following fields: Business--Leslie Ashenheim; Community Development -- Isaac Matalon, Evelyn Matalon, and Marianne Lopez; Sports--Richard Ashenheim; Health -- Dr. Horace Henriques.

#### ISRAELI ARABS WANT NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA) -- Israeli Arabs are urging the adoption of a national anthem that would express the idea of two nations living in a single country. That was suggested by the head of the National Committee of Arab Town Councils to the Arabic Communist daily, *Ittihad*, as the Knesset discussed a bill to formally recognize Hatikva as the national anthem.

The bill, proposed by Likud MK Pinhas Goldstein, raised objections from several other Knesset members who had reservations about requiring Israel's Arab citizens to accept an anthem which expresses the historic Jewish yearning for the land of Israel.

**MAK SAYS ISRAEL IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT, INCLUDING USE OF DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, TO RESCUE ETHIOPIAN JEWS**  
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 13 (JTA) -- Israeli Knesset member Mordechai Ben Porat (Telem) said yesterday that Israel was making every possible effort, including the use of diplomatic channels, to aid in the rescue of the Ethiopian Jewish community.

Speaking at a news conference in the offices of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), Ben Porat said that since the establishment of the State of Israel some 5,500 Falashas have arrived in Israel, the bulk of them arriving during 1983.

Falashas who recently have arrived in Israel live in 17 absorption centers, five of which are student centers, according to Ben Porat, who is chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Ethiopian Jews which comprises representatives of the Prime Minister's Office, the Jewish Agency, the Foreign Ministry and the Knesset.

#### A Vital Element To Israeli Society

Ben Porat stressed that retaining the cultural heritage that the Falashas bring from Ethiopia is a central concern to the Israeli government and said the Falashas represented a "very vital element" to Israeli society. He noted that in the absorption centers, the Falashas are not isolated from other olim and are in contact with olim from Russia and other countries.

The Israeli official said he was encouraged by the Ethiopian government's change in policy recently which now allows for visits to Falasha villages by American tourists and also those carrying Israeli passports. Ben Porat said he encourages tourists to Ethiopia to visit the Falashas.

Without specifically referring to any group, Ben Porat said he felt the rescue of Ethiopia's 18,000 member Jewish community was best left to the Israeli government and said he opposed operations by untrained independent organizations who have worked independently of the Israeli efforts.

#### Organized Emigration Of Jews From Iraq

Ben Porat, 61, was born in Baghdad, Iraq where he was a leader of a clandestine Zionist youth movement before arriving in Israel in 1945. He fought as a section leader of the Haganah in 1947 and later in the War of Independence. In 1949, he was sent to organize illegal emigration of Jews from Iraq and was a leader in "Operation Ezra and Nehemiah" which resulted in the escape of over 120,000 Jews to Israel. During this mission, he was imprisoned and tortured, but escaped four times although two of his colleagues were hanged. He is founding co-chairman of the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries.

#### Goals To Aid The Falashas

The NJCRAC, which is the national coordinating and joint planning body of 11 national and 111 local Jewish community relations agencies, last month adopted at its 40th anniversary plenary session in Washington a series of goals to aid the Falashas.

The goals, as outlined by the NJCRAC, include the encouragement of tourism to Ethiopia, to express solidarity with the Falashas; continued efforts to seek continued and expanded American emergency drought relief aid to Ethiopia and Africa; increased efforts to provide American Jewry with detailed information and interpretive resource materials on the plight of the Falashas; and a unified and coordinated approach "with the primary authority responsible for relief and rescue."

**BLACK MAYOR REPUDIATES JACKSON'S DEFAMATORY REMARKS ABOUT JEWS**

NEW YORK, March 13 (JTA) -- Mayor Kenneth Gibson of Newark, N.J., who is the head of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Presidential campaign in that state, has repudiated Jackson's defamatory remarks about Jews as "Hymies" and New York as "Hymietown" and the warning by Black Muslim minister Louis Farrakhan that if Jews "harm this brother (Jackson) ... this will be the last one you harm."

In a letter to Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Gibson said "I emphatically deplore the Jesse Jackson insulting references to the Jewish people. I'm sure you realize that Black people are able to think for themselves and the great majority of us do not subscribe to negative ethnic, racial or religious references and speeches."

#### Cites Jackson's 'Ignorance Or Possibly Worse'

Gibson stated that "It is very frustrating to me as a supporter of Jesse Jackson's campaign to have read and hear of his insensitivities, ignorance or possibly worse. I have tried to talk to him personally by phone since the admitted derogatory references to Jews but was only able to talk to a campaign leader. I expressed my serious concerns about those remarks and I intend to discuss these issues" with Jackson.

Regarding "the implied threats" by Farrakhan, Gibson wrote that these "do not represent the thinking of myself or other Blacks who know the difference between righteousness and rhetoric." Farrakhan made the threats while addressing a Chicago throng, with Jackson at his side.

The Newark Mayor wrote his letter after he read a copy of Perlmutter's column on Jackson's "Hymie" reference to Jews. The newspaper column, which welcomed Jackson's apology for his remarks, called for his "clear-cut censure" of Farrakhan's remarks. Gibson stated: "Your reasoned and reserved response to these incidents are commendable. I'm not sure if I could be as reserved in my response if I were in your position."

#### Urges Rededication To Basic Principles

Noting that several years ago during a visit to Poland he was taken on a tour of the former site of the Auschwitz concentration camp and that while in Israel recently he visited Yad Vashem, Gibson stated:

"I didn't need to visit Auschwitz or the Memorial in Israel to become sensitive to what happened under the Nazi leadership in Europe. I didn't need these visits to know that too many world and national leaders sat quietly in their positions while those atrocities were being executed. I appreciate your understanding that the utterances of one Black person do not reflect the thinking of all Black people."

Gibson concluded his letter by stating: "So once again we have another division between historical allies. What happened to the liberal and civil rights alliance between Blacks and Jews? What can be done to improve those relationships?"

"I respectfully suggest that you and other national Jewish leaders meet with Blacks in national leadership positions to hopefully rededicate all of us to the basic principles by which we worked a few years ago. If there is anything I could do to help, please call upon me."

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Two Israel Defense Force soldiers were wounded in Lebanon Tuesday when their foot patrol came under fire near the Ein Hilweh camp on the outskirts of Sidon.