

**HART: WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS
ARE NOT AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE**
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) — Sen. Gary Hart declared today that the Israeli settlements in the West Bank "are not an obstacle to peace," that if elected President he would move the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem "as soon as possible," and that he would not sell sophisticated American military hardware to Israel's enemies.

The Colorado Democratic Presidential hopeful made these points in a very strong pro-Israel address to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations here. His speech was interrupted a number of times with enthusiastic applause by the Jewish leaders, representing 37 organizations.

Claiming that he offers "not rhetoric, but deep personal commitments," the Senator, who opened his New York campaign last night, outlined an eight-point statement describing "where a Hart Administration will stand on the matter vital to Israel's survival." The points are:

Will Stand Firmly With Israel

* "First, we will stand firmly with Israel — on difficult issues as well as easy ones," stressing that his voting record in the last 10 years in the Senate shows that he supported Israel on all vital issues.

* "Second, we will oppose the sale of high technology war systems to the enemies of Israel." He noted that he strongly opposed President Reagan's proposal to sell Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan.

* "Third, the linchpin of my policy in the Middle East will be the special relationship that binds the United States and Israel. I will not hide this relationship or apologize for it to any Arab state. The Hart Administration will not cater to the changing whims of King Hussein. The only thing that never seems to change is his refusal to negotiate."

* "Fourth, under my Administration, true, not phony, strategic cooperation will develop between the United States and Israel," recalling that he called for the resignation of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. "I pledge to you that no one like him will write Mideast policy in my Administration," Hart declared to the sustained applause of the audience.

* "Fifth, I commit myself to the full implementation of the Camp David accords. I reject the basic elements of the 1982 Reagan Mideast plan because they can only undermine the Camp David framework for negotiations and peace." Hart added: "I reject pre-conditions. I reject any predetermination of the ultimate sovereignty of the West Bank and Gaza. I reject any predetermination of the status of Israeli settlements in the region."

Referring to the issue of Jerusalem, he declared: "Above all, I reject the impression of the Reagan plan that somehow the integrity and sovereignty of Jerusalem is open to a bartering process. As I said before AIPAC last spring, 'I support the

traditional position of Israel on Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. As President, I will move the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

Later, at the question and answer period, Hart was asked how soon he would move the American Embassy to Jerusalem if elected. He replied, smiling: "As soon as possible." Asked if he considered the settlements an "obstacle to peace," a claim often made by Reagan, he replied: "The settlements do not represent a threat to peace negotiations and are not an obstacle to peace. They are as legal as any other settlements."

Issue Of A Palestinian Entity

* "Sixth, a Hart Administration will work to revitalize the terms of the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt," because, he explained, there is no peace between the two nations but "merely the absence of war."

He added: "The issue of a Palestinian entity on Israel's borders can only be resolved in full consideration of Israel's security needs." He said that his Administration will not negotiate with the PLO until it renounced terrorism, recognized Israel and accepted all pertinent United Nations resolutions.

* "Seventh, we must make ourselves energy independent so America will never again be subject to Arab blackmail. Israel's security and America's economy must no longer be mortgaged to oil sheiks in the Persian Gulf."

* Finally, the Senator pledged, "The fate of three million Soviet Jews, many of whom wish to immigrate to Israel and the United States, will be a high priority of my Presidency. I will dedicate myself to policies that can liberate them." He said he would also "bring the world back from the brink of nuclear confrontation," the hallmark of Reagan's stance with his "bellicose policies toward the Soviet Union."

Hart's appearance before the Presidents Conference was part of a series of appearances by other Democratic Presidential hopefuls, including some who have dropped out of the race, who addressed the Conference previously.

**EARLY ISRAELI ELECTIONS EXPECTED
REGARDLESS OF KNESSET DEBATE OUTCOME**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) — Elections will be held in Israel some time this year regardless of the outcome of tonight's Knesset debate on two early election bills, most political observers believe. But the date of elections — whether this summer or next fall — will be determined in hard bargaining between the government and opposition.

The debate, scheduled to open this morning, was postponed to 5 p.m. local time by Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor to allow several MKs visiting Argentina to fly home in time to vote. This drew a vigorous protest from Moshe Shahal, chairman of the Labor Alignment Knesset faction, but Savidor stood firm. (Late story, P. 3.)

The fate of the early election bills, one sponsored by Labor and the other by Tami, a coalition partner, may depend on the votes of several Likud Liberals who up to now have favored early elections. One of them,

Dror Zeigerman who is on his way back from Argentina, was expected to vote for the Labor measure. But reports last night that he had changed his mind and was coming home to support the government, cast doubts on the outcome. Until then, most political pundits believed passage of an early elections bill was a virtual certainty.

A 60-60 vote split in the Knesset would defeat the measure. Former Premier Menachem Begin was expected to break his seven-month seclusion and attend today's Knesset session if his vote was necessary to achieve that result. Begin has made no public appearances since he resigned last September. The media maintained a day-long vigil outside his suburban Jerusalem home to see if the former Likud leader would emerge.

While the government opposes the two elections bills, Premier Yitzhak Shamir is not, in principle, opposed to early elections, coalition sources said. He is aware that without the support of the three-main Tamir faction, his parliamentary base would be too narrow for Likud to govern effectively.

But Shamir is determined to postpone elections as long as possible, at least well into next fall. By then, he and his Likud colleagues believe, government measures to improve the economic situation will have shown some results and Likud's position with the voters will be strengthened.

Tamir and Labor are pressing for elections early this summer. One of their arguments is that a prolonged election campaign will further drain the staggering economy and preclude any substantive political initiatives at home and abroad.

An early election bill, if adopted, would dissolve the Knesset. The bill would have to pass three readings in the Knesset. The setting of an election date would come later in the process.

SISCO: FOR THE MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS TO SUCCEED, SYRIA MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) -- Joseph Sisco, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs in the Ford Administration, said today that in order for the Middle East peace process to succeed Syria has to be brought into the negotiations.

"Over the next two or three or four years, as you look ahead, there is going to be a reckoning between Syria and Israel," he said in answering questions from foreign correspondents here. "I think all of us would agree that it is far preferable for this reckoning to occur politically rather than otherwise."

But Sisco, noting the present situation in the Middle East is "stalemated," said no progress will be made this year and any moves will have to wait until 1985. "This is less a function of a Presidential campaign year in the United States," he emphasized, "but much more a reflection of the erosion that has occurred in the area generally, plus the fact that none of the principal actors on the scene are really in a position to make a significant move."

'Third Party' U.S. Role Is Indispensable

While conceding that the U.S. has suffered a "setback," in the Mideast because of Lebanon, Sisco said he does not view this as a "permanent enfeeblement of American policy." He stressed that there is no substitute for the "third party role" of the U.S. because it is indispensable not only for

its diplomatic efforts but because its military power helps insure the security of Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia as well as the Persian Gulf.

"The time will come when Washington will be pressed once again, particularly by the Arab world, to reactivate its diplomacy in the peace process," Sisco said. But he urged the U.S. at present to study the various options quietly and not make any public moves unless there is a chance of success. "The next move has got to be carefully prepared and its got to succeed," he declared.

Urges Expansion Of U.S.-Israel Strategic Cooperation

Sisco said that the strategic cooperation agreement between Israel and the United States is good but has to be expanded to include not just military issues but political ones as well. He urged the need for resuming the consultations that once had existed between the U.S. and Israel over various political issues.

Sisco noted that under both Democratic and Republican Administrations there existed a "continuity" in Mideast policy which included the "American commitment to the security and survival" of Israel and the effort to strengthen relations with "at least those Arab countries that are committed to the principle of live and let live and co-existence."

He pointed out that in Israel there was also a bi-partisan foreign policy based on maintaining Jerusalem as its capital and opposition to a Palestinian state. He noted that the difference between the governing Likud and the opposition Labor Alignment over negotiations was really "moot" as long as Jordan refused to enter negotiations.

While saying that Jerusalem "must remain united," Sisco said that the proposed bill in Congress to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would not be "helpful" to the present situation.

Reagans 1982 Initiative 'Still Relevant'

He stressed that the principles outlined in President Reagan's September 1, 1982 peace initiative are "still relevant and are going to have to be addressed." He said the U.S. under all Administrations has adhered to the "territory for peace" formula. He said this was the basis for the Reagan plan, the Camp David accords, the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the three disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt and Israel and Syria.

On Syria, Sisco said he had met with President Hafez Assad 20 to 25 times and believes he is a strong Syrian nationalist. He said that while Syria is "dependent" on the Soviet Union it was not acting in Lebanon as a hostage or surrogate for the USSR but in its own national interests.

But Sisco added that he does not believe that Syria will be able to totally dominate Lebanon. He said the Lebanese "of all principal stripes" want to find a Lebanese solution and if they do so and are able to restore Lebanon's sovereignty over all its territory, this will require the "ultimate withdrawal of all extraneous forces." But Sisco said he did not believe there would be any progress in Lebanon this year nor would the withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces come in 1984.

HISTADRUT PREDICTS LARGE-SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT BY END OF THE YEAR

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- Histadrut predicted today that 120,000 Israelis -- nine percent of the country's 1.3 million-member work force, will be

unemployed by the end of this year. But the Manufacturers Association rejected the forecast. A spokesman for the industrialists said projected unemployment figures were much lower and that there is actually a shortage of labor in some industries.

According to Gideon Ben-Israel, head of Histadrut's Organization Department, about 30,000 young people who enter the work force each year may not be able to find jobs. The Histadrut official spoke in advance of a three-day international seminar on labor relations and unemployment which opens at Tel Aviv University next week.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW
PROBLEM OF JEWS IN ARAB LANDS MUST
BE PART OF MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT
 By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) — Israel's socio-economic problems, including the ethnic gap between Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews, are to a large degree, a ramification of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The problems can be solved, therefore, only in the framework of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement that would include dealing with the problem of Jews in Arab lands, Jews who comprise the largest segment of the Sephardic community in Israel.

This is the view of Heskell Haddad, an eye surgeon at the New York Medical College who is also a scholar in the field of Arab Jewish history and the author of the just-published book, "Jews of Arab and Islamic Countries" (Shengold Publishers, New York, \$12.95). He contends that one of the reasons for the poverty of the Jews from Arab countries is their expulsion from Arab countries shortly after the State of Israel was established.

"When most Sephardic Jews immigrated to Israel, in 1949 and 1950, following the decision of the Arab League to expel the Jews in retaliation against Israel for the emergence of Palestinian refugees, they arrived in Israel penniless because they were forced to leave all their assets behind in Arab countries," Haddad said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Their properties were either confiscated outright, as in Iraq, or were abandoned when they received one-way exit visas from Arab governments, as in Morocco."

Issue Of Reparations

Haddad, who was born in Iraq 56 years ago, pointed out that Ashkenazic Jews, who suffered persecution in Europe under the Nazis, were awarded reparations from Germany after the war, while Jews from Arab lands did not receive reparations from any Arab government. "The reparations from Germany were a contributing factor for the increasing socio-economic gap between Sephardim and Ashkenazim in Israel," he said.

Haddad said he believes, therefore, that "it is imperative that in any peace negotiations, the rights of Jews from Arab countries be a major item on the agenda of those negotiations, with particular emphasis on reparations for lost property and assets of these Jews. I believe that this will help to reverse, in part, the process of induced poverty in the Sephardic segment of Israeli society."

According to Haddad, the "trauma" of the expulsion is still fresh in the minds of almost one million Jewish refugees from Arab countries. He said despite the fact that Jews in Arab countries were "second class citizens," most of them led comfortable lives and many were well to do. "Despite all the restrictions against them as non-Moslems, Jews,

generally, speaking, had flourished in Arab countries," he said. "I want the Arab world to recognize the injustice they have done to their Jews and to understand that as the Palestinians were victims of war, we, the Jews of Arab lands, were victims of persecution," he said.

Haddad argued that when Israel was established, the one million Jews in Arab countries amounted to two percent of the total Arab population of 50 million in the Mideast. "It can be said, therefore, that two percent of the Mideast belongs to us," Haddad declared. He noted that the size of Israel today is about 30,000 square kilometers, including the West Bank and the Gaza District, while at the time of their expulsion, the Jews owned some 100,000 square kilometers in the Arab world.

"I believe that the Jews of Arab lands who live in Israel today can serve as a bridge to the Arab world, a bridge to peace," Haddad said. "I believe, too, that Israel must be a part of the Mideast, psychologically and culturally, before peace with the Arabs can be obtained."

LATE BULLETIN
KNESSET VOTES FOR EARLY ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) — The Knesset voted 61-58 in open balloting tonight in favor of a Labor Alignment bill to hold elections by the end of May or early in June. The vote followed six hours of acrimonious debate during which Likud tried in vain to hold a secret ballot. It apparently hoped that some Labor Alignment members would vote against their party's measure. The bill now goes to the Knesset's Legal Committee in preparation for its first reading. It has to go through three readings.

WIESENTHAL CENTER URGES CANADA
TO REOPEN THE LUITJENS CASE

LOS ANGELES, March 22 (JTA) — The Simon Wiesenthal Center has urged the Canadian government to immediately reopen the case of former Nazi war criminal Jacob Luitjens and those of at least 125 other former Nazi criminals currently in Canada. The request was made in a telegram yesterday to Canadian Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan following his disclosure that Canadian authorities are considering new legal avenues in dealing with former Nazi war criminals residing there.

Luitjens left his science post at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver when it became known that he fled after World War II to avoid serving a 15-year sentence for collaborations with the Nazis. The 74-year-old Luitjens has successfully avoided extradition to The Netherlands due to a loophole in the existing treaty between The Hague and Ottawa.

Kaplan indicated that Canada may be able to move against former Nazi war criminals if it can be established by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that they hid their Nazi criminal past when they applied for "landed immigrant" status (often the first legal step taken toward acquiring Canadian citizenship). Deportation could then be considered.

"If this course of action is pursued vigorously and successfully, it would mark an important step forward in the battle to remove Canada from the list of nations providing safe haven for these criminals," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He added that, in addition to Luitjens, at least 125 other extradition requests for former Nazis in Canada have been made by Western democracies, including France, Belgium and Denmark.

MANCHESTER'S OLDEST SYNAGOGUE BEING CONVERTED INTO A LIVING MUSEUM

By Maurice Samuelson

MANCHESTER, March 22 (JTA) -- Manchester's oldest synagogue is being converted from a discontinued place of prayer into a living museum illustrating the history of Britain's second largest Jewish community.

It is the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue, built in 1873 on Cheetham Hill Road, in the former heartland of Manchester Jewry. Most of the other old synagogues in the area have been knocked down or turned into factories, including the nearby Great Synagogue, once regarded as the community's "Cathedral School," but now a gaunt skeleton.

The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue has been preserved for posterity thanks largely to the endeavors of Bill Williams, a non-Jewish historian who has devoted himself to chronicling the origins of Manchester's Jews.

The opening of the museum on March 25 will mark the completion of the restoration and conversion of the building for its new use. Plans are also well advanced for the core exhibition, tracing the community's growth and including a wide range of tapes, photographs and artifacts -- the candlesticks or prayer shawls brought from Eastern Europe and the tailoring and water proofing tools used in the city's garment trade.

History Of The Manchester Jewish Community

Manchester's Jewish community dates back to the mid-eighteenth century when the first temporary synagogue was set up by itinerant peddlers for Sabbath services.

By the end of the century, a settled community had been established and the early nineteenth century saw its gradual growth with settlers drawn from other parts of England and from Germany and, later, Sephardic merchants attracted to Manchester from Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey, through their connection with the cotton trade.

It was for these Middle East Jews that the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue was built by Edward Salomon, a distinguished Victorian architect.

Eventually, a permanent exhibition in the synagogue's Ladies Gallery will document the community's origins and the museum will also be equipped to mount visiting exhibitions.

The organizers have described the museum as the first of its kind outside London. In fact, it will be the most important Jewish museum in Britain, since the Jewish Museum in London consists of only a single room of artifacts in Adler House, the office of the Chief Rabbi.

Other Communities May Follow Manchester's Lead

Other large provincial communities, such as Birmingham, Liverpool and Glasgow, are believed to be keen on copying the Manchester initiative, bearing out the city's old claim that "what Manchester does today the rest of the country does tomorrow."

Manchester Jewry's major contribution to the wider Jewish community is personified in its many distinguished sons, and in its strong Zionist atmosphere.

It was in Manchester, before and during World War I that Dr. Chaim Weizmann, then a university lecturer, established himself as the foremost Zionist activist of his day and formed many of the connect-

ions which led to the British government issuing the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917. All this and more will be reflected in the synagogue-museum about to open on Cheetham Hill.

UNA BOARD ADOPTS RESOLUTION WHICH OBJECTS TO ANTI-SEMITISM AT THE UN

UNITED NATIONS, March 22 (JTA) -- The Board of Governors of the United Nations Association (UNA) has unanimously adopted a resolution which objects to anti-Semitism at the UN, the International Council of B'nai B'rith reported.

In a letter to Dr. Harris Schoenberg, director of UN Affairs for the International Council, Robert Ratner, president of the UN Association, stated that at its last meeting, the UNA-U.S. Board acknowledged that "certain attacks against Israel" at the last General Assembly "degenerated again into blatant anti-Semitism."

The Association's Board added that it is "disturbed that surprisingly few delegations bothered to object." (Only Israel and the United States did in fact denounce the anti-Semitic rhetoric.) "But the Secretary General (Javier Perez de Cuellar) did issue a timely statement which took issue with the use in the General Assembly of epithets and slurs of a racial, religious or personal nature, even in the heat of the debate."

The UNA Board resolution concluded with a strong endorsement of the Secretary General's appeal "to all members to refrain from language unbecoming to serious international debate."

The Board instructed the UNA-USA staff to distribute the resolution widely, including to UN Missions and the national organizations affiliated with the Association. Ratner thanked Schoenberg for bringing this matter to the UNA's attention.

REAGAN: HUMAN RIGHTS FOR JEWS AND OTHERS IN USSR IS HIGHEST PRIORITY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) -- President Reagan has pledged that in all of his Administration's discussions with the Soviet government "we have no higher priority" than human rights for Soviet Jews and others in the USSR.

"Those who care about the fate of Soviet Jews should know that we are with them today and will be with them tomorrow," the President said in a statement issued to mark the International Day of Concern for Soviet Jews last week.

The day also marked the seventh anniversary of the arrest of Anatoly Shcharansky. Reagan noted that Shcharansky's "courage and determination to stand up for" human rights "have earned him the respect and admiration of countless people worldwide. But, he added, the day is not dedicated solely to Shcharansky but "is a day when men and women of good will reflect on all aspects of the situation of Jewry in the USSR."

"That situation has deteriorated over the past year. Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has fallen to its lowest levels since the late 1960s; officially tolerated anti-Semitism manifesting itself in broadcasts, articles, and the widely publicized formation of an 'Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public' has increased; and individual refuseniks continue to be subjected to harassment. All in all, this is a grim picture. But we will not be disheartened."