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# **NIGERIA SETS CONDITIONS FOR RESUMING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL**

LONDON, Dec. 12 (JTA) — Nigeria is prepared to restore diplomatic relations with Israel following Israeli withdrawal "from all occupied Arab territories" and its breaking of links with South Africa, the World Jewish Congress reported today.

The Nigerian head of state, Major-General Muhammad Buhari, set forth these conditions during formal remarks delivered last week in Lagos. His remarks, broadcast by Lagos Home Service, were monitored here by sources of the WJC.

According to the broadcast, Buhari said there were "two major conditions" for the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel: "One of the conditions is the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories, particularly the recognition of the right of the Palestinians to a homeland. The other is the breaking of Israeli military, nuclear and economic collaboration with the apartheid regime in South Africa."

Buhari, speaking at the annual dinner of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos, said that "it was inconceivable that the Jewish people who have been victims of racial horrors and genocide could now provide weapons of death and oppression to the apartheid regime." He added that South Africa remains the greatest threat to Nigeria's national interest.

An analyst of the WJC Third World Department suggested that Buhari's comments were significant in two respects. Firstly, the fact that the Nigerian leader publicly raised the issue of renewing relations with Israel is viewed as in and of itself significant. Secondly, although he referred to the "Palestinians" he did not mention the PLO, nor was there any reference to a "Palestinian state" but rather a "homeland."

## **BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR THE RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY HAS BEEN FORMED** By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 12 (JTA) — A British Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jewry has been formed here to arouse public opinion and support for the 4,500 Jews of Syria whose emigration has been banned for years and who appear now to be in greater danger than ever. Leon Tamman, treasurer of the World Sephardi Federation, is president.

Martin Shaw, chairman of the committee, said yesterday that fear for the safety of Syrian Jews has grown since Rifaat Assad, brother of President Hafez Assad, returned from political exile and was put in charge of internal security.

Shaw, a lawyer who has frequently acted on behalf of Jews in Arab countries, recalled that Rifaat Assad was "primarily responsible" for the massacre of 20,000 members of the Moslem Brotherhood in the city of Hama in northern Syria two years ago.

### **'Frightening' Development For Syrian Jews**

His reinstatement as security chief is "frightening" for Syria's Jews, of whom 3,000 live in Damascus, 1,200 in Aleppo and 300 in Kamishli, Shaw said.

He noted that Syrian Jews are controlled by the security police through a special government commit-

tee for Jewish affairs which includes officials of the Interior Ministry and Palestinian organizations. Syrian Jews are not permitted to inherit property. The property of deceased Jews reverts to the State, not to their heirs, he said.

Another problem facing the Jewish community is the shortage of male spouses. There are now 500 women of marriageable age unable to find Jewish husbands, Shaw said. But the Damascus regime refuses to let them leave to find mates abroad or to join relatives in places like New York where 25,000 Syrian Jews now live.

## **KIEV REFUSENIK GETS 4-YEAR JAIL TERM**

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) — Kiev refusenik Iosif Berenshtein, charged with allegedly "resisting arrest," was convicted and sentenced to four years imprisonment on December 10, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry learned today. The maximum penalty for the charge is five years. Berenshtein, a 47-year-old engineer, was arrested on November 12 while in nearby Novograd Vilinsky to answer allegations of economic crimes made against his aunt, which have since been dropped.

The NCSJ's Lawyers Committee noted that the warrant for this arrest was dated November 13, leaving questions concerning the legality of the procedure, as well as the initial grounds for his arrest. Since his arrest Berenshtein's wife, Faina, and his daughter have been threatened with similar action.

According to the NCSJ, Kiev is a city tightly controlled by the KGB. Hebrew teachers and emigration activists, in particular, have faced constant harassment there since 1980. Kiev is also a city where foreign visitors have been interrogated and physically abused in recent years.

## **FRANCE'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER DESCRIBED AS STaunchLY PRO-ARAB** By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 12 (JTA) — France's new Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas, was described as a staunch and loyal pro-Arab by the French daily *Le Monde* which recalled that in past years he had intervened on behalf of Palestinian terrorists.

Dumas, 64, was named Foreign Minister by President Francois Mitterrand, replacing Claude Cheysson who is leaving the government. He is an attorney and former newspaper journalist and is considered a close personal friend of Mitterrand.

His appointment coincided with the visit here last week of Israeli Premier Shimon Peres which was hailed by both French and Israeli officials as a renewal of warm and friendly relations between the two countries for the first time in the 20 years since the presidency of Charles de Gaulle.

Dumas, as Foreign Minister-designate, attended almost all of the official functions held in honor of the visiting Israeli leader. He was present at the State banquet for Peres at the Quai D'Orsay — the Foreign Ministry — at Mitterrand's luncheon with Peres at the Elysee Palace and at the diplomatic reception hosted by Peres at the Israeli Embassy here.

Peres, responding to reporters' questions at the time, expressed hope that Dumas "will carry out the President's policy." Sources here observed yesterday that with a close friend in charge of the Foreign Minis-

try, Mitterrand will act as his own foreign minister, meaning that he will establish French foreign policy and see that it is executed.

Mitterrand's sincere friendship toward Israel, expressed during Peres' three-day visit and on many other occasions, is not in question. But Dumas' past record, according to *Le Monde* which supports Mitterrand's Socialist Administration, is a different matter.

#### Relationship With Terrorists

In 1974, an editorial appeared in a newspaper founded and edited by Dumas defending the hijacking of commercial airliners as "the only means the Palestinians have to break through world indifference" to their cause.

Dumas served as attorney for the terrorist, Abu Daoud, after French police arrested him at Israel's request. Israel was seeking his extradition for allegedly masterminding the 1972 Munich massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes.

Dumas went to Israel at the request of pro-Palestinian groups to defend Msgr. Hilarion Capucci, the Catholic Archbishop of Jerusalem who was on trial for smuggling weapons to Palestinian terrorists. He also had close professional ties with Libya and served on several occasions as counsel for the Libyan government, *Le Monde* said.

#### Two Jews In Cabinet Reshuffle

Two prominent French Jews figured in Mitterrand's Cabinet reshuffle. Jack Lang, the Minister of Cultural Affairs, was given full ministerial rank and a seat in the "inner cabinet."

Another Jew, Gilbert Trigano, was named a "government delegate" in charge of new training methods to help fight unemployment. Trigano, 63, is president and co-founder of Club Mediterranee, an international travel organization with hotels and resort complexes in 40 countries.

#### IDF, U.S. EMBASSY MUM ON REPORTED JOINT U.S.-ISRAELI ANTI-SUBMARINE EXERCISE IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 12 (JTA) — The Israeli Defense Force and the U.S. Embassy here have declined to comment on reports that the Israeli and U.S. navies are engaged in a joint anti-submarine exercise in the eastern Mediterranean.

An IDF spokesman said that "in principle, the IDF does not report on movements and exercises." The only previous instance of U.S.-Israeli military cooperation, which occurred last June, was the practice evacuation by American helicopters of 46 "wounded" marines from a U.S. Navy vessel in Haifa to hospitals in Haifa and Tel Aviv.

At that time, Washington reportedly expressed displeasure over the extensive Israeli press coverage of the exercise which also tested communications between the U.S. Sixth Fleet and Israeli authorities and the capabilities of Israeli air traffic control.

Sources here said U.S.-Israeli military cooperation has been kept secret. But foreign press reports from Washington today quoted a Defense Department official as confirming that the joint anti-submarine exercise began yesterday.

According to the reports, Michael Burch, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, said the maneuvers involved a task force accompanying the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower which earlier had called at Haifa.

Burch said the joint anti-submarine exercises began yesterday. He said the exercise was a small one and would last "a few days" and that the Eisenhower was not directly involved except as a base for aircraft used in the practice submarine hunt. One unidentified Pentagon official reportedly said that the Eisenhower was sent to the Mediterranean in October as a show of force in response to terrorist activities.

#### ISRAEL HOUSING INDUSTRY LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT JEWS AND OTHERS ABROAD TO BUY HOMES IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 12 (JTA) — Israel's housing industry, in its worst slump since the 1966/67 recession, is mounting a campaign to attract Jews and others abroad to buy homes in Israel.

About 25 of the country's largest construction companies will open joint sales offices, the first in New York City in March, 1985 and later, one in London. At the offices, potential buyers of apartments and houses will be shown videotapes of the kinds of homes offered along with computerized printouts with full details of size, location and stages of construction.

The builders are also offering a "fly-and-buy" package in which persons who come to Israel and purchase homes will be reimbursed for their air fare. The package is not only an inducement but a practical necessity for prospective buyers in the U.S. where strict laws govern the sale of overseas properties. These laws make the closing of deals impossible at a New York office.

The Israeli builders' estimated prices range from \$40,000 for a three-room apartment to \$250,000 for a two-story house offered for sale abroad. The builders said they have already interested members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in the project.

B'nai B'rith has agreed to sponsor a 200-unit complex for its members in the Jerusalem area, they said. The five-acre site will include a swimming pool, social club and other facilities.

#### EFFORTS TO SAVE ATA TEXTILE MILLS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 12 (JTA) — Government-appointed receivers are trying to maintain production at the Ata textile mills on Haifa Bay to improve the chances of finding a buyer for the giant textile combine, the largest single employer in the Haifa area.

A Haifa District Court has ordered the Cotton Marketing Board to continue selling Ata raw cotton. The Board has refused so far because of an outstanding debt of nearly \$2 million.

Ata, once a showpiece of private industrial enterprise in Israel, with plants on Haifa Bay and in Galilee, went into bankruptcy following the loss of its largest overseas customer. The receivers appointed were given the task of preserving the business and the jobs of its 8,000 employees. Normally, receivers preside over the liquidation of an enterprise to ensure maximum reimbursement of its creditors.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has been looking for a suitable buyer or investment syndicate, so far without success. Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Trade and Industry, has been in New York for the past month pursuing his \$50 million libel suit against Time magazine.

Ata's troubles began more than two years ago when its biggest foreign customer, the Marks and Spencer department store chain in Britain, warned the company that the quality of its products was falling below the

chain's high standards. Ata was given a year to show improvement. Marks and Spencer withdrew its business from Ata over a year ago. Ironically, Marks and Spencers was established and is headed by the Marks and Sieff families whose strong Zionist connections date back to the early years of Dr. Chaim Weizmann's leadership of the world Zionist movement. They were instrumental in establishing the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot which they continue to support.

# UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK ON JEWS AND JUDAISM AT A UN SEMINAR

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- A United Nations seminar on religious tolerance was used as the platform for an unprecedented attack on Jews and Judaism by the Saudi Arabian delegate who said at one point that Hitler must have had good reasons to want to exterminate the Jews.

The 40-minute diatribe by Dr. Maaruf Al-Mawalibi, was allowed to continue uninterrupted. The President of the Seminar, Adam Lopatka of Poland, did not react to it and refused a request by the Israeli delegate, Hebrew University Prof. Eliezer Ravitzki, that the seminar dissociate itself from the attack.

Apart from Israel, only the United States and Costa Rica, among the 26 nations participating, spoke out against the Saudi's remarks. But many of the delegates privately expressed shock after the session.

Al-Mawalibi's premise was that the Jews should not wonder why they were persecuted for centuries because there must have been good reasons. He claimed it was prescribed in the Talmud that a Jewish doctor was allowed to treat non-Jews only for experimental purposes.

In addition to the U.S., Israel, Costa Rica and Saudi Arabia, the seminar was attended by delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Finland, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Senegal, Thailand, Togo, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

# UN ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON THE ISSUE OF THE PALESTINIANS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- The General Assembly last night renewed its call for an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization and asked Israel and the United States to reconsider their opposition to such a conference.

The call was made in a resolution adopted by the Assembly at the conclusion of its debate on the Question of Palestine. The vote was 121 in favor to three against -- Israel, the U.S. and Canada -- with 23, mainly Western countries, abstaining.

The Assembly adopted three other resolutions on the issue of the Palestinians last night. The U.S. and Israel voted against all the resolutions.

One of the resolutions endorsed the recommendations of the Palestine Rights Committee, which includes a call for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. The vote on this resolution was 127-2 (Israel and the U.S.), with 21 abstentions.

Another resolution expressed continued support of the United Nations Division on Palestine. The vote on this resolution was 130-3 (Israel, the U.S. and Canada), with 17 abstentions.

The fourth resolution requested the UN Department of Public Information to continue disseminating information on the question of Palestine. The vote was 131-3 (Israel, the U.S. and Canada), with 15 abstentions.

# Says Arab Contention Not Supported By History

Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel, speaking after the vote, said that to justify their implacable antagonism towards Israel, the Arab countries had repeatedly contended that the Jews had seized Palestine from the Arabs who had lived there for centuries. But, he claimed, that contention was not supported by history because for thousands of years the Jews had lived in Palestine.

The Israeli Ambassador said that the Palestinian refugee problem had been created largely by Arab armies who forced the Palestinians to leave their homes when they attacked Israel in 1948.

Netanyahu also charged that the call for an international peace conference was a "ploy" to legitimize the PLO. He said peace was possible if the Palestinians, Israel and Jordan come to the negotiating table as Israel and Egypt had done. The Arabs should recognize Israel "by right and not on sufferance," he said.

# Resolutions Called Unbalanced, Unfair

Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, said she voted against the resolutions because they were unbalanced and unfair. The U.S. has sympathy for the Palestinians but the resolutions last night were an "outrageous" interference in the affairs of the U.S., she declared.

She noted that the resolution that called for an international peace conference also charged Israel with not being a peace-loving nation, and said that this was inconsistent. She said that Israel has the right to expect fairness from the UN.

# MURDERED WOMAN SOLDIER IS BURIED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- Hadass Kedmi, the 20-year-old woman soldier murdered some time after she disappeared while hitchhiking near Haifa on November 29, was buried today as police intensified their investigation of the crime. The funeral services were held at her home village, Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk on Haifa Bay.

Kedmi's body, bearing marks of violence, was found in a wooded area on Mt. Carmel yesterday by soldiers on a training exercise. A widespread search by hundreds of soldiers, police and civilian volunteers over a 12-day period had failed to find her.

The police have imposed a strict blackout on their investigation. It is known to be based on two possibilities: that the young woman was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists or that she was the victim of a rapist-killer. According to unconfirmed reports, she was held captive alive for several days.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- About 300 of the young Israelis recruited into the army each year are rejected because they can neither read nor write, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin was informed during a visit Tuesday to the Israel Defense Force special training center. He was told that about 90 percent of the illiterate youths are native-born.

# JDC ADOPTS \$47.3 MILLION BUDGET; HEINZ EPPLER ELECTED PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee adopted a budget of \$47.3 million and elected Heinz Eppler of Palm Beach, Fla., president at its 70th annual meeting here today. Henry Taub, whom Eppler succeeded, was elected chairman of the Board. Donald Robinson was elected honorary president.

Ralph Goldman, JDC executive vice president, reported that close to a half million people in 30 countries overseas were helped by JDC's welfare, health, education or other programs. He said that the budget for 1985 "would just about help the JDC maintain its current level of assistance."

## \$500,000 Received For Ethiopia Relief

Reporting on JDC involvement in the relief operations in Ethiopia, Goldman said, "Since the JDC opened its mailbox to the Jewish communities for special contributions for Ethiopia relief, we have received cash or pledges totalling half a million dollars. Of that amount, \$100,000 came from the Central British Fund-World Jewish Relief, a philanthropic agency of the British Jewish community."

More than 200 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the United States and Canada attended the all-day annual meeting. The meeting was followed later in the evening by a festive dinner honoring Taub, after four years as JDC president, and which saw the installation of Eppler as president.

In his remarks, Taub stressed the concept of community that kept the Jewish people alive and united through 2,000 years of dispersion and persecution. Referring to events in Israel during the past year, he noted that the budget cuts were affecting social programs, creating a challenge JDC must help meet. He expressed gratification that Prime Minister Shimon Peres is giving top priority to solving its economic problems.

Taub was presented at the dinner meeting with the Ma'asim Tovim Award, the highest honor conferred by the JDC. Rabbi Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, and president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Rumania, also praised Taub and expressed gratitude for the help given by JDC.

Another highlight of the meeting was a special reception for alumni staff members. Approximately 100 past and present employees were presented with certificates of merit and appreciation. Making the presentation was Edward Warburg, son of the founding chairman of the JDC, Felix Warburg, and JDC president for 25 years.

## OVER \$100,000 DONATED BY AJC COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THE AGENCY'S ETHIOPIAN RELIEF FUND

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- Contributions exceeding \$100,000 have been donated by members of the American Jewish Committee to the agency's Ethiopian Relief Fund, it was announced today by Dr. David Gordis, executive vice president. The sum was collected within a week after an appeal made to members by AJC president Howard Friedman. According to Gordis, 2,000 members have responded, to date, as "contributions continue coming in at a heavy rate." There are approximately 50,000 AJC members nationwide. Gordis added that the AJC's local chapters soon would launch a follow-up drive to substantially increase the amounts already collected.

He said that the monies would be distributed to three major relief organizations now servicing drought victims in Ethiopia: Catholic Relief Services,

Church World Services, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The JDC will receive the largest share of the raised funds.

"By providing these agencies with aid to bring food and other supplies to the famined areas of Ethiopia, we endeavor to alleviate the suffering of the Ethiopian people," Gordis stated.

## CJC CONCERNED OVER ETHNOCULTURAL COVERAGE AND HIRING PRACTICES BY CBC

TORONTO, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress, while strongly supporting the license renewal of the publicly funded Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC), has expressed some concerns over its ethnocultural coverage and hiring practices with respect to minority groups in Canada.

In a submission to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC), the organization recommended that CBC Television interpret its mandate to "play a role in ensuring that all ethnocultural groups live in harmony and equality with the two dominant cultures" in Canada which are Anglo-Saxon and French.

The submission provided an analysis of instances where the CJC found CBC wanting. They include coverage of events of national importance to the various ethnocultural communities that have been covered only during crisis periods or as colorful backdrops to specific events.

Also noted was the fact that CBC accepted only eight people of 850 applicants for a highly publicized minority training program. "Recruitment on a much grander scale could be successfully applied," the CJC brief said.

## Recommendations By The CJC

It recommended that the CBC "should go beyond reflecting the heterogeneity of the various ethnocultural communities" through skin color or names and that the corporation encourage Sikhs with turbans or Jews with skullcaps, for example, to appear on camera.

The CJC also suggested what the CBC could be doing to counter anti-minority activity. It cited recent programs on Nazi war criminals and hate propaganda as examples. But it believes the CBC could more fully implement its stated policy of "challenging stereotypes" not only in the studio but outside in the community at large.

The brief praised the CBC radio program "Identities" as an excellent example of ethnocultural reporting. It encouraged the development of similar programs on both English and French language television networks, but stressed that this should not be the only niche for ethnocultural programming.

"A determined effort must be made to cover the ethnocultural communities on an on-going day-to-day basis, but reporters must be attracted to stories which would serve as windows to the real inner lives of those communities," the CJC brief stated.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Public approval of the unity government's handling of Israel's economic crisis rose last month, according to an opinion poll published Tuesday. The poll showed that just over half of the adult Jewish population -- 50.7 percent -- was dissatisfied in November, down from 69.2 percent in October. The margin of approval rose in the same period from 22.1 to 44.4 percent. The poll also showed that 59.4 percent of the respondents favored extension of the three-month freeze after it expires in January.