

**ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AGREES TO ACCEPT AID FROM ISRAEL**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Ethiopia's Marxist government has finally agreed to accept direct aid from Israel to help alleviate famine, it was announced today by Arye Harel, president of the Magen David Adom. He said that despite severe economic difficulties here, the MDA, Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross, has raised a quarter million dollars for Ethiopian relief.

The Ethiopian regime has no diplomatic relations with Israel, a country to which it is hostile, and stubbornly refused to accept any assistance from Israel until now. It reversed its position at the prodding of the International Red Cross and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

Harel said the 220 tons of relief items which have been awaiting shipment for several weeks include 10 field kitchens, 800 tents, 20 tons of flour, 20 tons of sugar, cooking oil, chocolate powder and baby food.

They will fill 10 marine containers which the Zim Lines, Israel's national shipping company, will carry, presumably from Eilat to Ethiopia's port of Massawa on the Red Sea. The Ethiopian authorities refused to allow the relief supplies to be flown in by Israeli aircraft. There was no explanation why they agreed to an Israeli sea carrier.

Israeli peace advocate Abie Nathan has already delivered emergency supplies to Ethiopia, bought with funds raised by his off-shore Voice of Peace radio broadcasts. (See separate story.)

The MDA announced, meanwhile, that it will soon launch another campaign for funds to help Ethiopian Jews who have recently arrived in Israel.

**ISRAEL URGED TO RESCUE JEWS REMAINING IN ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN REFUGEE CAMPS**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 9 (JTA) — The French Sephardic Federation is urging Israel to do all it can to resume the rescue of thousands of Jews still in Ethiopia or stranded in refugee camps in Sudan since the airlift that brought them to Israel was suspended over the weekend.

The appeal was made in a cable to Premier Shimon Peres. The Federation expressed "consternation" over the halt of the airlift but expressed confidence that the Israeli government would do all it can "on behalf of the stranded families."

At the same time, the Federation said it has launched a fund-raising campaign to send doctors, medicine and medical equipment to famine-stricken Ethiopia on a non-sectarian basis. It said the funds raised would be handed over to a non-Jewish medical organization to help the starving population without discrimination.

Ufi Gordon, the head of the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliya department, told a press conference here that \$121 million would be needed to absorb young Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society. He said Israel has sent millions of dollars worth of medical

supplies, clothing, food and tents for distribution to the general population. The United Jewish Appeal of France also launched a fund-raising drive Monday to help the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency meet the huge costs of the transportation and the absorption of Ethiopian Jews into the Israeli community.

The UJA did not say how much money it planned to raise but stressed that the campaign will be treated as "a major emergency." All members of the French-Jewish community will be asked to fulfill their obligations, the UJA said.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW****ABIE NATHAN SEEKING TO BUILD MORE TENT CITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Abie Nathan, Israeli peace activist and philanthropist, has appealed to the United States government and the American Jewish community to provide additional support and financial aid for the establishment of five more "complete tent cities" in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia, he said today in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, has requested the construction of five more tent villages similar to the one he already helped to establish last month in Harbu, some 400 miles north of Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

An additional five tent villages, proposed by the government for Adona, Axom, Senbete, Metem and Agordit, will cost an estimated \$1 million, according to Nathan, who was here in New York for several days following a short visit to Washington where he met with government officials involved in African famine relief efforts.

**'From Jerusalem With Love'**

The camp in Harbu houses anywhere from 6,000 to 8,000 persons and includes family tents, hospital tents, kitchen tents, mattresses, cots, kitchen equipment, generators for electricity and other items. The 43 tons of equipment for the camp at Harbu cost some \$250,000. Each tent bears a Star of David and the legend, "From Jerusalem With Love."

The 57-year-old Nathan was born in Iran and emigrated to Israel in 1948. Since then he has gained international headlines for his Mideast peace efforts and particularly for his Voice of Peace ocean freighter that has cruised the Mediterranean for the past 10 years broadcasting music and programs in Hebrew and Arabic to Israel and its Arab neighbors.

His relief efforts in the past have taken him to Nigeria, Cambodia, India, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Now it has taken him to famine-stricken Ethiopia, a country that broke diplomatic ties with the Jewish State in 1973.

Nathan, however, doesn't want to get involved in the political aspects of his relief efforts. "It is mainly humanitarian in the belief that by making such efforts, we can come to terms with many other issues, national and otherwise." He said the camps serve two purposes.

One, he said, is simply to help the international relief agencies that continue to aid the Ethiopians with facilities and work areas for food supplies and medical treatment centers. But, moreover, he added "It is for the

people there to live as human beings and not as cattle." Before going to Washington earlier this week, Nathan was presented with a check for \$50,000 by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Schindler said the funds had been contributed by Reform synagogues and their members, and by individual Jews in response to the UAHC's continuing Ethiopian relief fund drive.

The UAHC has raised nearly \$100,000, and some \$25,000, according to Schindler, had been sent to Nathan's operation—dubbed the Fund for the Children of Ethiopia—to rent the cargo plane that brought the tents and other relief equipment to Ethiopia last month. Schindler said he was confident the organization's initial goal of \$250,000 in contributions would be met.

Nathan said he met with officials of the Agency for International Development that have conducted and coordinated U.S. famine relief operations in Africa. "I was here a few weeks ago," he said. "They didn't take me seriously. Now I think they do." He said he has not received a formal response to his request for aid for the proposed five new tent villages.

#### CABINET EXPECTED TO CONSIDER ISRAEL'S OPTIONS IN LEBANON

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA) — The Cabinet is expected to consider Israel's future options in Lebanon at its regular meeting next Sunday, in light of the continued stalemate in the Israeli-Lebanese military security and withdrawal talks in Nakura, informed sources here said today.

According to the sources, operative decisions will not be made at the Sunday session but they are "not far off down the road."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset today that the time is close at hand when the government will be called upon to make crucial decisions with regard to Lebanon.

Responding to six agenda motions on the matter, Rabin indicated that he had little confidence that diplomatic efforts now underway would break the impasse at Nakura, allowing the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Force from south Lebanon in the framework of an agreement with Lebanon.

Rabin spoke following a meeting of the 10-member "inner cabinet" on the subject of Lebanon. The deliberations were classified and no details were released.

#### UN Diplomatic Efforts To Continue

Informed sources said today that even if Israel decided on a unilateral pullback of the IDF, diplomatic efforts by the United Nations would continue as long as the UN Secretariat felt there was any hope of success. UN Undersecretary General Brian Urquhart is due here over the weekend.

Nevertheless, senior Israeli policymakers seemed to agree with Rabin's downbeat assessment of the prospects of a negotiated accord with Lebanon. The Nakura talks resumed Monday, after a two-week Christmas-New Year recess. No progress was reported and Defense Ministry officials and senior IDF officers concluded that it would be pointless to hold another meeting this week.

No date was, in fact, set for the next meeting of the Israeli and Lebanese negotiating teams. If

the pre-recess pattern was to be continued, the two sides would meet again tomorrow. But Israeli sources indicated after Monday's session that even if the Lebanese sent their delegation to Nakura Thursday, the Israelis would not be there.

#### Israel Waiting For Lebanese Reply

The Lebanese have given no satisfactory reply to Israel's proposal. The key issue is Israel's insistence that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) — which is sponsoring the Nakura talks — take over responsibility for security in south Lebanon between the Zaharani and Awali rivers after the IDF withdraws. The Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) would patrol the region from the Litani River to the Israeli border, according to Israel's wishes.

But the Lebanese do not recognize the SLA and insist that the only role for UNIFIL is to oversee the IDF's withdrawal. They claim their regular army is capable of maintaining security in the south. The Israelis are convinced it cannot.

The motions submitted in the Knesset today on what steps Israel should take next in Lebanon showed a wide divergence of opinion. Labor MK Simcha Dinitz and Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), both counselled an early and complete withdrawal of the IDF. Likud-Herut MK Uzi Landau and Yuval Neeman, leader of the rightwing Tehiya Party, urged resistance to the Lebanese, the Syrians and to the pro-withdrawal forces at home.

#### Steps To Thaw The 'Cold Peace'

Meanwhile, first steps are being taken to thaw the "cold peace" between Israel and Egypt. Officials of both countries will meet in Beersheba next Tuesday for three days of talks aimed at solving the border dispute over Taba, a three acre strip of beach on the Gulf of Aqaba which both countries claim.

The Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty of 1979 provides for arbitration of such disputes if they cannot be resolved through bilateral diplomacy. The issue has been in abeyance since Egypt recalled its Ambassador from Tel Aviv during the Lebanon war two years ago. Resumption of the Taba talks is seen as a step toward improving Israeli-Egyptian relations.

When the two sides meet at Beersheba a week from now, they will have on their agenda a compromise proposal which would have Taba patrolled by soldiers of the Sinai-based multinational peacekeeping force until agreement is reached on the final status of the territory.

#### U.S. INDICATES IT WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE ISRAEL BREAK OFF NAKURA TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration indicated that it would not like to see Israel break off its deadlocked talks with Lebanon on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

While refusing to comment on Israel's decision not to attend the next round of talks, State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said yesterday the U.S. believes that these talks, which he stressed are under United Nations auspices, "represent the best means of achieving resolution of the problems in south Lebanon."

But Romberg made clear that while the U.S. will continue to be "helpful" in the talks, it has no plans of taking a more active role such as being a mediator between the two sides. He said the State Department is still assessing findings from the last trip to the Mideast of Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near

East and South Asian Affairs. There are no "specific" plans for Murphy to return to the area soon, Romberg said. Meanwhile, Romberg said that both Israel and Egypt have asked the U.S. to participate in the talks which will begin next week over Taba, the disputed strip on the Gulf of Aqaba. He said he did not know who will represent the U.S. at the talks which will start in Beersheba and then rotate to Ismailia in Egypt.

The strip, which houses an Israeli hotel and beach club, has been a source of dispute between Israel and Egypt and one of the reasons Egypt has cited for the refusal to send its Ambassador back to Israel. Egypt claims the strip is part of the Sinai desert that Israel returned to it three years ago as part of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Romberg also confirmed that Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid will come to Washington in February. Meguid is expected to pave the way for a visit by President Hosni Mubarak to President Reagan reportedly in March.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is also expected to come to Washington in February. He has not been to Washington since 1977 before the Camp David agreements, cancelling visits with President Carter in 1979 and Reagan in 1981.

#### SHULTZ RAISED ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWS IN TALKS WITH GROMYKO

By Hugh Ortel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Secretary of State George Shultz raised the issue of Soviet Jews several times with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko during their arms control talks in Geneva, according to Mark Palmer, a senior State Department official Shultz sent here as a special envoy to brief Israeli officials on the Geneva talks.

Palmer, who arrived this evening, is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs. He reported to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir tonight that Shultz dwelt especially on the plight of Jewish refuseniks such as imprisoned Anatoly Shcharansky and Yosef Begun, in the course of his two days of talks with Gromyko and that he urged the Soviet Union to halt its persecution of those activists and of other Jews in the USSR who study Hebrew.

Palmer is going to Egypt tomorrow to brief officials in Cairo on the Geneva talks. Other U.S. officials have similar assignments in the capitals of most countries with which the U.S. maintains friendly relations.

#### SHCHARANSKY'S MOTHER GRANTED PERMISSION TO VISIT SON IN LABOR CAMP

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Avital Shcharansky has informed Soviet Jewish activists in the United States that her mother-in-law, Ida Milgrom, has been granted permission to visit Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky in the Perm labor camp. The visit is scheduled for Monday, January 14.

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ), said he received a telephone call from Mrs. Shcharansky yesterday afternoon. She telephoned from Geneva where she reportedly met with members of the United States delegation to the arms talks with the Soviet Union. The SSSJ asserted that Soviet officials there had declined to meet with Mrs. Shcharansky.

Anatoly Shcharansky is serving a 13-year sentence after being convicted in 1978 on charges of spying for the United States. Last November, Soviet authorities told Milgrom that he had been transferred from a prison near Moscow to a labor camp in the Urals. Mrs. Shcharansky said last month that family sources had been informed Anatoly had been hospitalized, although Soviet authorities did not provide details of his illness.

#### BEGIN REPORTED TO BE RENEWING INTEREST IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA) — Former Premier Menachem Begin, who has lived in virtual seclusion since his surprise resignation more than a year ago, has begun to show interest in political developments and has had a number of meetings recently with several of his former colleagues.

According to Yediot Achronot, Begin met this week with former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and with Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon. His discussion with Sharon centered on the latter's \$50 million libel suit against Time magazine, the newspaper reported.

Begin reportedly had a lengthy telephone conversation a few days ago with Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir who replaced him as the leader of Likud. Begin was said to have expressed great interest in the party's internal developments, particularly the touchy relations between its Herut and Liberal Party wings.

The newspaper quoted Begin as expressing his disapproval of his time reading and watching television and that he keeps up to date with current affairs. Yehiel Kadishai, Begin's long time personal aide, said recently that the former Premier would soon begin writing his memoirs.

But another associate of Begin was quoted to the effect that the former leader has no intention of returning to politics or of trying to exert his influence on the political scene.

#### WARSAW UNIVERSITY INITIATES LECTURESHIP ON YIDDISH STUDIES

WARSAW, Jan. 9 (JTA) — A lecture program on Yiddish language and culture has been established at the University of Warsaw, the World Jewish Congress reported today. The cultural and social association of Polish Jews here credits the widely-known Polish expert on Jewish history in Poland, Prof. Jerzy Tomaszewski, for initiating the lectureship.

According to Mark Friedman, director of cultural affairs of the WJC in New York, Tomaszewski, who is not Jewish, is recognized as a leading historian of Polish Jewish history in the modern era, and lectured at a Columbia University conference in New York on "Poles and Jews" in 1980.

Michal Frydman has been named as lecturer for the program which was established within the faculty of history at the University of Warsaw. Frydman, an official of the Social and Cultural Association, is a regular contributor to the Yiddish weekly newspaper in Poland, the Folks-Shtetle.

The Students enrolled in the lecture series include historians, ethnographers and other scholars for which knowledge of Yiddish is essential for their studies of Jewish-Polish relations covering almost 1,000 years of common history.

# **SPECIAL INTERVIEW OPTIMISM ABOUT ISRAELI-JORDANIAN TALKS By Yitzhak Rabi**

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA) — The chances that Israel and Jordan will break the deadlock between them and embark on peace negotiations are greater today than they have been in many months, according to an Israeli expert on the Mideast.

Prof. Amnon Cohen of the Mideast Department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York that the prospects for negotiations between Jerusalem and Amman are due to a number of developments in the area.

"First," Cohen said, "the new Israeli government of Premier Shimon Peres is more willing than the previous Likud government to enter into negotiations with King Hussein. Second, the Palestine Liberation Organization, which always pressured Jordan to shun negotiations with Israel, has lost its leverage over Hussein, as a result of its defeat in Lebanon. And third, Jordan and Egypt are getting closer to each other, now that Jordan resumed its diplomatic ties with Cairo. The peaceful relations between Egypt and Israel can encourage the King to follow the Egyptian example."

According to Cohen, the United States can play a major role in bringing Jordan to negotiate with Israel. He noted that Jordan "has deep ties in Washington and is dependent in many ways on the United States." Jordan's army, he pointed out, receives most of its weapons from America. He dismissed recent reports that Jordan is to buy Soviet arms as "insignificant."

Cohen was in the U.S. for a short visit for the publication of two new books he wrote, "Jewish Life Under Islam," (Harvard Press, Boston) and "Egypt and Palestine" (St. Martin's Press, New York).

## Egyptian-Israeli Relations Assessed

Asked to assess the present relations between Israel and Egypt, Cohen said: "The peace between the two countries is very precise from the formal point of view but it is rather ambiguous and unclear in its substantive aspects. The Egyptians adhere to the letter, but there is a great deal of erosion in the spirit of the treaty."

Egypt, however, claims that as long as Israel is in Lebanon and the issue of Tabá in the Sinai is not resolved it cannot keep warm relations with Israel as it would like to have, Cohen noted. "The real test for Egypt will come, therefore, soon, when Israel will finally be out of Lebanon and the Tabá issue is resolved," he said.

## Issue Of The PLO

Turning to the issue of the PLO, Cohen said that Yasir Arafat was recognized anew as the leader of the PLO during the recent meeting of the Palestinian National Council in Amman.

But he said that he believes that it's too early to assess the PLO as becoming more moderate. He said that there are many Israelis who believe that the PLO is moderating its policies in view of its decision to "consider" at a later date Hussein's call, during the Amman meeting, to seek a political solution to the conflict with Israel.

"The fact that they are willing to consider Hussein's suggestions is some progress from their point of

view, but this by itself is not enough to brand the PLO moderate. After all, there is no change in the PLO's terrorist activities, there is no change in its tie with the Soviet Union, and most of all there is no change in the Palestinian National Charter that calls for the destruction of Israel," Cohen said.

The 48-year-old Israeli-born scholar said that the only military threat to Israel in the near future is from Syria. He contended that Syria, as a result of the war in Lebanon, is more dependent now on the Soviet Union and has "more self-confidence" than it had before the war.

Cohen said that as long as Israel is in Lebanon he does not think a war will erupt between Israel and Syria. But once Israel is out of Lebanon, Syria and Israel might be drawn into a war because of terrorist activities against Israel from Syria or Lebanon, or because of Syria's attempt to invade Jordan, Cohen said.

## GREEN PARTY EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 9 (JTA) — The parliamentary faction of the Green Party is embroiled in a bitter argument over the withholding of several "strategy papers" by a self-declared "anti-Zionist" delegation of Greens that visited Israel last month.

Juergen Reents, a Bundestag member who headed the delegation, yesterday rejected pressure from party colleagues to produce the documents for an internal debate over Green policy toward the Middle East, its allegedly anti-Israel tendencies and overtones of anti-Semitism.

He complained that Israeli journalists were notified in advance of the trip that the Bundestag Green faction was going to debate the Middle East trip. He accused elements in the faction of trying to undermine the work of his delegation. According to Reents, a "strategy paper" of the delegation leaked to the press last month was just one of several working papers prepared for the trip.

## Trying To Defuse Criticism

He appeared to be trying to defuse criticism of the anti-Semitic tone of the leaked paper. Jo Mueller, another Bundestag member, persisted in his demand to see the alleged strategy papers. He told Reents that the delegation did much damage to the party by saying publicly that it was anti-Zionist and anti-Israel, though not anti-Semitic.

Mueller said the party's center was beginning to take a critical look at the one-sidedness of the Bundestag faction in the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that charges that the Green Party harbored anti-Semitic tendencies must be discussed seriously.

Several other deputies insisted that Reents produce his group's papers and called the secrecy strange. Reents said he will prepare a document for the faction's next meeting which will deal with Israel.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel Air Force planes Wednesday bombed a terrorist base in the Bekaa valley of Lebanon, the army spokesman announced. All aircraft returned safely to base and their pilots reported accurate hits on the base near the town of El-Marj. The last time IDF planes attacked targets inside Lebanon was two months ago.