

**RABIN: U.S. AGREES TO GIVE ISRAEL
\$1.8 BILLION IN MILITARY AID FOR F/Y
1986; NO DECISION ON ECONOMIC AID**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA) — Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin indicated today that the Reagan Administration has agreed to provide Israel with \$1.8 billion in military aid for the 1986 fiscal year, a \$400 million increase over this year, but has made no decision on economic aid.

Emerging from a 30-minute meeting with President Reagan at the White House, Rabin would not say directly if the President had approved this figure. But he said while the increase "was not exactly what we wanted," the total amount will be about \$1.8 billion. Israel had asked for \$2.1 billion in military aid. The White House confirmed the \$1.8 billion sum.

Says Reagan Has A 'Positive Attitude'

Rabin said that while he believed no decision has been made on economic aid, the President has a "positive attitude" toward helping Israel in its present economic difficulties. "I'm optimistic about what will be done by the U.S. government in support of our efforts, serious efforts in Israel, to bring about a recovery of our economy," he said.

The Defense Minister said he briefed Reagan on Israel's accomplishments in the first step of its economic recovery program which has already reduced inflation and on the next step which calls for deep cuts in government subsidies and \$1.1 billion in cuts in government operations, including "to my sorrow", the defense budget. "Israel for the sake of the recovery of its economy is going to take security risks, and a real one," Rabin said.

Rabin, who met with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz on Monday and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday, leaves for New York after holding a press conference this afternoon.

He told reporters that he thanked Reagan for all he had done for Israel during his first term and stressed that the cooperation between the two countries would continue.

Opposes Role For USSR In Mideast Peace Process

Rabin said that in all of his discussions here he stressed Israel's opposition to bringing the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process. "The last 11 years have proved that if there is to be any move toward peace in the region it must be done with the U.S. leading the process, with the cooperation of Israel and at least one Arab country."

He added the warning that "Whoever will bring the Soviets to be a party to the peace process in the region, there will be no peace and no process."

Rabin said that he understood that the U.S. and the Soviet Union had issues to discuss among themselves as superpowers, including the Middle East. This was a reference to the recent announcement that the U.S. and USSR plan to have talks about the region. But Rabin said the discussions should not include the peace process.

He reiterated Israel's opposition to an international conference under United Nations auspices with the

Soviet Union participating, as Moscow has urged. He said he believes the Administration shares this view. Rabin said that in briefing Reagan about Israel's decision to redeploy its troops in Lebanon, he stressed that "Israel is not giving up fighting terrorism. But we have decided to do it in a different way, from different places, by different methods."

He said that "We have no illusions" that once Israel leaves Lebanon "terrorism will be ended," because it will continue from the two factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization influenced by the Soviet Union and Syria and the Shiite Moslems in south Lebanon who are under the influence of Iran. "Terrorism is there and has to be coped with," he said.

Rabin said the Israel government has three priorities. The first is to strengthen its economy. He noted that Arab governments will not be persuaded to negotiate with a weak Israel. The second is to find a solution to Israel's involvement in Lebanon and the third is to "warm up relations between Egypt and Israel," Rabin said.

He said Israel "paid heavily" for its peace with Egypt and "expected it to be more than just no war." He added that Israel would like to see implemented the more than 50 agreements for normalization it has signed with Egypt.

**LAWSUIT SEEKS TO COMPEL U.S.
GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE CLASSIFIED
INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS ON MENGELE**
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) — A lawsuit filed in Washington yesterday seeks to compel the United States government to release four pages of classified Army intelligence documents that may provide key information regarding the reported efforts by Joseph Mengele, the notorious Auschwitz doctor, to gain entry into Canada in 1962.

The suit, filed by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. N.Y.) and Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper, dean and associate dean, respectively, of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, follows last week's release by the Center of intelligence documents indicating that, besides attempting to obtain a visa into Canada, Mengele may also have been captured and released in an American occupation zone soon after World War II.

The documents previously released by the government mention that Mengele, considered the most wanted war criminal still at large, may have sought a visa at the Canadian Consulate in Buenos Aires under the alias of "Joseph Menke." There is no knowledge that he ever entered Canada. The documents were obtained under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Reason For Withholding Documents

American intelligence was informed of the visa application made in the name of "Joseph Menke" and replied to the Canadians with information about Mengele, but subsequent follow-up, if any, has not been revealed. U.S. intelligence has established that Menke was an alias used by Mengele.

The four pages of documents, three of which reportedly are Canadian records held by Army intelligence, were withheld because they "reasonably could be expected to cause damage to the national security" or involve foreign government information, according to

Army Intelligence and Security Command, which released the other records to the Wiesenthal Center.

Canadian Solicitor General Elmer Mackay told Parliament this week that all restrictions on the publication of incriminating documents now in the possession of the U.S. State Department will be lifted for the Canadian government so that a thorough investigation can be conducted.

D'Amato told reporters outside the U.S. District Court in Washington that the release of the four pages of documents may "provide us with new information explaining how Dr. Mengele has escaped apprehension since the end of World War II. We need new leads." Cooper and Hier were not in Washington when the suit was filed.

Mengele, known as the "angel of death" for his inhuman experiments on inmates at the Auschwitz death camp, was last reported seen in the 1970's in Paraguay. His present whereabouts are unknown. The government of President Alfredo Stroessner maintains that he has since left the country. He would now be 73 years old.

Factor Of Mengele's Age

Mengele's age is a central factor serving as a catalyst in the renewed public efforts to locate the former Nazi. "We must find Dr. Mengele and make him account for the lives of the four million who were murdered at Auschwitz," D'Amato said. "It would be a crime of mammoth proportions if Mengele were to die without ever having been brought to justice and held accountable for these horrible crimes."

The New York Senator also requested that William Colby, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, conduct an investigation in search of post-war intelligence files for information relating, directly or indirectly, to Mengele. D'Amato made the request at a meeting with CIA General Counsel Stanley Sporkin.

A Key Document Released

A key document released by the Wiesenthal Center last week contained a letter written by former Army intelligence officer Ben J.M. Gorby to the commanding officer of the 430 Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) unit in Vienna, which said his office had information from an informer that Mengele had been arrested in Vienna in 1947.

Gorby was located last weekend by the Wiesenthal Center. Now living in Israel, Gorby, in a statement released by the Center, asserted that he stands by the information he filed with the CIC unit. But he said he had never followed up on the report and did not remember its existence until it was recently uncovered in American archives.

The Pentagon, in response to the Center's documents, said, it did not believe Mengele had been arrested and later released as Gorby contended in his letter. "None of the documents indicate any American units had any contact or captured the doctor after the war," Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch said last week. He said, however, Defense Department officials were conducting a review of pertinent documents.

PLEA FOR ETHIOPIAN JEWS

SPRING GLEN, N.Y., Jan. 30 (JTA) — A member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Gary Ackerman (D, NY), "beseeched" the more than 200 members of the Rabbinical Council of America attending the organization's midwinter

conference to keep American Jews aware and informed of the urgent need to help Ethiopian Jewry in their quest for freedom.

"We have the responsibility and the power to do this," said Ackerman who visited Ethiopia two months ago. "American Jews cannot sit back on their hands." He urged American Jews to raise money to help the Jews of Ethiopia.

Rabbi Louis Bemstein, president of the Rabbinical Council, reported that Orthodox synagogues have responded enthusiastically, and Rabbi Joel Tesler of Beth Shalom Synagogue in Washington reported that in Washington area synagogues, for example, there has been "a tremendous outpouring" of funds to help Ethiopian Jews.

At an earlier session, Bemstein called on Orthodox Jews throughout the U.S. to become more involved in the national United Jewish Appeal and in local Federations. He said involvement now is more important than ever before because "Federations have become the center organization in Jewish community life and the influence of the religious community has to be felt."

Bemstein said that Orthodox Jews must attempt to obtain more funds from Federations for Jewish education. He said that "Orthodoxy had actually grown in the U.S., and that in the Jewish community the only birth rate that is increasing is among Orthodox Jews. As time goes on there will be an even higher percentage of Orthodox Jews. We must be active in Federations to obtain our fair share."

\$23.1 MILLION RAISED IN 96 COMMUNITIES FOR UJA NATIONAL SUPER SUNDAY 1985

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) — With the largest amount ever raised for Jewish charitable purposes in a single day — more than \$15.1 million — total pledges to date for Super Sunday 1985, the United Jewish Appeal's fifth annual telephone marathon, have exceeded \$23.1 million in 96 communities, according to Sanford Hollander, UJA Super Sunday national chairman.

On January 27, the Super Sunday national date, some 17,400 volunteers in 75 communities obtained the record-breaking sum of \$15,105,948 in pledges for the 1985 Regular Campaign. "This represents a 21.4 percent increase over pledges by the same donors last year," said Hollander, a UJA national vice chairman. "In dollars, last Sunday's phonathon achievement was more than \$1.6 million ahead of the results on the Super Sunday '84 national date."

"But we're only just beginning," Hollander pointed out. "Twenty-one communities held their Super Sundays before the national date, raising more than \$8 million, and 51 more — including such major communities at Atlanta, Cleveland, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and San Francisco — will conduct their Super Sundays in the weeks and months ahead."

"We're confident that when the last community Super Sunday has taken place this spring, another record will be shattered — the more than \$33 million raised last year."

Five communities have raised more than \$1 million each: Boston; MetroWest, N.J.; New York City; Philadelphia; Washington and Miami, which surpassed its 1984 total by 50 percent. Two of them — New York City and Washington — again passed the \$2 million mark.

BRANDT: REAGAN SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED A VISIT TO DACHAU IN HIS ITINERARY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt said here today that "it would have been a good idea" had President Reagan decided to include a visit to Dachau when he attends an economic summit meeting in Bonn next May 2-4.

"I hope he did not get advice from any official quarters in Germany that this would not be a good idea," Brandt told reporters after a ceremony at which the Jewish National Fund presented him with a 70th birthday present -- a forest in his name to be planted in lower Galilee.

The White House informed Bonn this week that the President would not be visiting Dachau, site of one of the most notorious concentration camps of the Nazi era, because he "doesn't think it is the appropriate thing to do."

The West German government reportedly had suggested such a visit as part of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany on May 8. Reagan was quoted in the American media as saying Dachau represented a part of which the people of today's Germany had no part. An unnamed Administration official was quoted in the media as saying: "The President now thinks we should put this past behind us. He thinks that a visit there (Dachau) wouldn't contribute to the theme of reconciliation and friendship."

Brandt arrived in Israel yesterday and was greeted at the airport by Premier Shimon Peres who welcomed him as a "great friend of Israel and my personal friend." Brandt said he hoped his visit would help the Socialist International formulate its position on the problems of the Middle East, in view of the recent changes in Israel and the region in general. Brandt and Peres both are leaders of the Socialist International.

Brandt expressed indignation over the anti-Israel statements by a delegation of West Germany's Green Party which visited Israel and neighboring countries last month. The delegation, he said, represented only a faction of the Greens.

"In Germany they are a minority within a minority and do not represent the thinking of West Germany's youth," he said. "We ask our friends in Israel not to pay too much attention to what some minorities within minorities may say when they come to Israel."

Brandt said he was "hurt" by Austrian Defense Minister Friedhelm Frischenschlager's personal reception of Nazi war criminal Walter Reder when the latter returned to his native Austria last week after nearly 40 years in an Italian prison. "This hurt me, but it was apparently due to a misunderstanding," Brandt said.

During his stay in Israel he will meet with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem.

RABIN: ISRAEL WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY AID IF THE U.S. DECIDES TO PROVIDE ARMS TO ARABS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin asserted today that while Israel and the Reagan Administration "basically reached an agreement" that U.S. military aid in 1986 will be increased to \$1.8 billion, Israel would seek more if the U.S. decides to provide arms to the Arab states.

Rabin's remarks came at a press conference after the White House officially announced the figure for the 1986 appropriation, all of it a grant, which is \$400 million more than Israel is receiving this year, but \$300 million less than Israel requested.

The Defense Minister, who met with President Reagan at the White House this morning, said that the Administration had not mentioned to him any plan for providing arms to such countries as Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He said he did not discuss this issue specifically except to repeat the position of every government of Israel -- that Israel opposes any sale of arms to Arab countries that consider themselves in a state of war with Israel.

Rabin said Israel "appreciates" the U.S. increase and indicated that it would not seek to have the amount raised by Congress unless new weapons are sold to the Arabs. He stressed that most of the money is spent in the U.S. for the purchase of arms and only \$200 million will be used in Israel for the development of the Lavie fighter plane.

No Threats Nor Pressure From The U.S.

Rabin said that he found in his three days in Washington "understanding and readiness to support Israel in this crucial period of our life" both in the Administration and in Congress. On Israel's request for increased economic aid, Rabin said there were no "threats" nor "pressure" from the U.S., and that the U.S. wanted only to be sure that the Israeli government and people were "serious" about solving its economic problems.

Asked about the overall peace process, Rabin said that a "timetable" cannot be set for achieving peace because it is necessary to "create opportunities for achieving the expansion of the peace process." He stressed that peace cannot be imposed either by Israel on the Arabs or by the Arabs on Israel nor by outside powers on the region, but requires a decision by the countries concerned to turn from war and agree to negotiate.

While stressing that Jordan is the only neighboring Arab country where negotiations with Israel seem likely, Rabin said he doubted that King Hussein could afford the isolation in the Arab world that followed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's willingness to reach a peace agreement with Israel.

At the same time, he saw some hope in Iraq resuming diplomatic relations with the U.S. after 17 1/2 years, and Jordan "daring" to renew relations with Egypt. He saw this as a small step that could lead to progress in the coming year.

LIBERATION OF NAZI DEATH CAMPS MARKED

MONTREAL, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- More than 30 survivors of the Holocaust and children of survivors were warmly welcomed by Mayor Jean Drapeau of Montreal in his office today to participate in special ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi death camps.

The delegation was headed by Dr. Manya Fromowicz, an organizer of the forthcoming national gathering of Holocaust survivors and their children to be held in Ottawa April 28-30.

Drapeau told his guests that he was honored to be their host, noting that it was important that Canadians do not forget the Holocaust. "We are witnesses to this tragic legacy. It is very important for Canadians to attend the gathering in Ottawa," the Mayor said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE JEWS OF BRAZIL

By Milton Jacoby

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 30 (JTA) — It is not "hard to be a Jew" if the place is the sensuous city of Rio de Janeiro. According to Adolpho Bloch, one of Brazil's most influential men and a proud Jew, it is "harder to be a goy."

Another legendary Jew of Rio, Hans Stern, the world-famed gem producer and owner of an enormous chain of jewelry boutiques in many lands, stated that "My country has been very good to me and I hope I've been good for my country." The sentiments by Stern and Bloch are echoed by many of the 30,000 Jews who inhabit a city where ethnic strands of every variety coexist in mutual acceptance and harmony.

International attention was drawn to Brazil when Tancredo Neves was elected President on January 15, the first civilian to attain the Presidency in more than two decades. Neves, who assumes office on March 15, has strong credentials with the Jewish community; he is even reported to have informed some of his close associates that he would revoke, if he could, Brazil's positive vote in 1975 for the United Nations General Assembly's resolution equating Zionism with racism.

According to some Jewish leaders here, the country's relations with Israel are "cordial but cool." And should another anti-Israel resolution rear its head at the UN in the future, they feel that Brazil would abstain.

Little Overt Anti-Semitism

There seems to be little overt anti-Semitism, especially since the diminishing of the oil crisis, but the PLO still has an office in Brasilia, the nation's capital, headed by a permanent representative, without diplomatic status, and who is said to be most able in espousing the Arab cause, especially in university and labor union circles. Citizens of Christian Lebanese origin number four million, and many occupy high government positions, whereas there are very few Jews in high office.

"Observers here estimate the number of Jews in the country as approximately 120,000, with 30,000 in Rio, 60,000 in Sao Paulo and 30,000 in the remainder of this enormous land with a total population of 130 million. The prognosis for the future of Brazilian Jewry, in general, is a favorable one; the Jews of Rio and Sao Paulo are stable and vigorous.

But forecasts of the future of Jewry in the smaller communities are dismal. It appears likely that Jewish life in cities of northern Brazil, such as Bahia, Belem, Recife and Manaus will be extinct by the year 2000, with the remaining Jews moving to the large centers.

'A Comfortable Social Ambiance'

Rabbi Roberto Graetz, the young and influential head of A.R.I., Rio's most impressive synagogue, with a membership of 1,000 families, voiced the opinion that Rio Jews were "not really Jewishly oriented or educated. The best that our six Jewish schools can do is to create a comfortable social ambiance, rather than to explore Judaism intensively."

Graetz continued: "Our young are content simply to follow in their fathers' footsteps, rather than to study and re-examine the tenets of Judaism." He asserted that the intermarriage rate is

as high as 50 percent, and yet he pointed with pride to the fact that some 500 attend services at his "liberal" synagogue every Friday evening, and also that there are 73 Jewish institutions catering to the needs of the community.

Charting New Directions

Ronaldo Gomlevsky, 36, is the newly-elected president of the Jewish Federation in Rio. A dynamic and enterprising leader, he has all kinds of plans to chart new directions for the Federation. This reporter witnessed one of them; the inaugural of a weekly, hour-long radio program on current and newsworthy Jewish affairs, with cantorial and other musical interludes.

The radio station, ironically, is owned by Brazilians of Lebanese origin. Gomlevsky plans to step up financial support for some thousands of "poor" Rio Jews, who are barely above the subsistence level. He estimates that there are about 150 Jews who inhabit the notorious "favelas," or slums, of Rio, and who desperately need aid.

He is also arranging a program together with Vacation Travel Concepts, a large New York-based tour operator, of receptions for American Jewish members of the total of 2,000 tourists flying down to Rio via VTC weekly. There is a Jewish hospital, a home for the elderly, for children; several social and cultural clubs, journals in Yiddish and Portuguese, as well as "Shalom," an impressive monthly.

Jewish Tenacity Praised

In an interview with the head of the Brazilian Press Association, the highly-respected 87-year-old Barbosa Lima Sobrinho praised "Jewish tenacity and capacity for survival as an extraordinary and inspiring example for others."

He declared that the "attitude of the general press toward the Jewish community was presently neutral, and he foresaw no deterioration in this regard, unless deepening economic woes exacerbate racial tensions. Indeed, the spiralling (more than 200 percent) annual inflation is seriously impairing Jewish contributions toward the support of the more needy and the elderly.

Symbols Of Success And Creative Responsibility

The aid of such tycoons as Stern and Bloch is all the more significant in these difficult times. Bloch, hale and hearty, at 78, came to Brazil in 1922 from Russia, worked as a printer, and his meteoric rise dates from 1952 when he published the first edition of *Manchete*, the nation's most popular magazine.

Now also the owner of several television stations and huge graphics plants, he donates lavishly to all causes and all sectors of the populace. One of his current activities is the rebuilding, at primarily his own expense, of Rio's former main synagogue in the downtown area. He can be found there every morning supervising every detail of construction and furnishing. He hopes to have it open for worship by this Passover.

Stern, gentle and warmly considerate of the thousands of Gentiles and Jews who work in his mines, factories, offices and shops, fled from Germany in 1939, and launched his unique enterprise in 1946. He visits Israel every year, where he has several outlets which, he says, bring him little profit, but much satisfaction in employing hundreds of Israelis.

Both Stern and Bloch, two of the wealthiest men in Brazil, have become symbols of success and creative responsibility for the entire nation, for Jew and non-Jew alike.