



RABIN: WITHDRAWAL OF IDF EQUIPMENT TO NEW LINES MORE RAPID THAN EXPECTED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, returning from a week-long visit to the U.S. today, spoke to reporters at the airport about the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Force from south Lebanon and mounting tensions on the West Bank.

He said the removal of IDF equipment to new lines south of the Awali River was proceeding more rapidly than expected, but there are no plans to hasten the first stage of the three-stage withdrawal plan which is scheduled to be completed by February 18.

Rabin said there had been no proposals during his talks with Reagan Administration officials in Washington that Israel postpone its withdrawal until arrangements are made for the orderly transfer of security responsibility in south Lebanon from the IDF to either the Lebanese army or United Nations forces. There is concern that once the IDF leaves Lebanon, serious fighting will erupt between the rival factions there. Israel insists this would be the responsibility of the Lebanese government.

Rabin said he would immediately discuss the situation on the West Bank with Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy. Asked about proposals by Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon and rightwing political factions that Arab stone-throwers be expelled from the territory, Rabin said he would not reject any proposals out of hand.

He stressed, however, that law and order would be maintained and enforced by the army and security forces only.

U.S. URGES STEPS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON AFTER IDF WITHDRAWS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The State Department urged today that steps be taken to prevent violence against the various groups in south Lebanon, including the Palestinians, after Israel begins to withdraw from the area.

"The United States has repeatedly expressed its concern about the potential for communal violence, including anti-Palestinian violence, in the wake of an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said.

"We urge those responsible to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to provide for the safety of all the civilians in the areas of south Lebanon which Israeli forces are scheduled to vacate."

Kalb would not say to whom the appeal was addressed. But it was apparent that with the first stage of the Israeli pullout scheduled for February 18, there is a belief here that the Lebanese army and others in the area should be making plans now to prevent any outbreak of violence.

Kalb added that "the United States has fully supported the Nakura process as a means of developing security arrangements needed to provide for an orderly withdrawal and to avert further human tragedy." He pointed out that the U.S. is "providing financial support to the International Rescue Committee's Sidon-based clinic which is engaged in providing basic health services to needy Palestinians and Lebanese in the area."

He said the U.S. was also providing "substantial support to UNWRA which plays a major role with regard to the welfare of the residents of the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon."

SOME ACCORD REACHED ON TABA ISSUE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir disclosed today that Israel and Egypt had agreed, during their three days of negotiations last week, to admit the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) into the disputed Taba region.

Shamir told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that an observation post for the MFO would be erected in the 200-acre strip of beach south of Eilat which both countries claim. But there is still controversy over the composition of the force to be deployed there. Israel insists the area be controlled by Israeli police. The Egyptians are demanding an internal police unit, Shamir said.

With respect to overall relations with Cairo, Shamir said the Israeli Ambassador has conveyed a protest to the Egyptian authorities over the anti-Israel demonstrations at the recent Cairo Book Fair where an Israeli flag was burned while Egyptian police stood by without intervening. Israel had a stall at the fair.

NASA REFUSES TO STRIP WAR CRIMINAL OF THE DSM AWARD IT GAVE HIM FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROCKET PROGRAM

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has rejected Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman's call on the Agency and President Reagan to strip Nazi war criminal Arthur Rudolph of NASA's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, given to him in 1969 for his contributions to the Saturn V rocket program.

The 78-year-old German-born rocket scientist is held responsible for the deaths of thousands of slave laborers at the Nazi rocket factory attached to the Dora-Nordhausen concentration camp during World War II. A third to one-half of Dora's 60,000 prisoners died.

Rudolph left the United States and surrendered his citizenship rather than face Justice Department charges that he "participated in the persecution of forced laborers, including concentration camp inmates, who were employed there under inhumane conditions." Rudolph, reportedly in West Germany, left the U.S. several months before the Justice Department's announcement last October.

Following the announcement by the Justice Department, Holtzman telegraphed Reagan and NASA Administrator James Beggs, urging that Rudolph be stripped of the award from NASA "because of the unspeakable crimes committed against thousands of slave laborers in his charge" at the Dora-Nordhausen rocket factory.

In asserting that NASA would let Rudolph keep his award, Eugene Marianetti, chief of NASA's special events branch, said in a letter to Holtzman that "to rescind the medal would serve no useful purpose, since it has nothing in common with the allegation brought against him."

Holtzman, responding to Marianetti's letter, said "It is an affront to the millions who died to suggest

that it would serve no useful purpose to strip this notorious Nazi murderer of his high American honors. It is deplorable that NASA has responded in this way."

"Arthur Rudolph was forced to leave this country because of the unspeakable crimes he committed against thousands of slave laborers in his charge ... To continue to honor this bestial killer implies that America condones his unforgivable acts."

Rudolph was brought to the U.S. in 1945 along with 117 other German scientists and technicians. He became director of the Army's Redstone and Pershing missile programs and later manager of the Saturn V project for NASA before retiring in 1969. In 1968, he was awarded NASA's Exceptional Service Medal.

STATE DEPT. SAYS THERE IS NO ARMS EMBARGO NOR CHANGE IN MIDEAST POLICY
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The decision by the Reagan Administration to defer any new arms sales to the Middle East until it studies their effect on United States' strategic concerns in the area is neither an arms embargo nor a change in policy, the State Department said.

"We are taking a comprehensive look at security-related issues in the area," the Department's deputy spokesman, Edwin Djerejian, said. "But we do not anticipate any fundamental changes in our policy or commitment in the area."

While Djerejian said that "we do not intend to initiate the sale of major new systems," he stressed that on-going programs already committed to Arab states will not be affected.

He denied reports that the decision might cause King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to cancel his scheduled visit to Washington February 11. The study has enabled the Administration to hold off a clash with Congress over Saudi Arabia's request for F-15 jet fighters and other weapons.

But Secretary of State George Shultz told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Thursday that the United States will sell arms to the Saudis and other Arab countries, although he could not predict what type of weapons would be recommended once the study is completed.

MKS, SETTLERS PROTEST OUTSIDE REFUGEE CAMP AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) — Seven rightwing Knesset members joined Jewish settler militants in a demonstration outside the Dahaihshe refugee camp near Bethlehem today to protest the government's alleged failure to provide West Bank settlers with adequate protection.

They are demanding harsher measures against Arabs who throw rocks at Jewish vehicles or otherwise create disorders, including summary expulsion from the territories. The Dahaihshe camp, a frequent trouble spot, was raided by security forces last week. More than a score of its residents were arrested for questioning in connection with stone-throwing and Molotov cocktail attacks. But the settlers were not mollified.

The MKs who joined the protest outside the camp today are Michael Eitan and Uzi Landau of Likud; Avraham Verdiger and Rabbi Haim Druckman of the rightwing religious faction, Morasha; Geula Cohen and Gershon Shafat of the Tehiya party; and Avner Shaki of the National Religious Party.

Eitan and Landau face possible party discipline because the Likud Executive had warned them not to

participate in the demonstration. The Labor-Likud unity coalition faces a non-confidence motion introduced by Tehiya which accuses the government of being too soft on Arab trouble-makers.

The MKs joined Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the Gush Emunim leader from Hebron, who has been camping outside Dahaihshe for the past three months. Shortly before they arrived, Levinger and his followers fired into the air and chased Arab youths into the camp after they allegedly threw stones at them. Security forces clamped a curfew on the camp after the incident.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS GATHERING SLATED IN OTTAWA APRIL 28-30
By Janice Arnold

MONTREAL, Feb. 4 (JTA) — A gathering of Holocaust survivors and their children living in Canada will take place in Ottawa April 28-30, under the auspices of Canadian Jewish Congress. Organizers are expecting a turnout of 3,000 persons.

In addition to commemorating the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II and the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, the Gathering has several other objectives: the contribution of the Canadian armed forces in the struggle against Nazism will be recognized; appreciation will be expressed to Canada for giving survivors the opportunity to rebuild their lives in this country; non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews will be honored.

Aba Beer, president of the Gathering, said it also hoped the Gathering will "raise the consciousness of the Canadian people to the consequences of racism and discrimination and to ensure that the lesson of the Holocaust is not forgotten or perverted."

Participants will express their solidarity with the Jewish people throughout the world and with the State of Israel, and their commitment to the principles of "world peace, freedom, justice, democracy and equality," he said.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has been invited and is expected to attend the Gathering. Scheduled speakers are Nazi war criminal hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld; Jan Nowak, a Polish resistance fighter and human rights activist; and Gretha Fischer, a United Nations social worker who worked in the concentration camps to rehabilitate displaced children.

Highlights Of The Gathering

The Gathering will open with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph where addresses will be given by government representatives. The three plenary sessions will be on the topics of anti-Semitism in Canada, hate propaganda and how to take action on these issues. Workshops will deal with such subjects as prosecution of war criminals living in Canada, combatting the portrayal of the Holocaust as a hoax, the religious response to and teaching of the Holocaust, and psycho-social concerns of survivors and their children.

A highlight will be a "survivors' village," modeled after the one at the Washington Holocaust survivors gathering in 1983, where survivors can reunite with persons they may not have seen since liberation.

The honorary chairmen of the gathering are Louis Rasminsky, a former governor of the Bank of Canada; prominent Reform Rabbi Gunther Plaut; and Judge Rosalie Abella, of the Ontario Provincial Court.

Beer says it is difficult to determine how many survivors live in Canada today, but he estimates there are at least 20,000. Children of survivors — the second generation — have played an integral role in the organization of the gathering.

TERRORIST KILLS ISRAELI SOLDIER DURING ATTACK ON GOVT. OFFICES IN RAMALLAH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) — An Israeli reserve soldier, Corp. Aharon Avidar, 29, of Ness Ziona, was shot to death this afternoon in downtown Ramallah, in a daring terrorist attack.

The soldier was on guard duty at the entrance to the government offices compound, in the center of town. The building is on one of the main streets in the Arab city. A huge iron gate blocks the entrance.

At approximately one p.m. local time, Avidar left his guard post to open the gate for a vehicle. After the vehicle entered the compound and the soldier was about to close the gate, an unidentified person approached from the street and fired one shot at the soldier at close range. He died on the way to the hospital.

The murderer escaped by losing himself among the large crowds in the center of town. Security forces immediately detained scores of local residents for initial questioning, and imposed a total curfew on the city and on the nearby Al-Amari refugee camp.

Escalation Of Terrorists Activities

Avidar was the second victim of an Arab terrorist attack in the past 10 days. Early last week, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli vehicle in Kalkilya, fatally burning the driver, David Pinhas. He died Thursday at a Petach Tikva hospital.

Both attacks reflect the recent escalation of terrorist activities in the territories and their increasing boldness. Last week, Arab terrorists fired on an Israeli bus enroute from Jerusalem to the Etzion bloc, wounding the driver and a passenger.

Security sources confirmed that one or two terrorist cells are now active in the territories, but until today they tended to underplay the significance of the attacks. Jewish settlers, on the other hand, have been claiming for some time that the security situation in the area was deteriorating.

The murder of the soldier in Ramallah today has given greater credibility to the claims of the settlers and their political lobby in the Knesset. The attacks came after a relatively long period of calm in the territories.

Following the Ramallah murder, leaders of the settlers said it was no longer a question whether they should react or how—but rather when.

NO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL IN REAGAN'S FOREIGN AID BUDGET

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The \$14.8 billion proposed appropriations for foreign aid for 1986 contained in the \$973.7 billion budget President Reagan submitted to Congress today does not contain any economic assistance for Israel pending a decision by the Administration whether it should increase Israel's current \$1.2 billion allocation.

But the aid package does provide \$1.8 billion in military aid as agreed upon during Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington last week, \$400 million more than Israel is getting this year, but \$300 million less than it requested.

Thomas McNamara, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs, said that while he does not know when the decision will be made on Israel's economic aid, he hoped it would be "very rapidly."

Israel has asked that economic assistance be increased to \$1.9 billion in 1986 and that it receive a supplementary appropriation of \$800 million to its present allocation to help it with its austerity program.

But the Reagan Administration made clear to Rabin as it had earlier to Premier Shimon Peres, that any increase will depend on the U.S. being satisfied with the steps taken by Israel to cure its economic ills.

In the current budget, both Israel and Egypt, which receive a lion's share of the total foreign aid appropriation, continue to be the only two countries to receive all their assistance as grants. The 1986 proposed appropriation for Egypt is \$2.3 billion in military and economic assistance, an increase of \$100 million.

McNamara indicated that despite the upcoming visit here of President Hosni Mubarak in March who is expected to ask for a \$1 billion increase, this appropriation is based on the Administration assessment of what Egypt should receive.

Jordan is to receive \$117 million, all of it in military aid as compared to \$111.7 million in 1985.

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR FIRST OF FIVE ORT-SPONSORED CENTERS IN THE GALILEE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The cornerstone of the International ORT Braude Institute of Technology, the first of five ORT-sponsored technological education centers in Galilee, was laid in Carmiel today. The ceremonies were part of a festive gathering of the World ORT Union, attended by delegates from 40 countries who were addressed by Premier Shimon Peres last night.

He praised ORT for expanding its educational network in Israel and stressed the need to prevent Israeli society from deteriorating into explosive divisions between the "educated employed" and the "uneducated jobless."

Peres said Israel's economy is basically sound. But it requires radical reform measures and occupational restructuring, meaning a shift of the work force from service to productive enterprises.

Referring to the ORT technological educational centers, Peres said that the best response to the danger facing Galilee after the Israel Defense Force is withdrawn from south Lebanon is not rockets and troops but more development and more high technology.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The Jewish Federation of St. Louis has sent \$10,000 to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to aid in the general relief of famine in Ethiopia, it was announced by Israel Goldberg, Federation president. "We are joining hands with Catholic and Protestant world organizations to provide assistance to these victims of disaster," he said.

The JDC has received permission to operate in the Gondar region where half a million people face starvation, Goldberg noted. Teams of volunteer doctors, nurses and nutritionists are being recruited to participate for three to six months in a program to upgrade clinics and health stations in Gondar. In addition, donations of food, clothing, medicines and blankets have been sent to Ethiopia and additional shipments are being organized.

JCCs ARE SEEN AS PLAYING A SPECIAL ROLE IN ENSURING JEWISH CONTINUITY

By Murray Zuckoff

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 4 (JTA) — The role of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) as the instrument in fostering and intensifying Jewish identity and continuity was the theme of a special JWB convention here this weekend of 260 JCC leaders from 90 communities across the United States and Canada.

The gathering, the first special convention in the history of the JWB, the continental association of the JCCs, took place against a backdrop of growing concern among Center leaders that an erosion of Jewish consciousness and values is continuing unabated in the open and free American society.

Speakers at various sessions stressed this concern, and warned that the viability of the American Jewish community will continue to diminish unless the JCCs begin at once an intense systematic and sustained effort to maximize Jewish education, not merely in the form of adding a program to those already in existence at the Centers but by making Jewish education an integral part of Center planning.

The consensus was that Centers must develop comprehensive and integrated educational systems which would provide a total Jewish life-style, not just incidental and disparate pieces of information about things Jewish. But all the speakers underlined the point that the imperative requirement is to maximize Jewish education, not that the wheel has to be re-invented.

Shared Purpose Of Building A People

The underlying immediate task of the weekend convention was to "clarify the sense that Centers are a 'movement' — an entity of entities with the shared purpose of building a people — where Jews of all persuasions, and some with none, can come together not merely to be together, but to enter the body of Klal Yisrael," as Esther Leah Ritz, JWB president, told the opening session.

This requires, she said, the understanding and recognition that the JCC "can only be the home of a pluralistic, diversified Jewish community if it is to be more than a 'receiving station'. It must process Jews into a diverse but unified people by debate of and interaction around all issues affecting Jewish life."

Ritz observed that the JCCs have been and are now involved in multiform activities, and doing them well — serving all ages, especially in early childhood and late adulthood, operating fine camps, providing socialization and recreational opportunities for Jews and others.

But, she said, "In making Jewish education our top priority — in asserting the role of Centers in the purposeful survival of the Jewish people, we are moving to uncharted areas — and without guarantees of success. It is a test of the vibrancy and vitality of the Center movement that it is willing to explore that unmapped desert" of new challenges and opportunities.

'If Not Now, When?'

The special convention for Center leaders, whose guideline was "If Not Now ... When?" — based on Hillel's famous dictum: "If I am not for myself, who will be? If I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?" — was the culmination of two years of study of the imperative role JCCs can and should play as pivotal Jewish educational arenas. The blue-ribbon panel which conducted the study,

the JWB Commission on Maximizing Jewish Educational Effectiveness of Jewish Community Centers, was chaired by Morton Mandel, who is now chairman of the Jewish Education Committee of the Jewish Agency.

The mandate of this Commission was to clarify the function of the JCC as a Jewish communal instrumentality for contributing to the assurance of vital Jewish continuity and to determine ways for the Center to maximize its Jewish educational effectiveness.

The JCC As A Central Jewish Institution

Lester Pollack, chairman of the JWB Committee on Implementation, told the opening convention session that the study "produced a fine report, reflecting concerns, views and attitudes of over 2,000 lay and professional leaders from across North America; that the vitalization of Jewish education in order to meet the challenges confronting Jewish life today is the domain of the Jewish Community Center, along with the synagogue, the home and the school."

He pointed out that "We learned through our meetings with more than 2,000 community leaders in 32 cities that the JCC has progressively matured as a central Jewish institution and address in the community sustaining a strong sense of Jewish continuity."

This convention, Pollack added, "is a testament to this reality. Our task (at the weekend convention) is formidable and challenges us to lay the groundwork for the implementation of the recommendations of the JWB Commission on Maximizing Jewish Educational Effectiveness of Jewish Community Centers."

The responsibility of Pollack's committee, following the weekend deliberations will be to develop strategies for implementing the report and to begin building "the foundation for a strong Jewish Community Center for the '80s and '90s, and beyond," he said.

Cites Shared Responsibility

Dr. Alvin Schiff, executive vice president of the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, who was the scholar-in-residence at the convention, told the opening session that in Jewish tradition, "Jewish education is not relegated to the classroom — to the school or to the synagogue" but that it belongs in the home, in the synagogue "and Jewish education belongs in the Jewish Community Center. It belongs wherever Jews are. And there are about 800,000 Jews in the JCCs in America. For many of them this is their only or primary Jewish affiliation."

Jewish education, Schiff continued, "must take place in multiple settings, and one of the settings and environments is the JCC. The JCCs, he noted, "have all the needed attributes: human resources — close to one million members; facilities; dedicated communal lay leadership; commitment to Jewish continuity; and a clear philosophy and approach regarding Jewish education."

In addition, the JCCs offer easy access to religious Jews, Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist, as well as to non-observant Jews; to committed Jews as well as to marginal Jews, he pointed out. In the final analysis, the JCC should not be viewed as a competitor of schools and synagogues; rather, all reinforce each other "as Jewish socializing agents," Schiff said. What is required "is appreciation for the respective roles for each type of institution and a climate for partnership."