

15 SOLDIERS HURT, 8 MISSING IN FIRE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) — Fifteen soldiers were injured and eight are missing in a fire that broke out early this morning in an army base in Samaria. There was no immediate indication of the cause of the fire which swept through the 16-room base within a matter of minutes as several dozen soldiers were asleep. There were no signs of arson.

The fire broke out long after the electric power generator in the base had been turned off. The initial investigation, therefore, ruled out the possibility that a short circuit had caused the fire. Investigators pointed out that the fire had spread quickly because the soldiers' sleeping quarters were in prefabricated housing, made of highly flammable material.

The speed with which the fire spread and the intense heat, made rescue work difficult and dangerous. A senior army officer expressed surprise that soldiers would be housed in such a flammable building.

**ARENS, IN SECRET MEETING TO U.S.,
REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED WITH SHULTZ
GROUND RULES IN POLLARD CASE PROBE**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) — Minister-Without-Portfolio Mashe Arens, a former Ambassador to the U.S., returned yesterday from an unpublicized visit to Washington where he met with Secretary of State George Shultz, reportedly to discuss ground rules for the interrogation by U.S. Department of Justice agents of Israeli diplomats and other officials allegedly involved in the Jonathan Pollard spy case.

Immediately on his return, Arens entered a closed-door meeting with Premier Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Pollard, a U.S. Navy civilian counterintelligence analyst, was arrested by the FBI on November 21 and charged with selling classified information to Israel.

Arens refused to discuss details of his trip to Washington, nor would aides to the Prime Minister. Official sources here indicated, however, that his mission was to establish the limits of the "interviews" the U.S. investigators will conduct here. The American team is due in Israel this week, possibly as early as tomorrow.

The Americans are expected to question two Israeli diplomats called home immediately after Pollard was arrested. They are Ilan Ravid, deputy science attaché at the Embassy in Washington, and Yosef Yagur, science officer at the Israel Consulate in New York. Both are believed to have had contacts with Pollard.

In addition, the U.S. team is expected to question Raphael Eitan, former chief of Mossad, the Israeli secret service, who, according to unconfirmed media reports here, recruited and "handled" Pollard.

**FASCELL: TOTALITY OF U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONSHIP DEPENDS ON THE
IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN USSR**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA) — Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign

Affairs Committee, warned today that if the United States and the Soviet Union conclude a "verifiable" arms control agreement, public pressure would require ratification without assurances of improvements in Soviet human rights policies.

"It is our job in every step of the way to make absolutely sure that the totality of our relationship depends on improvements in human rights," Fascell told the 1985 leadership conference of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The NCSJ is planning its strategy following the Geneva summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Fascell agreed with the official NCSJ position that while there is no "formal linkage" between arms control and any other U.S.-Soviet agreements, "the linkage is there" with human rights. "You really cannot have any improvements of bilateral relations until ultimately the question of human rights is ameliorated," he said. Fascell noted that this was the position of Congress as well as that of both Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Quiet Diplomacy Is Not Enough

While Reagan is now seeking to raise the human rights issue through quiet diplomacy, Fascell stressed that Congress and the Jewish community should continue bringing the issue up before the public.

"I can't see why that (quiet diplomacy) should inhibit anything at all," Fascell said. "As a matter of fact, it would be worse if we fell into the trap of saying let's just lie low and see what happens."

Fascell said he saw as "a hopeful sign" from the summit that there was a "de-escalation of the rhetoric." But what he was waiting for was some concrete signs, such as improvement in the conditions of Soviet Jews. "I ain't seen anything yet," he said, adding he hopes that some indications could come before Gorbachev arrives in the U.S. next June.

Fascell said that while he welcomed the agreements for exchanges signed at Geneva, they were just "atmospherics."

Jerry Goodman, the NCSJ's executive director, warned that in the eagerness for commercial agreements and scientific and cultural exchanges, the "fate" of Soviet Jews could be "bargained away."

Fascell also expressed the fear that the Soviets might try to leave the issue of human rights for last, after other agreements had been reached.

TABA BORDER DISPUTE TALKS CONTINUING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) — The Israeli and Egyptian delegations which resumed talks on the Taba border dispute in Cairo last week will meet for a second session tomorrow at a hotel in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv.

Informed sources said the two sides are on the same wavelength but still separated by a wide gulf. The situation is complicated by a sharp division inside the Israeli delegation reflecting the differences between Labor and Likud over how the dispute should be settled.

Some newspapers here reported today that Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud, has expressed dissatisfaction over the way

the talks went at the Mena House in Cairo last week. Specifically, he has accused the head of the delegation, Gen. Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, of taking a too conciliatory attitude toward the Egyptians.

Tamir is a Laborite. Likud is represented on the delegation by David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. Labor is apparently willing to meet Egypt's long-standing demand that the Taba dispute be put to binding arbitration. Likud insists on conciliation, with arbitration only a last resort. Both methods are allowed under the terms of the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Labor and Likud were unable to reconcile their different approaches before the Taba talks were resumed last week after a prolonged hiatus. Tamir was said to be inching toward a practical discussion of how to prepare for arbitration, for example, the nature of the questions the arbitrator would be asked to decide on, while trying conciliation -- essentially compromise -- in the interim.

The dual process would be given a trial period, presumably three months, after which, if conciliation fails, arbitration would be automatic.

Highly placed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the major obstacle is Egypt's absolute refusal to countenance even the use of the term conciliation and Shamir's equally adamant insistence on conciliation.

KNESSET UNIT REJECTS \$10 MILLION ALLOCATION TO HELP HOSPITALS

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- The Knesset Finance Committee turned thumbs down today on a \$10 million allocation to Histadrut's sick-fund, Kupat Holim, which the Cabinet approved yesterday -- over the objections of Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai -- to relieve the financial crisis in the country's hospitals.

The committee withheld approval because it was not satisfied with explanations of how the money would be used. Kupat Holim, with a serious cash flow problem, has been unable to pay for patients' services for which it has been billed. The same problem has affected other sick-funds, with the result that Israel's public hospitals cannot meet bills long outstanding and may be forced to curtail services and possibly shut down.

Hospital directors across the country said today the situation has passed the red line -- the danger point. Several hospitals are digging into their emergency medical supplies without approval of the army which is in charge of emergency medical store rooms.

The situation touched off an angry exchange between Modai and Premier Shimon Peres at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. The Finance Minister accused the government of profligate spending which would ruin his economic recovery plan. Peres retorted that Modai was "demoralizing the nation." The verbal battle was sparked by the hospital allocation.

POLICE MOVING ON LAND SALES FRAUD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Michael Dekel, the newly appointed Deputy Minister of Defense, will be called in for questioning by the police shortly in connection with a West Bank land sales fraud for which two of his former aides already have been arrested, Israel Television reported last night.

Dekel, a Likud MK, was named to the defense post only last Wednesday. He was formerly Deputy Minister of Agriculture. According to reports in Yediot Achronot yesterday and on television, he is suspected of having known about the frauds allegedly abetted by Avi Tzur and Claude Malka, his former associates. Both were taken into police custody. Malka, who is now assistant to Transport Minister Haim Carfu (Likud-Herut), was released on bail today. Tzur remains in custody.

Tzur has been accused of taking bribes from West Bank land developers, one of them an Arab identified as Ahmed Ode, to secure government approval for new settlements. The case is focussed specifically on Kramim in the Samaria district, where Tzur allegedly provided the land developers with false documents indicating government approval when, in fact, no such approval had been forthcoming.

The documents were allegedly intended to dupe customers into buying land at Kramim under the false impression that it was an authorized settlement. Tzur is suspected of pocketing part of the money paid for the fake documents and passing the rest on to a Likud group known as "We Continue" which has been pressuring for intensified settlement activity in the territory.

According to Yediot Achronot, the police suspect that Dekel knew of Tzur's illegal activities when he was an official of the Agriculture Ministry but failed to report it to the authorities. He also failed to alert potential land buyers that Kramim was not an approved settlement, although if asked directly, he would acknowledge that fact, Yediot Achronot reported.

Refuses To Comment

Dekel himself has refused to comment on the affair, saying only he would give his version at a suitable time. The fact that the police arrested his former aides only a day after the Cabinet approved his appointment to the Defense Ministry has raised an outcry in Likud that the police action was politically motivated. The Police Ministry is headed by a prominent Laborite, Haim Barlev.

Some Likud leaders have charged that Labor's motive is to frighten would-be buyers of West Bank land in order to slow down settlement activity. Others have charged that the police ignored similar scandals involving Labor-affiliated institutions and kibbutzim.

Likud MK Ronni Milo filed a formal complaint with Barlev yesterday alleging that the police had allowed a prime suspect in a kibbutz financial scandal to leave the country.

The Civil Rights Movement (CRM), an opposition faction in the Knesset, promised over the weekend to provide police with further information on illegal land deals in the West Bank. The CRM supplied police several months ago with information on the alleged Kramim fraud. According to the CRM, documents it gave the police show that Dekel was warned as far back as 1982 of illegal acts being perpetrated in the Agriculture Ministry.

MUBARAK: PLO IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS, 'LIKE IT OR NOT'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- "The PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians, whether we like it or not," said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in an interview with The Washington Post published today. He said the United States should not try to weaken the strength of the PLO, saying, "Trying to solve the problem and, at the same time trying to ignore the PLO--this will never lead to a comprehensive peace."

In an hour-long interview in the Oruba Palace in Cairo, Mubarak also praised Israeli Premier Shimon Peres for his "flexibility" on a number of issues and suggested, the Post reported, that the only thing now blocking a meeting between the two leaders is the dispute over Taba. Such a meeting, Mubarak said, would be accompanied by a return to Israel of Egypt's Ambassador, who was withdrawn in 1982.

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER URGED TO APPROVE SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE DESCHENES COMMISSION

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Dec. 9 (JTA) — More than 1,000 people gathered at the Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Synagogue in Cote St. Luc yesterday urging Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to approve a six-month extension for the Deschenes Commission to gather information abroad on suspected war criminals living in Canada.

Irwin Cotler, McGill University law professor and counsel to the Canadian Jewish Congress, told the gathering that the commission, headed by Justice Jules Deschenes, through its activities, has put an end to 40 years of government inaction. The commission was set up last February and ended its hearings last week. Deschenes has already asked for a six-month extension of his mandate to allow lawyers Michael Meighen and Yves Fortier to gather information abroad.

To obtain the best information, Cotler said, the commission has to go wherever the evidence may be found. So far, the commission's findings have revealed that the government in Ottawa has attempted to obstruct justice over the last 40 years by not going after war criminals in Canada, Cotler said.

"Nazi war criminals in this country haven't been brought to justice, not because of an absence of legal remedy but because of an absence of political will," Cotler asserted. "None of us here is saying the law should be bent to bring Nazi war criminals to justice, but the law should equally not be bent to prevent Nazi war criminals from being brought to justice in this country. That is an obstruction of justice."

Cotler added that secret government documents recently uncovered show that high officials had advised the former government of John Diefenbaker, which ruled from 1957 to 1963, against hunting for Nazi war criminals because this would be seen "as pandering to Jewish revenge." This, Cotler charged, is a classic example of blaming the victim. "Our position then and now is that it is not a Jewish revenge issue, but a human rights issue," he said.

GREEK JEWRY DEMANDS FORMER NAZI BE EXTRADITED TO GREECE

ATHENS, Dec. 9 (JTA)—The Greek Jewish community has called upon the government of Greece to demand the extradition of Alois Brunner, the former aide to Adolf Eichmann now living in Syria, the World Jewish Congress reported here.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities of Greece, the representative body of Greek Jewry and the WJC affiliate, has formally urged the Athens government to seek Brunner's extradition to stand trial before a Greek court on charges of complicity in the deportation to Nazi death camps

of tens of thousands of Greek Jews from Thessaloniki. More than 50,000 of the deportees perished. The Central Board, in calling for Brunner's extradition, noted that he recently gave an interview to a West German magazine in which he confirmed that he has been residing in Syria for many years. During the interview, Brunner also revealed that he had been part of a 1961 conspiracy to blow up a building in Vienna in which officials of the World Jewish Congress were meeting.

Joseph Lovinger, president of the Central Board, stated that he was confident that the Greek government "will make every effort" to ensure that "this human-like beast, called Brunner, will account for his actions before Greek justice."

POINDEXTER STARTS WITH CLEAN SLATE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA) — Vice Admiral John Poindexter, who President Reagan named last week to replace Robert McFarlane as his National Security Advisor, does not have a public record as to his views on the Middle East or other foreign policy issues.

Jewish sources here did not know too much about him. But they hoped that he would be like McFarlane who one source described as a "pillar of strength" when it came to Israel. McFarlane was credited with working out the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States which one source said would be his "legacy."

The hope of supporters of Israel is based on the fact that the 49-year-old Poindexter, who has been on the National Security Council since 1981, was McFarlane's deputy since 1983 when McFarlane took over the post after serving a brief period as Reagan's special envoy to the Mideast. Reagan, in announcing Poindexter's appointment, said he wanted continuity in foreign policy.

GENTILE TEACHING THE MESSAGE OF THE HOLOCAUST TO THE GENTILE COMMUNITY

By Rochelle Saidel

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA) — The New York State Board of Regents will next year honor both a teacher and a school volunteer for outstanding contributions to Holocaust education, Regent Emeritus Louis Yavner announced at a recent meeting of the Regents here.

Yavner, who established an annual teacher award and \$500 stipend upon his retirement from the Board four years ago, presented this year's award to Clayton Adams of Kenmore, New York. Adams, a social studies teacher in Kenmore West Senior High School, created an elective Holocaust Studies course 14 years ago and has been teaching the subject since then.

"I am particularly impressed that in a community north of Buffalo, far from the large concentration of Jews in the New York City area, Mr. Adams has been stimulated as a good Gentile to teach the message of the Holocaust to the Gentile community," Yavner told the JTA.

"My objective in creating this award was to stimulate teachers into studying the Holocaust themselves, and then teaching it to others."

In accepting his award, Adams told the Regents: "The Holocaust is not the private suffering of the Jews and other victims of the Nazis. It was and should be treated as a public tragedy. I want my students to understand that it was mankind's disaster and that its message and its impact didn't stop 40 years ago." He pointed out that most of his students are not Jewish.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA PLO OPERATES OPENLY IN ARGENTINA AND IS SEEKING DIPLOMATIC STATUS

By Milton Jacoby

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 9 (JTA) — The Palestine Liberation Organization was heavily engaged in churning out anti-Semitic propaganda before last month's Congressional elections, and is openly active here. But one goal still eludes it: the diplomatic status enjoyed by the PLO in Argentina's neighbor to the north, Brazil.

Ephraim Tari, Israel's new Ambassador in Buenos Aires, told this reporter that the government of President Raul Alfonsín will not grant the PLO such status, and that "assurances have been given at the highest level to this effect." He said the government is fully aware of the terrorist nature of PLO chief Yasir Arafat's henchmen, and yet, Jewish officials in this imposing metropolis, where some 200,000 Jews reside, point out that the PLO operates openly and with impunity from its offices at 610 Paraguay Street, in the heart of the city.

Farid Suwan, director of the PLO in Brazil, and a charismatic figure, has made seven trips to Buenos Aires, and on his most recent visit, held a press conference assailing Israel. It is reported that the PLO has made a substantial financial contribution to the head of Argentina's combined labor movement, the CGT (Confederación General de Trabajo).

Argentina Utilizing Israeli Know-How

Still, Tari is hoping for better relations than exists presently, between the two countries. Advances were being made, he said, in developing stronger economic and cultural relations. He noted that Argentina was making use of Israeli know-how in soil reclamation techniques and he would like his country to find a market here for its industrial products.

He declared that "official sources" had confirmed that Alfonsín would journey to Israel in 1986, and that such a visit "would mark a step forward" in bi-lateral relations.

Seven Jewish Deputies in Congress

Before the Congressional elections, in which Alfonsín's Radical Party scored a fairly impressive victory, rightist opponents had rechristened his party as the "radical synagogue." There are seven Jewish national Deputies of the Radical Party in Congress, and three of the Peronista Party, but these lawmakers, as well as several highly-placed officials in the government, appear to be Jews in name only, and have no direct contact with the Jewish community.

Marcelo Stubrin, 34, the leading candidate in Alfonsín's party, and a Jew, was easily elected to Congress, and it is rumored that he may run for the governorship of Buenos Aires province in an upcoming election.

Accused Of Dual Loyalty

But one Jewish politician who has very close ties with his people is Osvaldo Camisar, a Peronista national Deputy for Salta, a picturesque city in the Andes mountains, in the northwest corner of Argentina, close to the Bolivian frontier. Camisar, also in his thirties, is a recent past president of the Jewish community of Salta.

He recalled that when he was elected two years ago, he was attacked on the floor of Congress for his Zionist beliefs. The rightists alluded to an interview he had given in which he said that Judaism and Zionism were opposite sides of the same coin. He was bluntly informed by some fellow deputies that he could not be a Zionist and an Argentinian.

Predicts Outcome Of Trials

When asked about the trial of the nine Generals and Admirals (three of whom had been Presidents of the nation) on charges relating to the tragic fate of the "desaparecidos," those Argentinians, including a substantial number of Jews, who had either been imprisoned and tortured, or exterminated by the prior military regime, Camisar provided a forecast of the verdict, which he said should be handed down before the end of the year.

He predicted that six of the men on trial would be stripped of military rank and sentenced to life imprisonment, and the remaining three would be imprisoned for 20 years. "The people of Argentina will support such a verdict," he said. "One cannot become a true democracy in two or three years," he added, "but I believe we are making considerable progress in that direction."

In his view, there is less anti-Semitism than formerly, because of increasing dialogue between Catholics and Jews, and the aim of Argentine Jewry is "to achieve integration without assimilation."

In his travels around the country, from Buenos Aires to Mar del Plata, Mendoza, Tucuman, Salta and Cordoba, this reporter had occasion to see the various tightly-organized Jewish communities in action. Local Jewish officials seem vigorously determined to maintain and expand Jewish services despite slightly dwindling memberships. In relation to their national government, the Jews of Argentina appear to be aware of an emergent, liberal democracy, after the eight year nightmare that ended in 1983 with the election of Alfonsín.

DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS BEGUN AGAINST ALLEGED FORMER NAZI WAFFEN SS MAN

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA) — Justice Department officials today confirmed that the Office of Special Investigations has begun deportation proceedings against a 65-year-old California man accused of membership in the Nazi Waffen SS and serving as a guard at two concentration camps during World War II.

An "order to show cause" was filed last week by the Justice Department against Bruno Karl Blach of La Habra, a suburb near Los Angeles. The OSI alleges that Blach entered the country illegally in 1956, having lied to authorities about his wartime activities. Blach maintains that he was in the German army and air force, according to OSI officials involved in the case.

The OSI alleges that Blach, a native of Czechoslovakia, voluntarily joined the Nazi Party in 1939 and in June 1940 became a member of the Waffen SS. It is further alleged that Blach served as a guard and a dog handler in the Dachau death camp between 1940 and 1943, and at the Wiener-Neudorf camp in Austria from 1943 to 1945.

Furthermore, the OSI alleges that Blach participated in the spring of 1945 evacuation march from Wiener-Neudorf to Mauthausen, in which numerous persons died, in an effort to flee from advancing forces. He never applied for U.S. citizenship and has remained a resident alien in the U.S.