



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIX - 44th year

Monday, March 19, 1962

No. 54

UNEASY QUIET PREVAILS ALONG SYRIAN-ISRAELI BORDER; U.S. WATCHES SITUATION

JERUSALEM, March 18. (JTA) -- An uneasy quiet prevailed today along Israel's Lake Tiberias border with Syria, following a Saturday dawn raid by Israeli forces which smashed into Syrian gun positions atop the heights overlooking the lake, whence Syrians have been harassing Israeli fishermen and patrols on the lake.

United Nations Military observers today started an investigation into the events that precipitated the raid. They established their headquarters in the Syrian village of El Khrushi. The UN investigation is expected to be completed tomorrow. At the same time U. S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour conferred today with Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister. He had requested the meeting, which was described unofficially as "informative."

(In Washington, the State Department issued a brief announcement stating that word was received here that fighting had stopped. The Department added that it has been informed that "United Nations officials are in the area.")

At least 30 Syrians were killed, one Syrian soldier brought to the gun emplacement only a few hours before the raid, was taken prisoner, and quantities of Russian-made ammunition were captured by the Israelis. Israel's casualties included five dead and 10 wounded, six of the wounded in serious condition. According to Syrian reports, Israel allegedly suffered 200 casualties while four Israeli tanks were destroyed. Reliable Israeli sources, however, denied categorically the Syrian reports of higher casualties, repeating firmly that the Israel casualties were not greater than those reported by the Israel Army.

Israel Chief of Staff Reports to Cabinet on Clash with Syria

Major General Zvi Tsur, Chief of Staff of Israel's defense forces, reported on the Syrian clash to the Cabinet at its weekly meeting here this morning. Later, he discussed the events also with the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. David Ben-Gurion, the Prime Minister, was not present at today's Cabinet session, being absent as scheduled while on a two-week vacation.

Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, as acting Premier, expressed the Government's appreciation to the Army for its work in yesterday morning's action. At the same time, Mr. Eshkol, on behalf of the Government, voiced Israel's grief over the casualties. He expressed his condolences to the families of the bereaved, and his hope that the injured would recover very soon.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, disclosed that the Israel Government had earlier notified Acting Secretary-General U Thant, of the United Nations, as well as Major General Carl C. von Horn, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, that Syria's attacks on Israeli boats on Lake Tiberias caused "a dangerous situation" in which the Syrians were "playing with fire."

"Israel," said Mrs. Meir, "cannot tolerate provocative acts on the part of Syria." She said she had notified Mr. Thant of the situation last Monday and, again on Thursday. "Israel's approach to the United Nations authorities to prevent the Syrians from carrying out these incidents," said Mrs. Meir, "were of no avail. The Syrians continued their provocations, and attacked fishermen and police in patrol boats. Israel had no alternative but to take action against the places from which the firing was directed."

Iraq Seeking to Station Troops on Syrian-Israeli Border

The Israeli action was carried out by crack units of Israel's army. Israel's forces had not only wiped out the Syrian gun positions but had also captured about 500 Russian-made gun shells which the Syrians had been using in their 102-millimeter guns. When the Israel air force went into action, some MIG-17, Russian jets were in the sky in the vicinity. However, the MIGs disappeared when the Israeli craft took to the air.

Beirut dispatches today reported that, at a meeting between Iraq's Premier Abdul Karim Kassim and Syria's President Nazem al Kodsri, the two Arab leaders decided on plans for close military and political cooperation, inviting other Arab countries to join these plans. Diplomats at Beirut reported that Iraq is seeking the stationing of Iraq troops on the Syrian-Israeli border.)

SYRIA TO FILE TODAY FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST ISRAEL AT U.N. COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 18. (JTA) -- Syria will file a formal complaint against Israel's Saturday morning raid with the United Nations Security Council tomorrow, and is expected to request a meeting of the Council, it was learned here today.

Syria's complaint, it was reported authoritatively, will list seven charges against Israel, accusing Israel of a "premeditated" attack against its territory, involving a "threat to the peace and security" of the region and violating the 1949 Israeli-Syrian Armistice Agreement.

However, it was believed that the Syrian complaint will not be launched formally until Acting Secretary General U Thant has received a report from Maj. Gen. Carl C. von Horn, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. That report, to be based on a probe of the action by UN military observers, is likely to be received tomorrow.

Israel Tells U.N. She Will Not Alter Jordan River Water Projects

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 18. (JTA) -- Israel's delegation to the United Nations informed the Security Council this weekend that it had no intention of altering its plans to develop water projects on Israel's side of the Jordan River Valley because "certain Arab Governments" object to that project "for political reasons."

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Michael S. Comay, Israel delegation chairman, replied to a complaint filed with the Council by Syria on March 2. In that complaint, Syria accused Israel of violating the 1949 Armistice Agreement between the two countries by proceeding with its Jordan River project.

Mr. Comay pointed out that the Syrian complaint is "based on the premise that Israel has no right to exist," and "arrogates to itself the right to intervene" in matters solely within Israel's internal jurisdiction. He denied that Israel was violating the 1949 armistice pact and told the Council that the March 2 complaint by Syria was filed "solely for political purposes and to confuse the issue." He called the entire move "political expediency and propaganda."

GOLDMANN HAILS ALGERIAN CEASE-FIRE; LAUDS DECISION ON ALGERIAN JEWS

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Satisfaction at the achievement of a cease-fire in Algeria was expressed here today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, who said he was "deeply gratified" by the decision of the Algerian leaders to accord to the Jews of Algeria the same right of option as European Frenchmen in deciding on their future status.

During recent months, Dr. Goldmann has had meetings in Paris with both the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Couve de Murville, and M. Louis Joxe, the Minister for Algerian Affairs, on the future of the 130,000 Jews in Algeria. "In common with men of good will everywhere we have received the news of the cease-fire in Algeria with the deepest satisfaction," the WJC leader said today. "It represents the triumph of statesmanship and patient diplomacy over the gravest difficulties, and both parties to this agreement have achieved an understanding which is of far more than regional significance."

"The World Jewish Congress, to which the Algerian Jewish community has been affiliated for many years, is naturally concerned about the fate of this community which faces distinctive problems of its own," Dr. Goldmann pointed out. "We are deeply gratified by the decision of the Algerian leaders to recognize for the Jews of Algeria the same right of option in determining their future as is being granted to European French citizens in their country. I know that our appreciation of this act of human insight and statesmanship will be shared by Jews throughout the world, who will attach special importance to the recognition of the right of emigration for Algerian Jews implicit in the agreement."

"The new Algeria will inevitably face many problems. It is our sincere hope that all its inhabitants, irrespective of race or creed, will now unite in the support of every effort to bring violence and bloodshed to a speedy end, and find a new hope in the development of a common national purpose and a renewed community of interest."

EL AL STRIKE ENDS; CREWS AGREE ON COMPROMISE; NORMAL SERVICE TO RESUME

TEL AVIV, March 18. (JTA) -- Air crews of the El Al Israel International Airlines returned to work today, ending a ten-day strike over the issue of maximum flying time for the pilots and other airborne personnel. The airline announced, however, that it would take 24 to 48 hours before schedules returned to normal and all chartered aircraft were returned to the parent companies.

The agreement between the company and the air crews, which was signed here last night, provides that, under no conditions, will air crews work more than ten hours on direct flights with 15 hours maximum time of duty. The air crews had asked for an eight-hour ceiling on flying time. The company reported that the strike had cost El Al 80,000 pounds (\$26,400) per day.

FRANCE TO RAISE SOVIET TREATMENT OF JEWS AT U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS BODY

PARIS, March 18. (JTA) -- Assurances that the French delegation will raise the question of Soviet anti-Semitism at the United Nations Human Rights Commission which opens its 18th session in New York tomorrow were given today by French Foreign Ministry officials.

The assurances were given to Armand Kaplan, World Jewish Congress Director for France, who met for an hour with senior officials of the Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, he cited the most recent sentences imposed on Jews in Russia and other recent manifestations of anti-Jewish actions.

It was indicated that the French delegation would call on Russian delegates at the meeting of the Human Rights Commission for an explanation and thus demonstrate that the anti-Jewish activities were not passing unnoticed in the free world. The Commission is an intergovernmental body before which such voluntary organizations as the World Jewish Congress must not appear, in contrast to the procedures of the Human Rights Subcommittee which met last year.

Senator Javits Urges U. S. Protest to Moscow on Treatment of Jews

BROOKLYN, N. Y., March 18. (JTA) -- Senator Jacob K. Javits today called upon the President of the United States to instruct the State Department to make a direct protest to the Soviet Government on the discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Senator told a packed B'nai B'rith audience here that precedent for such action was established in 1890 when the United States lodged a formal protest with the Czarist regime against mistreatment of Jews. In addition, the New York lawmaker declared: "Enough evidence is piling up against the Soviet position so that government to government protest is in order."

In place of direct intervention, Sen. Javits complained, the State Department has suggested protests by private organizations without reference to the U. S. Government and has said that it will continue to raise the question "from time to time" in the United Nations. "I feel that all this is completely inadequate considering the experiences of the world with the critical dangers of anti-Semitism to humanity, peace and justice," the Senator charged.

The New York lawmaker said that the last direct protest from this Government against recent Soviet mistreatment of Jews came in September 1959 when former President Eisenhower expressed "our concern" to Soviet Premier Khrushchev during the latter's Washington visit. Since that time, charged Javits, "we have apparently made no direct effort to get the facts nor have we made any direct protest on Soviet persecution of Jews to the Soviet Government." Sen. Javits was presented with a plaque honoring him as Brooklyn B'nai B'rith Man of the Year.

WHITE HOUSE BLAMED FOR U.S. FAILURE TO RATIFY PACT OUTLAWING GENOCIDE

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Bi-partisan support for American ratification of the International Genocide Convention has been "frustrated" by the "absence of White House leadership" in pressing for Senate consideration of the treaty, the American Jewish Congress charged today at a meeting of its National Governing Council. The meeting was attended by more than 70 members of the Council, which is the organization's policy-making body.

The Genocide Convention establishes as an international crime the mass murder of racial, religious and ethnic groups as such. The text of the Convention was unanimously passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, with United States spokesmen taking the lead in promoting its initial drafting and formulation. Thus far, some 64 countries around the world have ratified the treaty.

In June 1949, President Truman submitted the Genocide Convention to the Senate, accompanied by an enthusiastic endorsement. A special Genocide Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee conducted public hearings and recommended ratification of the Convention in 1950. Since that time, however, no further action has been taken and the Convention has remained within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Relations Committee. The Committee has authority to report the Convention to the floor of the Senate for action at any time.

GURFEIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNITED HIAS; OUTLINES 1962 PROGRAM

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Murray I. Gurfein, New York attorney and civic leader, has been elected to his third consecutive term as president of United Hias Service. Harry Berse and Mrs. A. Louis Oresman, two of the agency's vice-presidents, were newly elected to that office.

On being installed into office, Mr. Gurfein stated that United Hias Service's program for 1962 provides for migration and related services to 44,500 persons, of whom 6,730 will be migrants and refugees. This program will require an estimated expenditure of \$2,786,55.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OBJECT TO PRAYER IN NEW YORK STATE SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today announced that they are charging the New York State Board of Regents with establishing "public school religion" by sponsoring a prayer in public schools.

The two organizations revealed that they submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court an amicus curiae brief in which they argue that the Regents' prayer in public schools constituted "an establishment of religion" and thus violated the First Amendment to the Constitution. The brief was filed in a case involving the New Hyde Park public schools.

The brief stresses that both organizations include among their membership "vast numbers of people who not only believe in the existence of God, but devoutly worship Him." However, the organizations hold to the view that "prayer in our democratic society is a matter for the home, synagogue and church, and not for the public schools."

The New York Board of Regents, in a statement on moral and spiritual training in the schools, had recommended that the daily Pledge of Allegiance "might well be joined with this act of reverence to God." The act of reverence was in the form of a prayer devised by the Board of Regents which reads: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country."

In 1958, the New Hyde Park Board of Education directed the district principal to institute this prayer as a daily procedure following the Pledge of Allegiance. A number of parents in that school district brought suit against the Board of Education on the constitutionality of the prayer in the school system. The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court following decisions by the New York State courts upholding the New Hyde Park Board of Education.

Provisions for the excuse of pupils whose parents object to their participation in the school sponsored prayer, the brief states, does not make the practice any less an establishment of religion.

Council of Churches States View on Religion in Public Schools

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- The National capital area Council of Churches said today that public schools should not require teachers or students to participate in devotional Bible reading or mass prayer recitations. Similarly, observance of religious holidays in public schools, said the Council, "should have clear educational purposes and should not distract from the religious meaning which some associate with that holiday."

The Council positions were contained in a statement prepared by a Special Committee on Religion in the Public Schools which was named last January to study the issue of religion in public schools following an appeal from the Washington Jewish Community Council to school boards in the Washington area to discontinue all religious observances in public schools.

The Church Council said that while "it is not the function of the public school to be a church or synagogue, or attempt to do the work of the church or synagogue," it endorsed the idea that "objective treatment of religious facts as an integral part of the courses and curricula" would be acceptable. On the subject of Christmas observance in schools, long a bone of contention within the Jewish community, the Council saw no objection so long as the cultural aspects of the holiday were stressed with no reference to the religious overtones of Christmas.

ORTHODOX CONVENTION APPEALS FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM SUNDAY CLOSING LAW

BALTIMORE, Md., March 18. (JTA) -- A resolution appealing to state legislatures to enact measures exempting Sabbath observing Jews from restrictions of the "discriminatory" Sunday laws was adopted at the concluding session of the Atlantic Seaboard regional convention of the union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America here today.

The appeal was especially directed to state legislatures of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. These states were represented at the convention by leaders of Orthodox congregations. The resolution further appealed "to all elements of the Jewish community and the general community" to actively support this demand.

Expressing satisfaction at the "growing awareness among Jewish communal leaders" of the importance of the Jewish Day Schools, delegates in another resolution appealed to "all Jewish federations and communal agencies to support fully the maintenance of the Day Schools." However, it warned that such support "must not be conditioned upon the intrusion of these agencies in the program or direction of the schools."

REFORM RABBIS CONSIDER EXTREME RIGHT-WING GROUPS DANGEROUS TO U.S.

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Leaders of the rabbinical-wing of American Reform Judaism condemned this weekend the statements and actions of the John Birch Society, the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade and other extreme right-wing groups as "inimical and dangerous to the American democratic way of life." The executive board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis accused the extreme rightist groups of "attempts to turn back the course of social progress."