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## ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF WARNS ON DANGER OF BORDER INCIDENTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Brigadier General Zvi Tzur, Israel's Chief of Staff, said today that in such an unstable situation as that of the Middle East, any local incident on an Israeli border might develop into a far bigger clash.

"Initiators of such incidents will not hesitate to make whatever use of them which will meet their political goals," he added. He also warned against increased efforts made by Egypt, using foreign aid, to strengthen its military forces, and called for a permanent state of alertness by Israeli security forces. He made his comments at a graduation parade of engineering corps officers.

## BILLS URGE RELAXATION OF MILITARY RULE IN ARAB AREAS OF ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Five bills providing for radical changes in the military administrations of Arab-populated areas of Israel were expected today to be defeated by a narrow margin in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, when they come up for consideration on Wednesday. The bills were submitted by deputies from the Liberal, Herut, Mapam, Achdut Avoda and Communist parties.

Under a coalition agreement, Achdut Avoda has been released from collective responsibility requiring them to vote with the Government and may vote freely on the issue. The vote will be of special significance in view of Premier David Ben-Gurion's earlier threat that he will not assume responsibility for the country's security if military government is abolished in border areas.

Mapai has been assured the support of most of the National Religious deputies and Poalei Agudat Israel. The Agudat Israel deputies have indicated they will abstain on the issue. The Mapai-affiliated Arab members have thus far declined to reveal how they would vote.

While Herut is recalling two members from abroad to participate in the vote, Mapai and Achdut Avoda have agreed not to recall Education Minister Abba Eban and Achdut Avoda deputy Mordechai Bibi, thus canceling out each other's votes. Mr. Eban is attending the United Nations Conference on Underdeveloped Countries in Geneva.

An advertisement published in this morning's Haaretz, an independent daily, contains a call by a score of university professors for the abolition of military government.

## SOVIET POET YEVTUSHENKO INVITED TO VISIT ISRAEL; GIVES VAGUE REPLY

PARIS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the famous Soviet poet and author of the poem "Babi Yar," which alluded to the mass grave in the Kiev suburb where many thousands of Jews were machinegunned by the Nazis, received here today an official invitation to visit Israel.

The invitation was handed to the poet at the Israeli Embassy here by the cultural attache, David Catarivas. It was signed by the president of the Israeli Authors Association. Mr. Yevtushenko said that, while he was ready to visit Israel, he had a crowded schedule for his current visit abroad, and was unable to make definite plans for such a visit.

Last week, during a press conference here, the poet told newsmen, in answer to inquiries, that, in regard to visiting Israel, he was waiting "for an official invitation first." Today, he told Mr. Catarivas that he is scheduled to visit a dozen European countries as well as Cuba in the next few months. "Thus," he said, "I am unable to make definite plans. Basically, I accept the invitation, but practical plans must still wait."

Meanwhile, today, the influential French evening newspaper, Le Monde, printed a long article on its political page, discussing the attitude of Soviet authorities toward the Jews in the USSR. While the article brought no new facts to public attention, its very tone and position in Le Monde was seen as an illustration of continued concern in the entire subject among French intellectuals, including left-wingers.

"The Russian authorities," stated Le Monde, "who are usually efficient in reprimanding any deviation from official Marxist doctrine, have not shown any determination in fighting anti-Semitism." The newspaper pointed out that the "normal practice" in Russia leads to the dismissal of any editor who commits a serious error. Le Monde noted, however, that the editor of a Communist newspaper in Dagestan, who raised the canard about alleged Jewish ritual murder, "was not subjected to a similar measure."

# ENGLISH-JEWISH PRESS CONDEMNS STATE DEPARTMENT'S BARRING OF J. T. A.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Newspapers throughout the United States which subscribe to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's news service have editorially condemned the exclusion of the JTA correspondent in Washington from a State Department briefing as a violation of the principle of freedom of the press and as an insult to the English-Jewish press.

Several of the newspapers, according to a survey of editorial comment made today, called on Secretary of State Dean Rusk to reprimand the official responsible for the barring of the JTA correspondent and to take measures to ensure that there be no recurrence of such acts of discrimination.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency formally protested to Mr. Rusk last week that Robert C. Strong, director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs in the State Department, had denied JTA correspondent Milton Friedman admission to a briefing on the Arab refugee problem on the grounds that the briefing was for American news media only and that Mr. Strong was dissatisfied with the news reporting of the JTA and Mr. Friedman. The JTA protest termed the incident a violation of freedom of the press and a discrimination against large sections of the American Jewish community served by the 46-year-old agency.

The Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia termed Mr. Friedman's exclusion a violation of one of our Constitutional guarantees--freedom of the press. It pointed out "that our own State Department should allow one of its officials to make a mockery of freedom of the press is not only shocking, it is inexcusable, indefensible." Noting the reaction in Congress and elsewhere, the editorial said that "with public pressure mounting, it will be interesting to watch the State Department's response. Without any doubt, there is a moral obligation here to rectify the situation and to make certain such an affront shall not happen again."

The Jewish Chronicle of Pittsburgh said that Mr. Strong had made out "a weak case" barring Mr. Friedman from his briefing and expressed hope that Secretary of State Rusk or President Kennedy "properly reprimands Mr. Strong for his lack of awareness of American press freedom and for stupidity on how newsmen work."

## Act Is Considered an Affront to the Entire Jewish Press

The Jewish Advocate of Boston said Mr. Friedman had ~~been~~ "disgracefully denied admission" to the briefing. "This insult," it said, "is a serious infringement of freedom of the press." The editorial said the "affront" to Mr. Friedman "casts an intimation of second-class citizenship on the entire American Jewish press." It expressed hope Mr. Rusk would act to prevent a repetition.

The Jewish News of Detroit, which, with other papers, paid tribute to Mr. Friedman's integrity and zeal in his assignment, said the incident "calls for severest condemnation by all liberty-loving Americans who cherish the ideals of a free press."

The Baltimore Jewish Times said that "at a time when the Kennedy Administration is particularly sensitive to the charge of 'managed news,'" the State Department official "has apparently been guilty of a monumental political blunder and has added further fuel to the fire over 'managed news.'" It said he would be well advised "to report frankly and openly to all of the press and let the facts speak for themselves."

The Jewish Times of Brookline, Mass., agreed editorially that "the notion of a free press is at stake here and let there be no mistake that the 'bias' or 'slant' of a news correspondent is within the framework of a democracy."

The American Israelite of Cincinnati declared editorially that the nature of the incident was "so flagrant that the very disclosure of the incident should be certain to bring a prompt dressing down of the official responsible and a high-level apology." The publication declared that "it ought to be spelled out quite clearly to Mr. Strong that the English-Jewish press in the United States is quite as American as Mr. Strong--and even more so when it comes to devotion to the American principle of a free press."

The Jewish News of Newark, N. J., stressed that the basic issue concerns freedom of the press. It said that "as an individual, Strong has every right to approve or dislike the way JTA reports the news. As a Government official answerable not only to his immediate superiors but to the American public, he is obliged to participate, whether he likes it or not, in the constant dialogue between the people and the men who initiate or carry out policies of concern to us all."

After quoting former President Truman's dictum: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen," the Jewish News editorial said that "it is the obligation of the U. S. press to report, to analyze, to criticize or to praise. Similarly, it is the duty of our individuals to deal fairly with all legitimate news agencies and to be fully responsive within the common-sense limits of security requirements."

The Southern Israelite of Atlanta editorially interpreted the ban on Mr. Friedman as a reflection on itself and called on the State Department to "brief itself over whether the Jewish communities of this nation are American or not, whether the ... publications which

use the JTA services are American or not," It described the incident as an attempt to compel Mr. Friedman to change his writing approach and expressed the belief that "he will not be whipped into line."

The Buffalo (N. Y.) Jewish Review described the incident as "the bureaucratic exercise of censorship" and an attempt to compel the JTA correspondent to follow the official line. "We know that Mr. Friedman will not bow to such pressure, nor will the rest of the Washington press corps," the editorial declared.

The Texas Jewish Post of Ft. Worth-Dallas called the action "a flagrant violation of the freedom of the press" and warned that this violation of rights "is not in the best interests of the Administration of the Government of the United States." The paper said that "Mr. Strong should be called to task by his superior for this abuse of his office. Secretary of State Rusk should outline the rights of journalists to Mr. Strong--whether they cover the general scene or report for particularized media like the Jewish Telegraphic Agency."

#### Members of Congress Take State Dept. to Task over J. T. A. Case

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Six members of Connecticut's Congressional delegation took the State Department to task over the barring of Milton Friedman, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington correspondent, from a Department briefing.

Senator Thomas J. Dodd and Representatives Emilio Q. Daddario, William L. St. Onge, Robert N. Giaimo, Abner W. Sibal and John S. Monagan took immediate action after the Connecticut Jewish Ledger had alerted the state's delegation in the nation's capital to the allegedly discriminatory act. All are Democrats, except Mr. Sibal, who is the lone Republican member of the state's delegation.

The Ledger, in messages to the lawmakers, had called the action of Robert C. Strong, director of the State Department's Office on Near Eastern Affairs, "a serious infringement on the freedom of the press in the United States and an affront to the dignity of the Connecticut Jewish community." The solons also were asked to make these feelings known to the State Department and to their fellow legislators.

Senator Dodd told the Connecticut Jewish Ledger: "I believe this action is indefensible and have so informed the State Department. In denying admission to the JTA reporter, the State Department office not only violated freedom of the press, but also affronted and insulted the Jewish community in America, which gets much of its news through the services of the JTA."

Congressman St. Onge called the incident a "thoughtless action on the part of Mr. Strong and an affront to the entire American press." He added: "The State Department owes an explanation to the American public for an act of discrimination against the American Jewish community by one of its top officials."

Rep. Sibal disclosed that he has written Secretary of State Dean Rusk to protest the action. In the letter the Congressman asked Mr. Rusk for a summary report of this matter. "If these reports are true," he wrote, "I strongly urge you to issue such directives as would prevent their recurrence."

Congressman Monagan told the Ledger that he has "a deep interest in this matter;" and has telephoned the State Department for a full report. "I am now awaiting this report and will look into the matter completely," he said.

Representative Giaimo reported to the Ledger: "I have discussed this matter with the State Department and have been assured that the unfortunate incident involving Mr. Friedman was completely inadvertent and an accident which the State Department regrets. I have been assured that both Mr. Friedman and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency will be given every consideration when future briefings on subjects of interest to them are held."

Congressman Daddario expressed great concern over the incident. He disclosed that he has written to the State Department requesting a full "explanation of these actions."

#### EXTREMISTS DEMAND SUPPRESSION OF RABBINICAL COURTS IN MOROCCO

CASABLANCA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A demand that the Moroccan Government suppress rabbinical tribunals in the country was made today by Allal el Fassi, president of the opposition Istiqlal party, in the party journal.

The political leader asserted that rabbinical tribunals have been dissolved in Tunisia. He called such tribunals in Morocco "products of colonialism" and charged they were improperly constituted. The fact is that the tribunals were given official registration in March 1957, with competence affecting personal status and succession of Moroccan Jews.

#### NAZI COMMANDER SUSPECTED OF KILLING JEWS ARRESTED IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Police here announced today the arrest of Julius Garbler, former commander of the Nazi secret police in the Polish village of Debica. He was arrested on suspicion of participation in the mass killing of Polish Jews during the wartime occupation.

## WC MEN'S DIVISION RAISES \$1,275,000 AT OPENING OF NEW YORK U. J. A. DRIVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The 25th year of campaigning for the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York opened today with a rally of 3,000 Women's Division volunteers at the Americana Hotel, followed by two luncheons at which 600 of the division's leading contributors announced gifts totaling \$1,275,000.

Peace Corps Director Robert Shriver, Jr., received the first Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Award in a ceremony at the morning rally. Mrs. Roosevelt's son, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., newly appointed Undersecretary of Commerce, made the presentation on behalf of the New York UJA Women's Division.

The award, given for "notable achievement in enhancing the dignity of man, in keeping with the life-long ideals of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt," in the form of a silver plaque, commemorates Mrs. Roosevelt's long-standing interest in causes aided by UJA, and her frequent participation in its activities. It was presented to Mr. Shriver in recognition of the accomplishments of Peace Corps volunteers in helping the people of underdeveloped lands make progress toward better lives.

The rally was presided over by Mrs. Harold J. Cohen who is serving as chairman of the 1963 Women's Division campaign, together with Mrs. Francis J. Bloustein. On the program was a documentary presentation narrated by Mrs. Bloustein, entitled: "Where Were You in 1939?" the year the United Jewish Appeal was founded.

## WARSAW GHETTO RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION FORMED IN U. S. BY EX-MEMBERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, non-partisan and non-political, with membership composed of former Warsaw Ghetto resistance fighters, has been formed here, it was announced today by its president, Jonas Turkow, prominent Polish Yiddish author. "The official founding of WAGRO at this time," he said, "takes on special significance, since April 19 will be the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising."

"Of the 500,000 Jews whom the Nazis attempted to destroy in Warsaw," Mr. Turkow added, "there were but a few thousand survivors who are now scattered the world over, with the largest groups in the United States--mainly in the New York area--and Israel."

Objectives of WAGRO, Mr. Turkow said, are as follows: "To spread the facts about the civilian resistance during the entire German occupation and the military resistance against the Nazi murderers that culminated in the heroic Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943; never to let the world forget this historic event and to urge others to commemorate it; and to erect in New York City a Warsaw Ghetto Resistance House as a permanent memorial to this epic struggle for human dignity and as an everlasting symbol of resistance to all forces denying it."

## RABBIS RAP CUSTOM OF 'VISITING' BODY OF DECEASED AT FUNERAL CHAPELS

BOSTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The practice of "visitation" as a part of funeral arrangements, whether in the home of the deceased or in a funeral chapel, was labeled as "a flagrant violation of our tradition" in a statement issued here by the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis.

"We have always viewed the viewing of the body to be inappropriate and a dishonor to the departed," declared the Board. "Only the presence of the immediate family with the departed is appropriate. The only proper time to make condolence calls is after the funeral and at the home where the mourning period is observed. We call upon the families of our congregations and the funeral directors to help us eliminate this practice of chapel visitation which is of recent and alien origin and in total disharmony with Jewish counsel on the consolation of mourners."

## SCOTTISH SHIPBUILDERS GET \$5,600,000 CONTRACT FROM ISRAELI FIRM

GENEVA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Ltd., a Scottish firm which is one of Britain's most outstanding firms in the field, has been granted a 2,000,000-pound (\$5,600,000) contract for construction of a fleet of "floating motels" to ply the Mediterranean Sea, it was announced here today by Israel Car Ferries. The latter, affiliated with S.A. Somerfin, of Geneva, which originated the "floating motel" plan, is a private non-governmental company.

The vessels will have cabin accommodations for 550 passengers and deck space for 150 passengers, plus garage space for about 120 cars. The contract is the first ever given by an Israeli shipping firm to a British yard.

## WINNIPEG FAMILY DONATES \$100,000 FOR JEWISH NATIONAL FUND PROJECTS

WINNIPEG, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A gift of \$100,000 for the establishment of a playground and a Nachlah outside Tel Aviv has been made to the Jewish National Fund by Isaac Solomon and Mrs. Solomon of this city, the JNF has announced. A Nachla is an agricultural settlement where the residents raise their own food, and export the surplus for building of recreational and manufacturing facilities. Both Mr. and Mrs. Solomon have been active in the work of the Jewish Congress, the Welfare Fund of Winnipeg, their synagogue and Hicladrut, in addition to their activities on behalf of the Jewish National Fund.