



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXIV - 50th year

Monday, January 9, 1967

No. 5

TENSION MOUNTS ON ISRAEL-SYRIAN BORDER; PREMIER ESHKOL WARNS SYRIA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Tension continued to mount along the Israel-Syrian border today as Syrian positions, apparently seeking to provoke a major clash, used tank guns and other arms in directing fire at Israeli positions and patrols in a number of incidents throughout the weekend.

Syrian bombardment today resulted in fires breaking out at the former site of Notera settlement on the Israeli side of the border and the wounding of two Israelis who were called to a meeting with U.N. observers.

Warning that the continuing Syrian bombardments were pushing the two nations to the brink of war, Israeli military officials said today that the attacks on Israeli farmers by Syrian tanks constituted a "most blatant" invitation to retaliation. The warnings came after a statement by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol that "Syria is not immune to treatment in kind."

The Premier declared in a press interview that "we must warn Damascus that we shall not tolerate these incursions and wanton murder." He said Israel was trying to limit her military measures to self-defense "but I cannot exclude the possibility that we may have no other recourse but deterrent measures."

In the first of the weekend attacks, the Syrians moved tanks into positions at two places on the Israel border and fired at an Israeli tractor working on a field near Tel Katzir settlement southeast of Lake Tiberias. The gunners then opened machinegun fire at the tractor driver but he managed to escape safely. The vehicle was not damaged.

In a second incident, three Syrian tanks fired simultaneously at Israeli positions in the Orazin area north of Lake Tiberias. Israeli officials said that the Syrians had sent field workers into the Israeli area to draw an Israeli response, but opened fire with the tank guns before the Israelis were able to take any action to expel the field workers.

It was also noted in connection with this incident that the Syrians broadcast a communique announcing that the Israelis had driven out the Syrian workers even before the shelling began. In fact, Israeli officials said, Israeli troops held their fire until some 40 Syrian shells had been fired.

This morning, Syrian tanks again went into operation, firing at an Israeli tractor and at an Israeli patrol in the Huleh area. The Israel Army spokesman said that the Syrian positions directed automatic fire at the Israeli tractor moving along a road inside Israeli territory and parallel to the border. A half hour later, an Israeli patrol moving towards the tractor was fired on from the same Syrian position. The patrol returned the fire after the Syrians used tank guns resulting in a fire at the former site of Notera settlement.

The two Israelis were wounded this afternoon a half hour after both sides had agreed to a call for a cease fire by U.N. observers. The Syrians opened fire again, hitting two of five Israelis who were riding in two jeeps while en route to meet with U.N. observers. They had been summoned by the observers to testify over the earlier shooting at the Israeli tractor. Israel filed complaints on the incidents with the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission of the United Nations.

Israel Cabinet Discusses Escalation of Syrian Border Attacks

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Israel's resolute decision not to permit Syria to encroach on Israel's sovereign territory and disturb civilian life was stressed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol at the weekly Cabinet meeting here today.

The Cabinet discussed the recent escalation in Syrian border attacks on Israeli farmers using mortar and tank fire to bombard Israeli positions and the laying of mines along Israeli patrol roads. The Premier said that the representatives of the major powers have been informed of the serious view taken by Israel over the incidents and Israel's delegation at the United Nations this evening submitted a note to the members of the U.N. Security Council on the stepped up Syrian attacks.

In an effort to explain the recent sharp increase in Syrian attacks on Israeli farmers and patrols along the border, observers today suggested that the Syrians might have concluded that Israel was now more vulnerable to attack after the Syrian-Egyptian defense agreement and the condemnation of the Israeli retaliation on Samua village in Jordan. Israeli circles believed that the current series of attacks were meant to form a "test case" to try Israel's patience and reaction if any.

ZIONIST MOVEMENT SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY ESHKOL AT ACTIONS COMMITTEE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- An attack on leaders of the Zionist movement, which reminded listeners of similar attacks made by former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, was voiced here tonight by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol at the opening session of the Zionist Actions Committee, which is the highest ruling body of the Zionist movement between World Zionist Congresses. More than 2,000 guests attended the opening session which was also addressed by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WZO, and Jacob Tsur, chairman of the Actions Committee.

The Zionist movement, Premier Eshkol said, had passed many fine resolutions which included encouragement of immigration and of Jewish learning. But what had the Zionist movement done to implement these resolutions? Most immigrants come even now from countries where no Zionist movement exists. They were drawn to Israel by factors which have not been inspired by Zionist efforts, including the very existence of the State of Israel.

The Premier cited the fact that of the many tens of thousands of Jewish students, only about 2,000 have reached Israel. He expressed the opinion that even this small number of students were not always influenced by the Zionist movement in the countries from where they came. He also charged leaders of the Zionist movement with "doing little" to expand the network of Jewish day schools and to further Jewish education in their countries. "If Zionist leaders would devote their energy to implementing their own resolutions, then there might be moral force in the advices they are dispensing freely," Mr. Eshkol said.

Declaring that the existing covenant between the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency loses its meaning unless it is backed by deeds, the Premier said that it is useless just to mention the existence of such a covenant which provides for formal recognition by the Israel Government of the rights of the Jewish Agency. "There has been much criticism of the Zionist movement and it is in your power to refute it," he told the 107 voting members of the Actions Committee and the 28 "virilist" members who have no voting right.

Goldmann Blames Previous Governments for Crisis in Israel

Dr. Goldmann, in his opening address, said that the present crisis which is now developing in Israel is the worst the country faced during the 18 years of its existence, but the moral and psychological aspects of this crisis are its most disturbing feature.

Criticism in Israel, the president of the World Zionist Organization declared, is enormously exaggerated; the Israeli press is bringing only negative sides of the picture; the population is engaged in proliferating jokes unworthy of the great Jewish sense of humor. "These jokes," Dr. Goldmann stressed, "are neither funny nor gentle -- they are horrid."

The situation in Israel today, Dr. Goldmann continued, is a result of policies of all previous governments and the blame cannot, therefore, be put on one or another party. The halting of Israel's economic boom was inevitable and must be borne with good grace, he stated. He emphasized that "at this hour, the Zionist movement, which had founded the State of Israel has a right to advise and cheer up Israel." He called for solidarity and stressed the fact that Israel is one of the greatest achievements of all mankind.

Speaks on Neo-Nazism in Germany and Soviet Policy on Jews

Turning to the situation in Germany, Dr. Goldmann said the rise of the National Democratic Party in West Germany -- which is classified as a neo-Nazi party -- cannot be considered a Jewish problem because there are not many Jews today in Germany, but should be a problem for the whole democratic world. At the same time he advised against ignoring Germany because of personal feelings of some individuals.

As long as these feelings remain personal, he declared, they should be accorded every respect, however they should not be exploited for political purposes. He cited the fact that the same people who accept personal restitution payments from Germany often vilify those who execute the difficult task of protecting Jewish interests in their contact with Germans. The Zionist Congress and the Israel Parliament, he pointed out, have decided to recognize Germany, adding that it must be taken also into consideration that Germany has contributed much to Israel's strength.

Analyzing the Soviet policy on Jews, Dr. Goldmann said that Soviet Jewry is in danger of annihilation because of forced assimilation. Protests by Jewish organizations in various countries, he stressed, have aroused world opinion to the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union and have brought some results, such as the publication of a Yiddish journal, the publication of some Yiddish books, and the translation and publication of Israeli poetry. However, he pointed out, these meager results show only a slight progress, while world Jewry will not be satisfied until the Jews in the Soviet Union are given equal rights with all other elements of the population in the USSR.

SEN. JAVITS ASKS FOR NEW TRIPARTITE DECLARATION ON MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, called here yesterday for a three power conference by the United States, Britain and France to reaffirm their commitments to preserve peace in the Middle East. It was these same three powers that issued the tripartite declaration in 1950 stressing their "unalterable opposition to the use of force or threat of force" in the Middle East.

Sen. Javits' proposal for a new tripartite declaration which was contained in a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, followed the rejection by the State Department of an earlier suggestion by the New York Senator that a "great power conference," including the Soviet Union, be called to consider ways of preserving peace in the Middle East and stabilizing the arms race.

Warning that "the peace of the world may well be at stake" in view of the growing disturbances in the Middle East, Senator Javits declared in the letter that "we are fast approaching a situation where any incident, big or small, could trigger a direct confrontation." He urged, therefore, that the Administration give "utmost consideration to calling a new tripartite conference so that positive steps can be taken now to prevent another Middle East war."

Noting that 17 years had passed since the 1950 declaration by the three powers, Sen. Javits said that many countries in the region "have come to believe that the three Western powers would no longer act in concert in the event of crisis." He said that it was important "to disabuse them of this idea. Sen. Javits suggested that the three Western nations could make "a considerable contribution" to the stability of the Middle East "by clarifying and reaffirming their commitments to maintain the security of the region."

State Department Rejects Suggestion on Great Power Conference

In rejecting the New York Senator's earlier proposal for a "great power conference," Douglas MacArthur II, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, in a letter written at the personal request of Mr. Rusk, expressed doubt that such a conference stood any chance of success. He said the Arabs would oppose such a conference because of their refusal to recognize Israel and their insistence upon prior agreement by Israel to readmit all the Arab refugees who fled the country during the 1948 struggle. He said that the Arab position on this question "is widely supported by many countries all over the world."

Mr. MacArthur also rejected another suggestion in Sen. Javits' first letter calling for United Nations General Assembly action to resolve Israel-Arab differences as well as proposals to expand the U.N. Emergency Force. General Assembly action would prove useless, Mr. MacArthur declared, because of Israel's failure to implement the U.N. resolution for repatriation and compensation of Arab refugees. The expansion of UNEF, he said, would face difficulties because, among other reasons, "Israel has refused to allow the U.N. Emergency Force to enter its territory."

Expressing doubt about General Assembly action to deter Arab terrorism, Mr. MacArthur declared: "It seems to us unlikely that, in a general discussion of the security situation in the area, the necessary two-thirds majority of the Assembly members would support a strong resolution against terrorism without taking an even stronger stand against retaliatory raids."

In his first letter, Sen. Javits charged that the United States was responding inadequately to the terroristic "Palestine Liberation Army." He noted the relaxation of official opposition to distribution of U.N. relief rations to terrorists.

U.S. RIGHT-WING GROUP DISSEMINATES LIES AGAINST WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel was today reported as consulting lawyers in Washington for legal action against a right-wing telephone message service which broadcast propaganda taped telephone messages that the drug LSD has been smuggled into the United States from the Institute. A spokesman for the Weizmann Institute here said "there is not a cintilla of truth in the outrageous broadcast."

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith charged this weekend that the message service, which operates under the name "Let Freedom Ring," is circulating a "scurrilous and libelous" attack against the Weizmann Institute. The ADL will meet this week to consider action against the ultra right-wing service.

"Let Freedom Ring" messages were established by Dr. William C. Douglass, a physician of Sarasota, Fla., who is a member of the John Birch Society. These messages have attacked former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Kennedy, the late Adlai E. Stevenson, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chief Justice Earl Warren and Senator Jacob K. Javits. The current message, according to the ADL, links LSD with Communism and suggests that if a quantity of LSD were placed in a central water supply "a metropolis could suddenly become a city of fools totally incapable of reason as to invasion or sabotage and not really caring."

WARBURG NAMED MEMBER OF U.S. ADVISORY BODY ON VOLUNTARY FOREIGN AID

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Edward M. M. Warburg, the Jewish philanthropic and humanitarian leader who has served as chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee for 25 years, since 1941, was yesterday appointed to membership on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid.

The appointment was made by aid administrator William S. Caud. The Committee correlates the foreign aid programs of private voluntary agencies with those of the U.S. Government, advises and consults with the administrator on voluntary agency matters, and registers voluntary agencies for overseas programs.

CHICAGO GROUP TO ESTABLISH CHAIR OF CANON LAW AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

CHICAGO, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Plans to raise \$250,000 to establish a chair of canon law in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, from which the Most Rev. John P. Cody, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago would deliver the first lecture, were announced here. The announcement was made by John Crown, a lawyer, and Thomas A. Lewis, a stockbroker. They head a special fund-raising committee. Mayor Richard J. Daley is honorary chairman of the group.

A \$100-a-plate dinner to honor Archbishop Cody will be held Jan. 25 in the Falmer House. More than 1,500 persons are expected to attend, Mr. Crown said. Mr. Crown presented a check for \$25,000 to the fund in behalf of the Crown family. The Crown and Lewis families are active supporters of charitable works. Mr. Crown, who is Jewish, and Mr. Lewis, who is a Catholic, were selected as leaders of the campaign to symbolize the inter-faith effort to establish the chair.

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD PROCLAIMS 70th ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE

NEW YORK, June 8. (JTA) -- The 70th Anniversary Year of the Jewish Daily Forward, leading Yiddish newspaper, was proclaimed here yesterday at a luncheon attended by leaders of Jewish trade unions, cultural groups and philanthropic organizations presided over by Adolph Held, general manager of the newspaper.

Mr. Held announced that the anniversary will be observed on a large scale this year with a concert at the Lincoln Center. He reported that plans were being mapped to convert the celebration into a large demonstration for the Jewish press and Jewish culture. Other speakers at the luncheon included David Dubinsky, noted labor leader who was installed at the luncheon as honorary chairman of the Anniversary Committee; Dr. S. Silverberg, president of the Forward; Louis Stolberg, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and others.

Represented at the luncheon were the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bond Organization, Jewish Labor Committee, Histadrut Campaign, Workmen's Circle, Farband -- Labor Zionist Order, United Dias Service, leading trade unions, and numerous Jewish cultural organizations. One of the plans provides for the issuance of an enlarged jubilee edition of the Forward composed of many sections, as well as arranging anniversary celebrations in a number of larger cities.

ANTI-SOVIET MEETING MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTION OF BUND LEADERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The 25th anniversary of the execution by the Soviet authorities of Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter, leaders of the Jewish Labor Bund in Poland, were observed here today with a protest meeting at Town Hall. Several hundred people attended the meeting which was organized by the Jewish Labor Bund in New York and sponsored by a number of Jewish labor organizations.

Principal speakers at the meeting included Adolph Held, Norman Thomas, Dr. Emanuel Scherer and others. Erlich and Alter, in addition to being leaders of the Bund, were also members of the City Council in Warsaw and members of the executive board of the Warsaw Jewish community. Upon the occupation by Soviet forces of eastern provinces of Poland, following the entry of the Nazi Army into Warsaw, the two Bund leaders were arrested and kept in Soviet jails for more than two years. Later they disappeared without a trace, but the Soviet Ambassador in Washington notified labor leaders in this country that the two had been executed.

UNION OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM BACKS U THANT'S PROPOSALS ON VIET NAM

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The World Union for Progressive Judaism, international body of 750 Liberal or Reform synagogues in 25 countries, endorsed the Viet Nam peace proposals of United Nations Secretary General U Thant.

In a statement adopted this weekend by the governing body of the World Union, the Jewish group lauded the steps being taken by U Thant which called for the United States to stop the bombing in the North as a "first step towards peace" and also requested all those involved in the war to enter into immediate negotiations and to scale down military forces. The World Union said that the resolution would be sent to constituent members throughout the world so that the statement could be forwarded to their own Governments.