



# Jewish Telegraphic Agency

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXIV - 50th year

Tuesday, April 4, 1967

No. 66

### SYRIA ATTACKS ISRAELI FARMERS FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO DAYS

TEL AVIV, April 3. (JTA) -- Syria today renewed firing against an Israeli tractor team working in a field belonging to Kibbutz Haon, on the southeastern shore of Lake Tiberias. This was the second attack in two days.

Quiet had prevailed in the tense area last night and this morning, while United Nations military observers were checking yesterday's attack by Syrian gun posts. But this afternoon the Syrians directed heavy machinegun fire again at the Israeli farmers, following through with anti-tank guns. An Israeli patrol returned today's fire. There were no casualties on Israel's side either yesterday or today.

The first attack, carried out yesterday, had just been investigated by the U.N. teams, after Israel had filed a complaint with the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, and the United Nations men were about to leave the area, when today's firing began. When the Israelis returned the fire, the exchange lasted about 10 minutes.

The Syrian attacks had been directed against tractor operators cultivating fields which had been safely worked by the Israelis for a long time. The incidents were seen here as a continuation of Syrian provocations in the demilitarized zones on the Israeli-Syrian frontiers, where the Syrians have been increasingly trying to penetrate lands previously cultivated by Israeli farmers.

### CHINESE COMMUNISTS RENEW SENDING ARMS TO PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Army, the anti-Israel war wing commanded by Ahmed Shukairy, has again received arms shipments from Chinese Communist sources, in recent weeks, it was reported here today. The shipments, according to reliable sources here, had been resumed by Communist China after a long interruption during which it was believed that Peking had decided to end its aid to the Shukairy organization.

The Paris correspondent of the evening newspaper Maariv reported today that a serious rift had broken out in Syria between El Fatah, the terrorist organization responsible for Arab sabotage incursions into Israel, and the Syrian Government.

According to the dispatch from Paris, diplomatic sources there said Syria had decreed a slowdown of El Fatah's anti-Israel depredations, for fear that Israel might retaliate against Syria. The El Fatah leaders had declined to curb their terrorism inside Israel, with the result that the split between the sabotage leaders and the Government is widening.

### State Dept. 'Skeptical' on Viet Cong's Aid to Arab Terrorists

WASHINGTON, April 3. (JTA) -- State Department sources said today that the United States Government had no information to justify Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's expressed concern that the possibility of Viet Cong "or other Far Eastern" participation in training and support of Arab terrorists must be taken with all seriousness which it warrants.

Authoritative U.S. officials said the State Department had no evidence of actual Arab extremists links with the Viet Cong and felt this problem should be "the least of Mr. Eshkol's worries." Authorities said information obtained by the United States made them "very skeptical" of Arab terrorist leader Ahmed Shukairy's boasts about arrangements with the Viet Cong. The most recent United States evaluation of possible Viet Cong-Arab ties produced "no hard evidence," said the officials.

### ISRAEL DEFENSE BUDGET INCREASED BY 'TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS'

TEL AVIV, April 3. (JTA) -- Israel's defense budget will be "several tens of millions of dollars" higher this year than it was in 1966, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir said here last night. He made that disclosure at a meeting of members of the Mapai-Achdut Avodah alignment, the dominant grouping in Israel's coalition Government.

Answering questions about the 1967 budget, Mr. Sapir said also that, since 1951, Israel's expenditures for security purposes had multiplied by 14 times. Israel's expenditures for defense are not revealed entirely in the Government's budget.

LARGE ISRAEL TEXTILE PLANT CLOSES; GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CREATE NEW JOBS

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- The Chorley Works, at Beersheba, one of Israel's largest textile plants, closed down this morning, dismissing its 200 workers. The firm's management said it shut down because its income was insufficient to meet the running of the plant. The dismissal of the Chorley workers was considered a blow to the already precarious labor situation in Beersheba, capital of the Negev.

At the same time it was officially reported today that thousands of new jobs will be created in Israel under the 1967-68 government budget. Most of the funds for the new jobs will come from the 300-million-pound (\$100 million) development budget. The main increase in employment will be in agriculture and in the construction of government buildings.

Meanwhile, 3,000 more jobless Israelis registered at the labor exchanges during last week. Many of the new registrants were Israeli Arabs.

The number of Israel's civil service employees will be slightly reduced during the current fiscal year, which started April 1, from 39,518 to 39,413, it was announced here today by the Commissioner of Civil Service. The reduction, he said, would be achieved through "normal means." He refused to comment on a proposal by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, who had suggested that 3,500 civil service employees be fired.

ISRAEL EXPORTS EXCEEDED IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY; TRADE DEFICIT DROPPED

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Israel's exports surpassed the country's imports in February, registering such a record for the first time in any one month in Israel's history, the Government's statistical bureau announced here today. February exports had amounted to \$56 million, exceeding the month's imports by \$700,000. The record, the bureau said, was due to the quantity of citrus products exported during the current season.

(In London, Labor Minister Yigal Allon declared today that Israel's balance of trade deficit had dropped from \$463,000,000 in 1964 to \$270,000,000 this year. In an interview with The Guardian, he cited this as one of the "encouraging developments" in Israel's struggle to end its current economic slump. He said he was sure the Israeli economy could become self-sufficient but that he "did not want to sound too optimistic.")

BEN-GURION WANTS JEWISH AGENCY TO SURRENDER IMMIGRATION WORK

SDE BOKER, April 3. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, Israel's former Prime Minister, proposed here last night that the task of promoting Jewish immigration into Israel be taken away from the Jewish Agency and put into the hands of the Government. "Only such a measure," he said, "can bring about mass immigration from the Western countries, which Israel needs."

Mr. Ben-Gurion made his proposal at a convocation at the Negev College here, marking his recent return from a journey to the United States, Canada and England. He expressed optimism about the prospects for immigration from Western lands. When asked whether he believed that a change was necessary in Israel's atmosphere in order to attract more immigrants from the West, he replied: "Yes. But to ensure change, we must get rid of two people." He did not name the "two people."

ISRAEL REMAINS OWNER OF ART WORKS ON LINER 'SHALOM' SOLD TO GERMANY

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Israel will continue to own the various art works installed in the Zim Lines luxury liner, Shalom, which has been sold to a German shipping firm and is to be renamed SS Hanseatic, authorities here declared today.

The announcement was made after Dan Karavan, an artist who designed murals for the Shalom, had stated publicly that he would demand the return of his murals because he would not want them to decorate a ship which may carry former Nazis as passengers. He said he would be willing to refund the fees he had been paid for the murals. Today's announcement, however, means that Israel would take over all the art works and art exhibits on the Shalom before the ship is turned over to the new owners.

ISRAEL PRESIDENT REDUCES SENTENCE OF KEREN HAYESOD OFFICIAL

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Ephraim Margalith, former director of the Paris office of Keren Hayesod, the fund-raising arm of the World Zionist Organization, who is serving a 15-year prison term for embezzlement, while in office, will be released on the eve of Passover, it was announced here today. President Zalman Shazar has commuted Margalith's sentence to five years, and that period will have been completed near the end of this month.

CONGRESS OF LATIN AMERICAN WRITERS APPEALS FOR JEWS IN RUSSIA

MEXICO CITY, April 3. (JTA) -- A resolution requesting the Soviet Union to restore to Jews in the USSR full freedoms to enjoy their own culture, language and literature was adopted here today by the second Congress of Latin American Writers.

EBAN REPORTS AT KNESSET SESSION ON HIS VISITS TO ASIAN COUNTRIES

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Israel must take energetic steps to improve its diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with the countries in Asia, many of which are unaware of the Bible or Jewish history but have had long connection with Arab nationalists, Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Knesset (Parliament) here today.

Mr. Eban talked about the need for cementing Israeli-Asian relations in the course of a long address reporting on his month-long tour of the Far East from which he returned last week. He had visited Japan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Australia and New Zealand. Wherever he had gone, Mr. Eban said, he had been greeted by heads of government, while the press, radio and television services devoted many efforts to picturing present-day Israel in favorable terms.

Noting that most of the Asian countries have been too occupied with their own internal problems to pay much attention to the Middle East, Mr. Eban said Israel "must go out and put herself on their consciousness." As a result of his visit, he reported, treaties and agreements between Israel and some of the Asian states will be activated "and given meaning through concrete projects."

NON-SECTARIAN COMMITTEE FOR U.J.A. FORMED IN N.Y.; URGES AID TO JEWS

NEW YORK, April 3. (JTA) -- The establishment of a non-sectarian committee for the United Jewish Appeal comprising Christian and Jewish leaders in all walks of life was announced here today. Honorary chairmen of the group include former New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey; U.S. Senators Jacob K. Javits and Robert F. Kennedy; Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller; Mayor John V. Lindsay; Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.; and former Mayor Robert F. Wagner.

In a public statement, the non-sectarian group urged "all members of our community" to "make an investment in humanity by giving increased support to the 1967 United Jewish Appeal campaign." The statement asserted the belief that "homelessness and suffering transcend the frontiers of race, creed and religion" and that "the needs of the hungry, handicapped and ill are the responsibility of all men of good will."

The statement cites the necessity for United Jewish Appeal agencies to help tens of thousands of Jews in migration "find refuge in Israel, the United States and other lands where they can build new lives in freedom." "Food, clothing, shelter, medical care, welfare aid, education and vocational training must be provided by the UJA for them and hundreds of thousands of others," the statement declared.

PINCUS APPEALS TO CANADIAN JEWS TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS FOR ISRAEL

TORONTO, April 3. (JTA) -- The hope that Canadian Zionists will step up their efforts on behalf of Israel under the newly organized Federated Zionist Organization of Canada was expressed here last night by Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency.

Addressing the founding convention of the FZOC, Mr. Pincus said that he hoped "this new instrumentality will be a viable one that will serve to strengthen Israel in her present crises." Mr. Pincus also referred hopefully to Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin's recent statement that Jewish families in the USSR would be able to join their relatives in Israel. He said, however, that he was unable to confirm whether any action had been taken since the statement was made.

Meeting separately, the Zionist Organization of Canada, a constituent group of the FZOC, elected Julius Hayman, editor and publisher of the Jewish Standard in Toronto, as president.

J.N.F. FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH \$1,000,000 SCHIFF PROJECT IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 3. (JTA) -- The inauguration of a million dollar project in Israel, through the Jewish National Fund Foundation, to bear the names of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schiff, was announced here last night at a dinner honoring Mr. Schiff, past president of the Jewish National Fund of America.

Congressman Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat and dean of the House of Representatives, delivered the principal address. He said that termination of the cold war would lead to recognition of Israel by the Arab states and to Arab-Israeli peace. Other speakers at the event included Herman L. Weisman, president of the JNF of America; Mendel N. Fisher, dinner chairman; Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne, Israel's acting permanent representative at the United Nations; Dr. Milton Aron, JNF national director and Dr. Samuel Margoshes. Congratulatory messages were received from President Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, Israel President Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

MEXICAN JEWISH LEADERS RESENT INTERFERENCE BY JEWISH GROUPS ABROAD

MEXICO CITY, April 3. (JTA) -- A resolution asking that Jewish organizations in foreign countries refrain from intervening in Mexican affairs affecting the Jewish community here was adopted Sunday night at a special session of the Jewish Central Committee, representative body of organized Jewry in Mexico.

The resolution was aimed specifically at some Jewish organizations in the United States which had complained to the Mexican Embassy in Washington against alleged anti-Semitism in this country and had demanded that Mexico ban the sale of anti-Semitic books. The Central Committee stated that the Jewish community in this country is mature enough to take care of its own affairs.

DEAD SEA SCROLL LEAVES ISRAEL FOR MONTREAL FAIR; HEAVILY INSURED

LYDDA AIRPORT, Israel, April 3. (JTA) -- The Commentary on the Book of Habakkuk, one of Israel's seven Dead Sea Scrolls, left here aboard an El Al airliner for Montreal where it will be placed on view at the Israel Pavilion at the Expo '67 international fair which opens in four weeks.

Insured for \$15 million, the scroll, which was written some 2,000 years ago, will be the oldest and most valuable single object on view at Expo '67. Teams of scientists worked for four months on protective measures to safeguard the scroll from changes in temperature, air pressure and humidity during its travels to and from Montreal and while on display.

WESTPORT DECLARES ROSH HASHANA AND YOM KIPPUR AS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

WESTPORT, Conn., April 3. (JTA) -- The Westport Board of Education has approved a vacation schedule for the 1967-68 school year which will include the Jewish New Year and the Day of Atonement as formal school holidays.

The board said the decision to include Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur among the school year holidays stemmed from the fact "of the large Jewish population of Westport which caused 20 percent absenteeism on those two holidays anyway."

A. ELMALEH, LEADER OF SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL, DEAD; WAS 82

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Avraham Elmaleh, a prominent author, educator and leader of Israel's Sephardic community, died here last night at the age of 82. He was a member of the first Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

A native of Jerusalem, Mr. Elmaleh taught in a number of schools in Palestine, Turkey and Syria before the First World War and later served as director of the press bureau of the Zionist Organization and representative of the Jewish National Fund in North Africa. He was Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem before the establishment of the State and attended numerous Zionist and Sephardic congresses in various parts of the world.

Mr. Elmaleh was the author of many works on the various Jewish communities of the Middle East and compiled dictionaries of the Hebrew, French and Arabic languages. He also edited a number of Hebrew periodicals.

DR. JACOB AVIGDOR, ELDEST ASHKENAZI RABBI IN MEXICO, DEAD; WAS 72

MEXICO CITY, April 3. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here yesterday for Dr. Jacob Avigdor, eldest rabbi of the Ashkenazic Jewish community, Nidche Israel, in this country, and one-time chief rabbi at Buenos Aires, who died here, aged 72.

Born in Poland, Rabbi Avigdor, who earned his doctorate in philosophy at Lwow University in 1931, was spiritual leader of the Jewish community in Drohobycz-Boryslaw, in eastern Galicia, from 1920 to 1940. During World War II, he was a major in the Polish army, later served as a chaplain in England and in Europe.

He was incarcerated at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and referred to his survival as "a miracle." He has written many scholarly works in five languages -- Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish, German and Spanish. For a while, after serving in Buenos Aires, he was head of Yeshiva Rabbi Solomon Kluger, in New York, and came to this country in 1950. His major literary works dealt with rabbinic and Jewish philosophy.

SEPHARDIC RABBI WASSAL, FRIEND OF DR. HERZL, DIES IN ISRAEL; WAS 104

TEL AVIV, April 3. (JTA) -- Rabbi Chaim Wassal, a Sephardic rabbi who was a personal friend and correspondent of the late Dr. Theodor Herzl, father of the political Zionist movement, died along the shores of Lake Tiberias this weekend, at the age of 104. Funeral services for the rabbi were held at Tiberias today. Rabbi Wassal was born in Tunisia and traveled widely through many countries, including Austria, where he became acquainted with Dr. Herzl.