

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXIV - Fiftieth Year

Friday, July 14, 1967

No. 135

President Johnson Urges Return of Former Residents to West Bank

WASHINGTON, July 13. (JTA) -- President Johnson said today that the United States supported the return of Arab refugees to the West Bank area now held by Israel.

In a telegram to Sen. Albert B. Gore, Tenn. Dem., who told the Senate yesterday of the urgent need for settlement of the refugee question, Mr. Johnson said: "I am in full agreement with your views concerning the urgent need for the return to the West Bank of as many of the displaced people as possible. These people have been uprooted from their established places of residence and in many cases separated from their families. Moreover," the President added, "it is neither humane nor logical for them to be living in make-shift and inadequate camps when far better conditions exist on the West Bank."

Mr. Johnson said the United States was "gratified" that Israel had said it would permit these people to return and had urged Israel to do so in a way that would enable the "maximum number" to return. He noted that Israel had said it was taking "urgent steps to restore economic activity on the West Bank" and would encourage the displaced Arabs to return.

The President stressed that Arab refugee settlement was one of the five points he had made in his June 19 speech for Middle East peace. Handling of the refugee question, he said, "will have a vital bearing on the overall question of whether a more stable peace can be established in the Near East."

Mr. Johnson emphasized in his telegram to Sen. Gore that the immediate task was to ease the suffering of persons who fled from the area of fighting during the period of hostilities.

Gen. Bull in Talks with Egyptians on Stationing of Observers

JERUSALEM, July 13. (JTA) -- Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, commander of the United Nations team which will observe the Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire along the Suez Canal, was in Cairo today to talk with Egyptian military authorities on arrangements for the U.N. personnel who will operate on Egyptian territory.

Gen. Bull and Israel Defense Minister Moshe Dayan agreed in talks yesterday on the stationing of observers on the east bank of the canal, which is in Israeli hands, and were to have further talks on Gen. Bull's return from Cairo tomorrow.

Meanwhile, with Gen. Dayan's agreement, a party of U.N. observers went to Kantara as guests of the Israeli Army to inspect accommodations which will be made available for the observers there and to examine facilities for crossing the canal to maintain contact with U.N. personnel on the Egyptian side.

(At the United Nations today, Egypt accused Israel of "an aggressive provocation and a serious violation of the cease-fire decision of the Security Council." In a letter to the president of the Security Council, Ambassador Mohamed el-Kony of Egypt complained about yesterday's incidents along the eastern bank of the Suez Canal when, according to his letter, Israeli forces "opened fire without provocation on the positions of the UAR south of Ismailia." The Egyptian envoy requested in his letter that the "aggressive provocations should be brought to prompt and immediate end.")

Arabs, Communists Continue to Demand Israel Backdown on Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, July 13. (JTA) -- The United Nations General Assembly continued today debate on a Pakistan resolution to require Israel to repeal measures it has taken for reunification of Jerusalem. Speakers representing the Arab states and the Communist bloc held the floor throughout today's sessions and repeated their criticisms of Israel and their demands that Israel be condemned and forced to yield on Jerusalem. The Assembly is not expected to vote on the resolution before next Tuesday.

(In Jerusalem today, Msgr. Angelo Felici, the special papal envoy, paid a call on President Zalman Shazar. The Vatican diplomat had postponed his scheduled return to Rome in order to make this visit. Msgr. Felici, during his stay here, inspected the holy places and had meetings with Prime Minister Eshkol and Foreign Minister Eban. The Israeli-Vatican talks on the future supervision of the holy places were to be continued in Rome.)

Following the failure of the General Assembly's emergency session to agree on a resolution dealing with the Arab-Israel situation, five Latin American countries -- Mexico, Chile, Venezuela,

Honduras and Ecuador began behind-scenes discussions today seeking to formulate a resolution requiring Israel to withdraw its troops behind the June 5 borders that would stand some chance of acceptance.

A draft circulated today would have the Assembly "expect Israel to withdraw from Arab territories" and, in another paragraph would "recognize the right of countries to exist." But the resolution did not link Israeli withdrawal to a termination of the state of belligerency and the draft, consequently was not acceptable to the United States or to many other Latin American states.

French Mission in Cairo Reports Offer of Aid to Egypt

WASHINGTON, July 13. (JTA) -- The head of a French parliamentary delegation currently visiting Cairo was quoted in dispatches today from the Egyptian capital as asserting that the French Government had authorized him to offer "all the aid needed by Egypt to face the present circumstances."

William Jacson, the mission head, said in Cairo that President de Gaulle was "convinced that the UAR did not begin the aggression and had no aggressive intentions but only wanted to declare its desire to aid Syria in any possible (Israeli) aggression before the war started."

He said France had offered Egypt a \$1,000,000 cash loan plus other financial, technological and medical aid. He also asserted that France would participate in projects to widen and deepen the Suez Canal, aid in oil and mineral prospecting in Egypt and support Egyptian scientific research in many areas.

Ben-Gurion Says June War May Not Have Been Last One With Arabs

TEL AVIV, July 13. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben-Gurion told a group of visiting American Conservative rabbis here today that, because the Soviet Union is supporting the Arab cause, there was no certainty that the June Arab-Israeli war "was the last one."

He told the delegation of members of the Rabbinical Assembly of America that "we are dealing not only with the Arabs but also with the Soviet Union, which continues to supply arms to the Arabs." He said also that he did not believe that the Soviets wanted Israel's destruction but that they were well aware that the arms they were sending to the Arabs were destined for use against Israel.

Asserting that it was the Soviet Union which was actually defeated in the June clash, he declared that the USSR had had the lesson that it could not rely on the Arab armed forces "and we must wait for the consequences Russia will draw."

He also told the visiting rabbis that there was an urgent need to settle thousands of Jews in Jerusalem and the surrounding area without uprooting any of the present Arab inhabitants there and to settle Israel's Negev desert. He said both places must be industrialized at the earliest possible time.

Additional proof of active Soviet military aid to Syrian forces along the Israel border just prior to last month's war has been uncovered with the discovery of photographs of Russian officers along with the Syrian units to which they were attached.

The photographs, found in homes in the Syrian heights now occupied by Israel, showed four Soviet colonels who participated in special reconnaissance units with the Syrians. The pictures showed the Russians posing with the Syrian members of the units. Captions identified two of the Russian officers as Col. Alexei Gebitief and Col. Konstantin, both chief instructors on reconnaissance and described the two others as "technical advisers" on the same subject.

Israeli Firm Repairs Sinai Water Installations, Digs New Wells

TEL AVIV, July 13. (JTA) -- The Mekorot Water Company finished today a comprehensive study of the water supplies in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula and the possibilities of finding new water supplies through well digging.

The company did not report any details of its findings. It has already started repairing present installations in the two occupied areas and is digging new wells at the request of the Israeli Army.

German Students to Reclaim Botanical Gardens on Mt. Scopus

JERUSALEM, July 13. (JTA) -- Oerlich Kousha, a representative of the West German Students Organization, said today that West German students who came to Israel as volunteers will go to Jerusalem to reclaim the famous botanical gardens on the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University.

The garden has been unattended since 1948 when the area was seized by Jordan in the war and Mount Scopus was set aside as an enclave visited regularly by an Israeli convoy. With the resumption of studies at the Mount Scopus campus after its liberation in the June war, the botanical garden will be replanted and reclaimed with the help of the West German students.

Israel, Zionist Movement in Appeal for Immigrants to Build Nation

JERUSALEM, July 13. (JTA) -- A manifesto calling upon "every family in the Jewish people" to participate in the upbuilding of Israel and ensuring the future of the Jewish State was made public today jointly by the Israel Government and the executive of the World Zionist Organization.

Noting that the events of recent weeks had provided "a decisive turning point in the history of the Jewish people and of Israel" the manifesto declared: "A holy duty to upbuild the country speedily and to ensure the future of the Jewish State now faces the Jewish people. The inescapable call of this hour is for aliyah of the whole people, young and old; a return to Zion of the whole House of Israel."

The statement urged that "every family in the Jewish people" participate "in this aliyah movement for the upbuilding of the land of Israel."

Referring to the historic events of last month, the manifesto declared: "The Israel Army, a people's army, daringly overcame and vanquished vast hostile forces who had gathered to exterminate Israel. The enemy siege was broken, the heritage of our ancestors liberated and Jerusalem deemed to become once more a city that is one. The fears and hopes of the entire Jewish people were identified with the fate of embattled Israel fighting for its existence."

Conditions Have Been Created for National Revival

Every Jew, the manifesto continued, "felt that not only the fate of Israel but the future of the whole Jewish people was in the balance for a second time in a generation that has witnessed both the agony of the Holocaust and the wonder of resurgence. Among the deeply stirred Jewish communities throughout the world, there was a fresh awakening of Jewish consciousness manifesting itself in a will to volunteer and participate in the struggle for Israel."

"In the present hour of deliverance, though the time of danger is not passed, new vistas have been opened and immense challenges present themselves,"

In its homeland, the manifesto continued, "the Jewish people has risen to full stature. On its own soil, conditions for national and social revival have been created. This land has become a source of inspiration for Jewish culture and education and Jewish creativity in all its aspects."

Referring to new possibilities for Israel's development, the manifesto noted that "men and women are urgently needed who will share these pioneering tasks. Israel needs capital investors for the establishment of new enterprises, men of learning and science, professional and vocational workers in all fields to place their experience and store of knowledge and knowhow at the service of their people."

Settlement Near Gaza Strip Mourns War Death of Two Brothers

TEL AVIV, July 13. (JTA) -- Niram settlement, located near the Gaza Strip border, marked a dual tragedy as memorial services were held for two brothers, members of the settlement. The elder, Amos Schwartz, was killed in action last month while leading his platoon of paratroopers attacking the Egyptian stronghold of Rafah. Oded, 18, was laid to rest today. He was killed by a mine yesterday while operating a settlement tractor. The mine was believed to have been placed by infiltrators before last month's war.

British Jews Cancel Yugoslav Vacation Because of Tito Stand on Israel

LONDON, July 13. (JTA) -- The British Maccabi, a Jewish sports organization, said today that it had cancelled plans for a summer encampment in Yugoslavia for 80 of its members.

A spokesman said that a financial loss would be incurred as a result of the cancellation but young Jews would not go camping in Yugoslavia after Marshal Tito had severed diplomatic relations with Israel and the Yugoslav press had published "scurrilous attacks" on the Jewish State.

The Maccabi encampment will be held in Rumania, the only state in the Soviet bloc which did not break off relations with Israel.

Refugees Report Scenes of Horror and Persecution in Libya

HAIFA, July 13. (JTA) -- Three Jewish refugee families numbering 15 persons arrived here from Tripoli, Libya, bringing with them accounts of horror and persecution at the hands of the Arabs in the wake of the Israeli victory last month.

The new arrivals, who did not want their identities disclosed for fear of harm to the relatives they left behind, said that after the war broke out, attacks against Jews erupted on a large scale and looting of Jewish property began. They said that at least three Jews were killed and most synagogues were destroyed. Those leaving were given one week to depart and were permitted to take with them only \$56 and 33 pounds of belongings.

Murder of Sochum Rabbi Confirmed; Attacks on Tashkent Jews Reported

NEW YORK, July 13. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today independent verification of testimony of tourists returning recently from the Soviet Union that the rabbi of Sochum, an ancient Jewish community in the Georgian Republic, was murdered recently while on his way home from his synagogue.

Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Conference, also cited other authenticated reports of atrocities, terror and vilification against Soviet Jews related to the May-June crisis and war in the Middle East.

Rabbi Miller said that Rabbi Michel Mozgorshvil of Sochum was forced into a car and abducted and that his mutilated corpse was found hanging from a tree in the Christian cemetery in Sochum the next day. Rabbi Miller said that no arrests have been made in the murder.

He said assaults on Jews have been reliably reported from Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, where a number of Jews have been seriously injured in attacks.

Rabbi Miller also reported that heavy pressures had been placed on Jewish communities and congregations to stage public meetings to condemn Israel but only one was known to have occurred -- in Dushambe, Tadjikistan -- several weeks ago.

Rabbi Miller said the physical assaults on Jews, which gave the lie to Premier Kosygin's denial of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, during his United Nations press conference here last month, were related to a campaign of anti-Israel, anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish vilification in the controlled Soviet press. He said the campaign was unleashed at the time of the Arab massing of troops on Israel's borders in May and intensified during and after the six-day June war.

"Soviet authorities have stimulated and incited a virulent anti-Semitic atmosphere in conjunction with their vicious anti-Israel policies and propaganda," Rabbi Miller declared. He added that the campaign "panders to the worst elements in Soviet society -- the anti-Semites, the bigots, the secret police and its terror apparatus and the hooligans who are ever ready to make pogroms."

Ghetto Cemetery Area in Kaunas Is To Become Industrial Area

ELIZABETH, N.J. July 13. (JTA) -- Rabbi Pinchas Teitz, an Orthodox leader, said today he had been informed that the Soviet Lithuanian Government had announced it will convert the ghetto cemetery in Kaunas into an industrial area. The Jewish community of Kaunas was given until September 15 to transfer the remains from the cemetery which has not been used since 1945.

The cemetery was established during the Nazi occupation of Kaunas when the Nazis refused to let the Jews out of the ghetto area to bury their dead in the old Jewish cemetery. Thousands of Jews who perished in Kaunas during the Nazi occupation were buried in the ghetto cemetery. There are less than a thousand Jews remaining in Kaunas today.

Constitution Subcommittee Votes for Repeal of Blaine Amendment

ALBANY, N.Y., July 13. (JTA) -- A New York State Constitutional Convention subcommittee has recommended repeal of the controversial Blaine Amendment, the clause in the existing constitution which prohibits the use of public funds for church-related schools.

The report was drafted by the subcommittee on church and state of the Committee on Bill of Rights and Suffrage. It was carried in the subcommittee by a six to one vote after a series of hearings around the state. The report will be debated in the full committee before it goes to the convention which has been charged with revision of the State Constitution.

In addition to proposing repeal of the Blaine Amendment, on which organized Jewry in the state is deeply split, the proposition would make the state constitution conform to the Federal constitution. It would do so by adding a provision that "the state or any political subdivision thereof shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." A number of Federal aid to education programs, which include assistance to pupils of religious and other non-public schools, have been based on the assumption that they do not conflict with that Federal constitutional church-and-state position.

The Bill of Rights Committee of the state convention was expected to add a provision to the repeal proposal report to enable state taxpayers to bring suit to test the legality of appropriations aiding non-public schools.

Twenty New Jewish Chaplains Take Over Military Services

NEW YORK, July 13. (JTA) -- Twenty new Jewish military chaplains have entered the U.S. armed forces in time to plan High Holy Days services which they will conduct for Jewish military personnel, Rabbi Selwyn D. Ruslander, chairman of the commission on Jewish chaplaincy of the National Jewish Welfare Board, announced today.

The new chaplains, who will replace those Jewish chaplains who have completed their tours of duty and have been released from active service, bring the total number of full-time military and Veterans Administration Jewish chaplains on duty to 72. There are also more than 250 civilian rabbis currently serving as part-time chaplains. Fourteen of the new chaplains have gone into the Army; four are assigned to the Air Force and two will serve in the Navy.