



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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No. 161

Round-the-Clock Curfew Proclaimed in El Arish; Tension Subsides in Nablus, Bethlehem

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20. (JTA) -- An around-the-clock curfew was in effect today in El Arish, the only major city in the Israeli-occupied Sinai Peninsula, after a general strike and demonstration by the city's Arab residents against Israel. A search, now under way to find the inciters of the crippling shut-down, is reportedly concentrating on the 5,000 Egyptians living in the area.

At the same time, Israeli authorities persuaded the Arab Mayor of Nablus, in the occupied west bank section of the Jordan River, to reverse a decision on Friday to resign. They arrested 11 Arabs in Bethlehem who signed a declaration of loyalty to Jordan's King Hussein.

Occupation officials in Old Jerusalem permitted yesterday the re-opening of four shops which were padlocked as a penalty for the participation of their Arab owners in a one-day general strike in the Old City two weeks ago. An Arab-owned bus transport firm, which had its license revoked for the same reason, was allowed to resume operations. The Arab entrepreneurs expressed regret for their actions in a letter to the Israeli military commander.

Another meeting with well-known Arabs and merchants took place in the old section of Jerusalem at which the commander of the central front, Brig. Gavish issued a stern warning against repetition of the strike of two weeks ago which almost paralyzed the Old City, and against any other demonstrations of disobedience to the Israeli occupation.

The demonstration in El Arish, on the peninsula's northern coast, was the first since Israeli troops seized it in the June war. It was preceded by distribution of leaflets yesterday calling for a general strike. Arab merchants responded by refusing to open their shops. Other Arabs placed rocks to block the main street. An Egyptian flag was hoisted.

Israeli security forces quickly removed the roadblocks and the flag and the military governor imposed a curfew which reportedly will remain in effect until the instigators of the demonstration and strike are found. A large number of Egyptians were trapped in El Arish when Israeli troops captured it and Egypt has refused to readmit them. The strike and demonstration coincided with the arrival of a number of Israelis after El Arish was declared open for visitors with no permits required.

Israeli Authorities Release Arab Notables Arrested in Bethlehem

The arrested Bethlehem Arabs were freed yesterday after an investigation disclosed they had been forced to sign the loyalty statement under threat. They pledged not to participate anymore in anti-Israel subversive activities. They included a member of the Jordanian Parliament and three doctors. Their declaration had been broadcast last week over Amman Radio in a statement which gave the name of the signers.

Tension reportedly subsided in Nablus today after the discussions with the Mayor, who resigned during the weekend, ignoring a Jordanian regulation specifying that he was required to complete his term which ends on September 1. The resignation followed issuance of an Israeli occupation order extending indefinitely the tenure of all west bank Arab officials. All members of the Nablus Municipal Council resigned with the Mayor. He was persuaded to rescind his resignation and agreed to cooperate with the Israeli authorities, resuming his duties this morning.

The occupation authorities also reported that teachers in Nablus, who had initially refused to accept Israeli salaries to continue teaching, also changed their minds. Nablus schools will open September 1 on schedule in Nablus at the same time that Israeli schools do.

The Israeli semi-official Arab-language daily, "El Yaum," was banned for distribution in the west bank area. No reason was given for the ban but it was believed that Israeli authorities objected to an article reporting illegal trade movements across the Jordan River between the west bank section and Jordan. Foreign correspondents in Jordan have been reporting that truckloads of West Bank farm produce have been moved across the River for weeks with both Israeli and Jordanian authorities tacitly ignoring the brisk trade.

Arab Repatriation from Jordan into Israeli-Held Territory Started; 3,000 to Cross Daily

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20. (JTA) -- About 2,000 Arabs crossed today from Jordan into the Israeli-held west bank of the Jordan River in the first major repatriation of Arab refugees to their homes in the Israeli occupied section. Beginning tomorrow, about 3,000 will be readmitted daily by Israel until the deadline of August 31, set by Israel.

Officials of the International Red Cross said that under that schedule, it would be impossible for all of the 170,000 refugees seeking to return to do so. The officials indicated that they had asked Israel to extend the deadline, perhaps to October 31.

The actual movement began on a small scale Friday when 344 of an expected 1,000 Arabs crossed the river at two points, the wrecked Allenby bridge and a smaller bridge farther north. They were assisted by Red Cross representatives. Repatriation movements were halted yesterday because of the Jewish Sabbath. Jordanian officials have asserted that 200,000 former west bank residents had registered to return. The refugees were taken by Israeli army trucks direct to their homes after being given food by the Israelis.

Applications have been getting a stringent security check, aimed at barring all convicted criminals, known or suspected agitators and Arabs of dubious character. One reason for the stringency, according to Israeli officials, has been a determined effort by Jordanian authorities to induce the refugees to return to occupied territory to be "thorns in the side of the aggressor."

U.N. Secretary-General Seeks Additional \$10,000,000 for Arab Refugees

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 20. (JTA) -- The United Nations Relief and Works Administration will require an additional \$10,000,000 this year -- in addition to its budget of \$37,000,000 for the year -- to cover emergency relief and long-term rehabilitation expenditures for the new Arab refugees cast adrift by the six-day Arab-Israeli war. This was a major point in a 13-page report on humanitarian problems in the Middle East issued yesterday by Secretary-General U Thant.

In the absence of a political settlement in the area, Mr. U Thant's report stated, more than 300,000 displaced Arabs face a future of "uncertainties and imponderables." But the Secretary-General also noted that by the beginning of August, the immediate minimal needs of the displaced persons for food, shelter and health services had been met -- although "arrangements were still precarious and needed strengthening and regularizing."

Mr. Thant's report was based on information supplied by Commissioner General of UNRWA Laurence Michelmore and by Nils-Goran Gussing, the special representative on humanitarian problems. The Secretary-General avoided judging the "political issues" between Israel and the Arab states, but he pointed out that the displacement of 322,000 Arabs who had fled into Syria, Jordan and the United Arab Republic during Arab-Israeli hostilities had greatly intensified the Palestine refugee problem.

The number of refugees who registered with UNRWA as having moved during or after the hostilities was about 113,000, the report stated, with the largest number -- about 93,000 -- fleeing from the west bank of the Jordan to the east bank. UNRWA, which has expended more than \$580,000,000 since it was created in 1950 after Israel's War for Independence in 1948, had faced a deficit in voluntary contributions even before the recent war. Mr. U Thant noted that most of the help consisting of food, medical supplies, tents and other materials, sent voluntarily by governments and organizations, was of limited duration. He urged that longer-term assistance be supplied from the same sources in view of the newly-created situation following the war.

Discussing the activities of Mr. Gussing, the report referred to his consultations with authorities in Middle East countries on the question of the status and well-being of minority groups. Mr. Gussing, the report notes, visited eight of the ten Israeli prisoners of war captured by Egypt during the hostilities, but it contains no comment on their condition. The U.N. representative also visited the Egyptian prisoners of war held in Israel at Athlit.

Washington Hears of Hints by Egyptians on Suez Deal; Far from What Israel May Accept

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20. (JTA) -- Hints from unidentified Egyptian officials that Egypt might reopen the Suez Canal and allow unimpeded passage to Israeli ships in the Tiran Strait in exchange for an Israeli pullback from the Sinai Peninsula were reported here yesterday.

It was noted that the purported Egyptian offer fell far short of Israel's demands for Arab recognition, an end to the proclaimed Arab state of belligerence against Israel, and free passage of Israeli flag ships through both waterways. Israel now controls the Tiran Strait and has troops stationed on the east bank of the Suez Canal where no traffic of either country is now moving under an interim agreement arranged by the United Nations. That agreement expires on August 27.

Some diplomats here reportedly were encouraged by the apparent willingness of Egypt to put out any feelers at all which represented a presumed readiness by some Egyptian officials to make a more realistic appraisal of Egypt's political and economic problems created by its disastrous defeat in the June war. However, some United States officials indicated doubts that the hints represented the views of President Nasser of Egypt. They noted that reports indicated that Egyptian officials remained adamant about rejecting any agreement which would allow use of the Suez Canal to Israeli flag ships.

Czech Government Fails to Find Trace of Charles Jordan Who Disappeared in Prague

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- The mysterious disappearance in Prague last Wednesday of Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, continued to puzzle the State Department today, as U.S. Embassy officials in Czechoslovakia reported that there was still no trace of him. The Czechoslovak Government assured the embassy that police authorities were searching for the missing JDC leader. Czech officials denied that Mr. Jordan had been detained.

American officials who are in touch with the Czechoslovak Foreign Office reported today from Prague that they had no theories to account for Mr. Jordan's disappearance. Mr. Jordan, who was on vacation, arrived with his wife in Prague last Monday as tourists and intended to visit also the Soviet Union. Mrs. Jordan intends to remain in Prague while the authorities there are searching for her husband.

The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry informed the U.S. Embassy, it was reported here, that the search in Prague had produced no information and that a nation-wide hunt for the missing JDC official had been ordered. The State Department said that Edward W. Burgess, the American charge d'Affaires in Prague, called on the Czech Foreign Ministry to stress that the safety and whereabouts of Mr. Jordan were matters of "gravest concern" to the United States Government.

(Louis Broido, JDC chairman, said in New York that he had "no idea" as to why Mr. Jordan might be missing. Mrs. Jordan said in Prague that her husband left the hotel room Wednesday evening to buy an American newspaper and did not return. After several hours, she called the American Embassy and that since then "a check has been made with the police and all the hospitals but nothing turned up. I don't know what could have happened to him," she stated.)

Before arriving in Prague, the Jordans had visited Hungary and Rumania and had planned to go on to the Soviet Union.

Two American Jewish Tourists Deported from Soviet Union; One is a N.Y. Rabbi

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- The Soviet Union expelled two American Jewish tourists, one a rabbi, because they had publicly criticized Arab and Soviet anti-Israel policies, it was learned here this weekend from official sources. Rabbi Solomon Freilich, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., was deported August 13. The name of the other tourist is not yet available here.

Rabbi Freilich planned to visit Bucharest and Budapest after his visit to the Soviet Ukraine. He was restricted to Kiev after being charged with violating Soviet hospitality and criticizing Soviet leadership. The rabbi arrived in the Soviet Union on August 8. Both Rabbi Freilich and the other expelled person were permitted to telephone the U.S. Embassy before being placed aboard outbound planes. (Rabbi Freilich arrived in Israel yesterday.) U.S. sources noted an increased sensitivity by Communist authorities to contact between foreign Jews and Soviet citizens.

President Johnson Reaffirms His Five-Point Program for Peace in the Middle East

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- President Johnson reaffirmed yesterday his position in support of the "five-point program" he outlined June 19 for peace in the Middle East. The President restated his position on the basic requisites for a peaceful settlement during a meeting with National Commander Malcolm A. Tarlov of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Mr. Tarlov called at the White House to see the President in connection with the 72nd annual national convention of the JWV.

The five points enunciated June 19 included the "recognized right of national life, justice for the refugees, innocent maritime passage, limits on the wasteful and destructive arms race" in the Middle East.

The United States Government meanwhile informed the JWV that there were "no plans for any new training for military personnel for any of the countries which have broken relations with the United States." This took place when Mr. Tarlov called on Assistant Secretary of State Lucius D. Battle to protest published reports that the numbers of Arab military officers to be trained here was being increased from 326 to 633.

Mr. Battle reassured Tarlov in person and by letter that no new programs were to be undertaken with Arab states that severed relations. He said 20 Arab officers were still here from Sudan and Iraq, both of which broke off relations with the United States in June. Mr. Battle stressed that they "will depart as soon as their existing training is finished."

In an address before the convention banquet, Gideon Rafael, who served as Israeli representative to the United Nations during the Middle East war, emphasized that Israel would agree only to direct face-to-face peace negotiations with the Arabs. He reiterated that Jerusalem was not negotiable.

Ambassador Rafael charged that Russia was directly responsible for arming the Arabs and causing the war. He urged measures to restrict the flow of Soviet arms into the region. He also traced the developments in the Middle East from Egypt's closure of the Strait of Tiran to the current situation.

The convention delegates endorsed for the third year the United States policy in Viet Nam but, for the first time, the resolution noted that the war had resulted in "suffering and death to the Vietnamese on both sides."

German Chancellor Meets with U.S. Jewish Leaders; Pledges Continued Support to Israel

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- A delegation of American Jewish leaders, meeting with German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger here, received a pledge of "continued German support of Israel's efforts to achieve peace and security in the Middle East," it was reported today. Chancellor Kiesinger's statement came following an expression of appreciation by the American Jewish leaders for the Federal Republic's stand on the Middle East situation.

The German Chancellor also said his country would vigorously support Israel's request for associate membership in the European Common Market, according to a spokesman for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Germany's policy in the Middle East crisis, the Chancellor was reported to have told the American Jewish leaders, was rooted in the "strong sympathy and support of the German people for Israel."

The Jewish leaders also raised the question of extending the West German statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes, which is due to expire December 31, 1969. Chancellor Kiesinger assured the delegation that his government was concerned with the problem and that the matter would be dealt with soon on a cabinet level. The Jewish delegation included Rabbi Israel Miller of New York, acting chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and chairman of the American Zionist Council and Morris B. Abram of New York, president of the American Jewish Committee.

International Conference of Jewish Communal Workers Opens in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- Israel will do everything possible to introduce the principles of freedom and democracy in its occupied areas but these efforts must not be interpreted as a sign of weakness by Arabs who are not used to freedom, the International Conference of Jewish Communal Service was told here last night.

The statement was made by Dr. Yosef Burg, the Israeli Minister of Social Welfare, in an address to 500 delegates, of whom 300 are from abroad, including more than 100 from the United States. The opening of the four-day conference was dominated by the mystery disappearance in Prague of Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, who was to have addressed the conference. Mr. Jordan was in Israel until about 10 days ago and then left for Europe.

The American delegates included a mission of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, headed by its president, Louis J. Fox. The mission members have been studying Israel's new postwar problems for the past 10 days. Those attending the opening session included President Zalman Shazar and Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive.

Delegation of British Trade Unions Meets in Israel with Eshkol, Alon, Becker

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- Two British trade union leaders met today with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Labor Minister Yigal Alon and other Israeli leaders during a three-day visit to Israel. They were Frank Cousins, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, and Fred Hayday, chairman of the Trade Union International Committee. They came here as a two-man delegation of the British Trade Unions.

They met also with Aharon Becker, secretary general of the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, and with Foreign Minister Abba Eban, with whom they discussed various problems stemming from the new situation in the Middle East since the June war. The labor leaders also visited the Golan Heights in occupied Syria and the west bank.

3,000 Students to Attend Eight Secondary Schools in Israel Built by U.J.A. Fund

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- More than 3,000 students will attend this academic year eight secondary schools built in development towns in Israel by the Education Fund of the United Jewish Appeal, two officials of the fund reported today.

Charles J. Bensley, president, and Ralph I. Goldman, director of the fund issued the report after meetings with members of the Israel Cabinet and the Jewish Agency. The report said that in the three years since the fund was created, it had raised \$18,500,000. The projects of the fund are administered by the Jewish Agency and the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

Isaac Deutscher, Noted Writer on Russia Dies in Rome; Came from Hassidic Family

ROME, Aug. 20, (JTA) -- Isaac Deutscher, noted writer and Marxist theoretician, author of political biographies of Trotsky and Stalin and of other works on the Soviet Union and its development, died at the age of 60, while on a visit here. A resident of Great Britain, Deutscher was born in Krakow, Poland, to a Hassidic family of printers and publishers of religious books. He attended a yeshiva, took up secular Hebrew studies and wrote Hebrew poetry before turning to radical writings.

A prominent Communist theoretician between the wars, he later left the Communist Party and Poland and, after a period in France, he settled in England. He took no part in Jewish life.



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LAST MINUTE NEWS

Body of Charles Jordan, J.D.C. Executive Vice-Chairman, Found in Prague River

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20. (JTA) -- The body of Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee who disappeared last Wednesday evening in Prague after he left his hotel room to buy a newspaper (see Page 3), was discovered today in the Zoltava River in Prague, the State Department reported.

The body was found at 1:30 P.M. local time by a civilian in a rowboat, floating at a water barrier downstream from the May 1 Bridge. The civilian notified the police who informed the American Embassy. U.S. Consul Norbert J. Krieg viewed the body on the river bank and identified the clothing, the jewelry and the general features as those of Jordan. The cause of death was not immediately determined. Mrs. Jordan, who had remained in Prague during the search for her husband, was notified.

Louis Broido, J.D.C. Chairman, Mourns the Death of Jordan

NEW YORK, Aug. 20. (JTA) -- Louis Broido, chairman of the JDC, declared today:

"We are grieved beyond adequate expression at the news from Prague of the death of our executive vice-chairman Charles H. Jordan. We have no information as yet on the cause of his death. We are continuing our inquiries and a representative of the JDC is now on his way to Prague.

"The Joint Distribution Committee has operated for 53 years all over the world without any political or other purpose than to relieve the distressed, rescue those who have been in or are facing danger, feed and educate children, care for the aged, and to do all the things necessary to relieve those oppressed by famine or by other vicissitudes of life.

"For over half of that time, Charles H. Jordan was a tireless worker on our staff. He spent his life helping Jews all over the world. He rose to be the director-general of our European operations and two years ago became executive vice-chairman in our New York office. His contacts and his efforts were world-wide. His knowledge of relief problems made him an outstanding expert in the field, regarded as such by our government and many other governments.

"His death is a great loss to us and to thousands of people everywhere. For all of us in the JDC, as well as the many thousands who helped to support the JDC through the United Jewish Appeal, this loss is a call to greater effort and greater sacrifices for those to whom he devoted his life.

"Throughout the last few tragic days we have had the most wonderful support of our State Department, our embassy in Prague and of the White House. We are deeply grateful to them for their profound interest in the welfare of an American citizen."

Statements mourning the tragic death of Mr. Jordan and stressing his service to human and Jewish causes were issued also by major American Jewish organizations, including the United Jewish Appeal, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress.

Mr. Jordan, who was born in Philadelphia in 1908, attended the Schools of Social Work in Philadelphia and New York and studied at the University of Berlin. He began his work with the JDC in 1941 as director for the Caribbean area, with headquarters in Havana. After serving two years in that post, he enlisted in the Navy. Later he rejoined the JDC at the end of the war as director of the Far Eastern activities, with headquarters in Shanghai where he supervised a JDC program of aid to 15,000 Jews who escaped from the Nazis.

He was transferred to Paris in 1948 to take care of the emigration activities conducted by the JDC. He became assistant director general of the organization in 1951 and was promoted to the post of director general in 1955. He was decorated by the French and Norwegian governments in recognition of his services on behalf of refugees.

From 1959 to 1961, he served as cochairman of the International Committee for World Refugee Year, which is sponsored by the United Nations. He was elected chairman of the governing board of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies at its creation in 1962 and served as chairman of its Commission on Refugees. Earlier this year he was elected chairman of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service.