



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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Vol. XXXIV ~ Fiftieth Year

Tuesday, August 22, 1967

No. 162

Czech Govt. Attributes Jordan's Death to Drowning; Claims Autopsy Showed No Violence

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- United States officials said today that the Czechoslovak Government conducted an autopsy on the body of Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee without notifying United States diplomatic authorities in time for them to attend. The Czech authorities announced that it had been established that the cause of death was drowning and that there were no marks of violence on the body.

The autopsy by a Czech Government pathologist was held from 7 a.m. to 9:20 a.m., Prague time, today. The United States Embassy in Prague was not notified until a few minutes before the autopsy was concluded, making it impossible for the American consul to arrive to witness the proceedings. The consul arrived five minutes after the postmortem operation had ended, having been given only 20 minutes notice, although United States authorities had pointedly asked, on the day after the body was found that they be notified, so they might attend.

After protests by the United States, Czechoslovakia agreed to a second autopsy. It is now being conducted by Prof. Bernard Hardmeyer, deputy director of the Legal Medical Institute of Zurich, Switzerland, who flew to Prague for the purpose. Dr. Hardmeyer was accompanied by Dr. Alexander Gonik, of the JDC staff in Geneva.

American medical authorities said in Washington today that it was extremely difficult to determine facts involving possible homicide after an autopsy is performed. The chances for gaining evidence in a second autopsy are lessened because of the obliteration of possible evidence inherent in any autopsy.

It was reported here that Mr. Jordan's nephew viewed the body last night and identified it by rings and other indicators. It appeared that Mr. Jordan had not been the victim of robbery. Mr. Jordan disappeared Wednesday evening when he left his hotel room in Prague to buy an American newspaper.

J.D.C. Refuses to Accept Czech Explanations of Jordan's Death

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Louis Broido, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, issued a statement today emphasizing that "it is absolutely impossible for us to accept the explanations of the Czechoslovak Government concerning the death of Charles H. Jordan."

"When we heard yesterday that the autopsy on Mr. Jordan was to be performed at 7 a.m.," Mr. Broido stated, "we requested a delay until the arrival of Prof. Bernard Hardmeyer, deputy director of the Legal and Medical Institute of Zurich, Switzerland and Dr. Alexander Gonik, head of the JDC medical department in Geneva. The fact the Czechs refused to delay the autopsy, we find to be a highly suspicious circumstance, so suspicious that we cannot escape the conclusion that the Czech Government is covering up a vile crime, of which they must have had knowledge.

"In view of the implications contained in some of the reports, I want to state that I spoke with Charles Jordan in Israel less than two weeks ago. At that time, we discussed a number of future JDC programs and special programs. Mr. Jordan then showed a lively and vital interest in them. In addition, a number of his friends as well as the JDC staff have received postcards, mailed by him from Prague on the very day he disappeared. These postcards sound normal and cheerful.

"In view of the circumstances of Mr. Jordan's death, we are sending to Prague today as our representative Mr. Seymour Rubin, counsel for the JDC. Mr. Rubin is a former general counsel of the Agency for International Development, and as a former assistant legal advisor to the Department of State he undertook a number of missions for the late President Kennedy, with the rank of Special Ambassador. Mr. Rubin is now in private practice in Washington.

"We in JDC are determined to pursue every investigation with the cooperation of our State Department until we have determined precisely what took place. We owe this to the memory of a great and good humanitarian," Mr. Broido concluded.

U.S. Urged to Seek Inquiry by Impartial Body into Jordan's Death

NEW YORK, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- The United States Government was urged today to demand from the Czechoslovak Government a full inquiry by an impartial body into all circumstances of Mr. Jordan's death in Prague. The request was made by the American Jewish Committee, which expressed "shock" at the tragic death of the JDC vice-chairman. At the same time, the Jewish Congress demanded that

an investigation into the disappearance and tragic death of Mr. Jordan be conducted by the Czech authorities at the highest level.

Major American Jewish organizations today continued to express their grief over the sudden death of Mr. Jordan. A statement issued by Max M. Fisher, General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, emphasized that "thousands of Jews" in many countries owe their survival to his personal ministrations. "These activities and achievements for which he has been honored abroad, as well as in this country, have more than earned him a deserved place in the history of our times. They have helped forge an indispensable link in the chain of Jewish life," the statement said.

Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, expressing grief on behalf of the officers, directors and staff of his organization said: "Mr. Jordan, a colleague and friend for over two decades, had given devoted leadership to the cause of Jewish survival and help in the upbuilding of the state of Israel. During his long and distinguished career there have been few crises in which his wise counsel and deep human concern have not helped to rally American Jewry to supreme effort. His courage and fighting spirit in the service of great humanitarian causes, loyalty and dedication will long be remembered by all those privileged to have known him and worked with him."

Carlos I. Israels, president of United Hias Service, in a statement on behalf of the officers, board of directors and the staff, mourned the death of Mr. Jordan and emphasized his "zeal and dedication" to humanitarian work. A similar statement was issued by Murray I. Gurfein, president of the International Council on Jewish Social and Welfare Services of which Mr. Jordan was a founder. Statements mourning the untimely death of Mr. Jordan were issued today also by the American ORT, American Friends of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, and other Jewish groups.

Eban Does Not Anticipate American or Soviet Initiative to Solve Arab Israel Deadlock

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban was reported today to have told the Cabinet that, despite widespread press reports of Arab peace feelers, Israel was not anticipating any Soviet or United States initiatives, separately or jointly, to solve the Arab-Israel deadlock.

Among such reports was one to the effect that President Nasser of Egypt had sent emissaries to Western countries with a proposal that Egypt would agree to unimpeded Israeli use of the Strait of Tiran if Israel would withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula. The Strait has been under Israeli control since Israeli forces seized Sharm El Sheikh, at the southern tip of the Peninsula in the second day of the June war. The position dominates the Strait.

It was indicated that Israel's view is that the United States can use its influence in Israel, as events connected with the June crisis and war indicated but that the Soviets cannot or will not persuade the Arabs to give up their intransigent opposition to realistic peace negotiations and that the Soviets also will not abandon their support of the Arabs in that intransigence. Israel has indicated that its ships must be assured free passage of the Suez Canal by Egypt as part of a general peace settlement before any evacuation can be considered.

Funds Confiscated from Jews Used by Syria for Intelligence Activities Against Israel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Syrian intelligence activities on the Israeli front were financed mainly with funds confiscated from Syrian Jews, the Israeli Army spokesman reported today on the basis of captured Syrian documents.

The army released a pamphlet containing photostatic copies of Syrian intelligence documents seized by Israeli forces when they captured Kuneitra, a key military center in the Golan Heights which troops conquered in the June war. One of the documents dealt with details of a changeover in commands of the Syrian intelligence, including a budget for the new commander. The budget included reference to an item of about 20,000 Syrian lira -- about \$5,000 -- which was listed as confiscated from Syrian Jews.

Extremists Conduct Violent Anti-Jewish Campaign in Morocco; Jews 'Condemn' Israel

CASABLANCA, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- A violent campaign against Moroccan Jews has been launched here by Istiqlal, the extremist, nationalist political party. The party's organ, L'Opinion, which recently ran the infamous canard, The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, declared in its current issue that Jewish functionaries in the Moroccan Government are "notorious Zionists." It accused a Jewish hotel director at Tangier of "pro-Israel sympathies."

A number of Moroccan Jewish intellectuals published a statement today condemning the "aggression of Israel against the Arabs and Israel's expansionist policy." "Keenly devoted to our country, Morocco, and to its Jewish minority," the statement added, "we affirm strongly that Zionism cannot be our ideology and that Israel cannot be considered as the motherland of Jews or even as their second motherland." The statement asked Moroccan Jews to battle against the Zionist ideology.

Meanwhile, another member of the Moroccan Rabbinical Tribunal, Rabbi Yoshue Oliel, of Rabat, is leaving this country to settle in Israel, it was learned here today. Several other rabbinical judges are also preparing to leave Morocco. Rabbi Oliel's departure will still further decimate the rabbinical leadership in this country.

Dayan Visits Nablus; Checks on Measures Taken to Restore Normal Conditions

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israel's Defense Minister, visited Nablus in the occupied west bank yesterday. He said he came to see at first hand the measures Israeli occupation authorities were taking to restore conditions to normal.

The Nablus mayor and city council resigned during the weekend as a protest against the Israeli occupation but the mayor was persuaded to rescind his resignation. Nablus teachers, who had rejected Israeli salaries to continue teaching, also changed their minds and agreed to report for teaching duties on September 1, when schools will open throughout Israel and the occupied areas.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials reported today that Israel plans to sell to the United States Army in Europe some of its farm surpluses, including melons and grapes from the occupied west bank section. Prior to the June war and Israeli occupation, west bank farmers had been selling fruits and vegetables to Arab countries. In recent weeks, some of the produce has been ferried across the Jordan River into Jordan. The officials said that the continuation of such farm exports to the U.S. Army would depend on Israel's ability to meet timetables and quality standards of the U.S. Army.

Israel Cabinet Decides Not to Extend Deadline for Arab Repatriation from Jordan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet reaffirmed last night an earlier decision fixing August 31 as the deadline for the return of west bank repatriates to their homes from Jordan to which they fled in the June war. The Cabinet acted after hearing a statement from Foreign Minister Abba Eban that Israel had not received any official request for extension of the deadline.

Premier Levi Eshkol said the Government had already moved the deadline from August 10 to August 31 and that no further extension would be granted. The issue arose after International Red Cross officials told Israeli officials on Friday that it would be impossible to arrange for the return to the west bank of all refugees who have registered for repatriation by the August 31 deadline. Israeli officials expressed readiness to accept returnees at a daily rate of 3,000, but Jordanian officials have lagged far behind in arrangements for return of that number of refugees daily.

Crossings began today at 9 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. as Israeli officials had suggested. Officials here expressed doubt that the Jordanians will manage to bring to the Jordan River for crossing even the 3,000 agreed-upon number each day.

Israeli Military Orders Heavy Punishment for Desecration of Holy Places of Any Religion

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- The military command of the central area, which includes Jerusalem and the occupied west bank, issued an ordinance today providing punishment of up to seven years in prison for desecration of any holy place and up to five years imprisonment for any person who, without authorization, prevented access by any individual to his religious holy place. The Israel Government enacted general legislation for the holy places last month.

In a related development, it was indicated that the Israel Supreme Court will rule soon on a petition from a former member of the Jewish underground in pre-state days, who protested a ruling by Israeli authorities barring entrance by Jews to the Temple Mount in Old Jerusalem without permission from its Moslem guardians. The Mount, where the ancient Temple once stood, is now occupied by the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest shrines.

A Ministerial Committee ruled last week that no Jewish public prayer meetings could be held in the portion of the Mount fenced off for Moslems. That ruling cancelled a prior decision by Brig. Shlomo Goren, the Chief Chaplain of the Israeli Army, who had announced that a Jewish public prayer would be held at the site on Saturday. The Cabinet decision was based both on Moslem sensitivities and on a ruling by the Chief Rabbis to the effect that no Jew could enter the Mount because he might inadvertently step into the holiest of holy sections where only the High Priest was allowed when the Temple was in function.

163,000 Israelis Petition Eshkol Not to Evacuate Occupied Arab Territories

JERUSALEM, Aug. 21. (JTA) -- A petition with 163,000 signatures, which urged the Government not to evacuate any of the Arab territories occupied in the June war was submitted today to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

The petition was initiated by the Free Center faction in Israel's Parliament. The faction is made up of Knesset members who broke away from the Herut Party earlier this year. The number of signatories reflects roughly the strength of the Free Center and Herut parties in Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Transport Ministry reported today that a powerful automatic lighthouse has been put into operation on a coral island in the Tiran Strait to make possible night navigation through the strait. The Ministry was aided by the Israeli Navy in the installation. Use of the island, called Gordon's Reef, for night navigation guidance has been limited by the low-lying nature of the island which is sometimes submerged. The lighthouse, operated by a photo-electric cell has a radius of eight miles.