

**Report Eshkol Will Ask Johnson To Sell Israel 50 Phantom Fighter-Bombers**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Government sources refused today to discuss reports from abroad that Prime Minister Levi Eshkol would ask President Johnson to sell Israel 50 supersonic Phantom jet fighter-bombers. Mr. Eshkol is coming to the United States in February to inaugurate the 1968 Israel bond campaign and will be a guest of President Johnson at Blair House for two days of talks on questions of mutual concern.

Israel has a great need for the American craft in view of the continuing embargo on shipments to Israel of the French-built Mirage V fighter-bomber which is the backbone of the Israel Air Force. Gen. de Gaulle's continued refusal to release the planes that Israel had bought in France and partially paid for while, reportedly, permitting Iraq to acquire the planes, has intensified the need for Israel to secure an alternative source of equipment.

(In Washington, Sen. Jacob K. Javits, N.Y. Rep., told the Senate today that the United States should assume the responsibility for replacing France as prime source of arms for Israel. He said that "it seems clear that President de Gaulle is determined to close off this source despite the prevailing sentiments to the contrary of his own countrymen" and that, therefore, "the United States in all likelihood will have to become the prime source of Israel's security needs." He said it would be "a pure case of irresponsibility if we did not do so.")

Member of de Gaulle Cabinet Says Embargo Should Apply to All or None

PARIS, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Former Premier Edgar Faure, who is presently Minister of Agriculture, implicitly criticized President de Gaulle's one-sided lifting of France's Middle East arms embargo in favor of the Arabs when he declared in an interview with the weekly magazine Paris Match today that "it seems desirable that the embargo should apply to all parties or to none."

Mr. Faure, who has apparently been under pressure to renounce de Gaulle's anti-Israel policies, said, however, that while the Egyptian blockade of the Gulf of Akaba which sparked the war last June was "regrettable," that act "could have been solved by a juridical procedure and France's position at the U.N. follows the logic of such a policy." Mr. Faure declared that "even for the friend of Israel that I am, there is no reason why I should have resigned."

In another development, the Emir Bedhir Khan, foreign representative of the Kurdish people, a separatist minority in Iraq, addressed an open letter to President de Gaulle today protesting reports that France will ship Mirage jet fighter planes to Iraq.

Meanwhile, Pierre Vianson Ponte, political editor of the newspaper, Le Monde, warned that "de Gaulle's recent declaration on Israel and the Jews may well leave a deep and lasting scar on France." He said that numerous leaders of the Gaullist movement were prepared to join the opposition as a result of the General's remarks.

The committee of intellectuals for a negotiated solution to the Israel-Arab conflict was also critical of de Gaulle's statements at a meeting here today. The committee approved the British sponsored Security Council resolution on the Middle East as encouraging negotiations but thought that the refugee problem should be first on the agenda.

Newsweek Says French Intelligence Probing 'Jewish Influences' On French Press

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Newsweek magazine reported today that "French Government intelligence services have been investigating 'Jewish influences' and the role of 'pro-Israeli' Jews and non-Jews in the French press" and that "a similar investigation probably was carried out in the French Air Force after a number of pilots and high ranking officers showed outspoken sympathy for Israel during the early days of the Six-Day War."

"In addition," the magazine said, "there is speculation that 'Jewish and/or Zionist influences' in the French nuclear military establishment are being investigated -- and that rules for the French atomic program may be changed to exclude Jews suspected of pro-Israeli sympathies." Newsweek said that de Gaulle was "infuriated" by what he considered pro-Israel coverage of the June war and privately complained that he was surrounded by a "nest of Jews."

One Israeli Killed, Four Wounded in Clash With El Fatah Near Ben-Shemen

TEL AVIV, Dec. 12 (JTA)—One Israeli soldier was killed and four wounded in a clash with El Fatah marauders near the Ben-Shemen Village and agricultural school last night. One of the raiders was killed in the exchange of fire. Troops continued the search today for the three raiders who escaped. Ben-Shemen is a few miles northeast of Lydda. Large quantities of explosive charges and detonators were found nearby, and also a Russian assault gun of the Klachnikoff type.

British Reporter Says Russians Have Completely Taken Over Egyptian Army Training

LONDON, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Soviet Russia is not only re-arming Egypt but has the training of Egyptian armed forces completely in its hands through huge cadres of technicians and instructors now on Egyptian soil and a training and planning mission reportedly headed by 15 Soviet generals attached to a combined Soviet-Egyptian headquarters, Clare Hollingworth reported from Cairo today to the London Daily Telegraph. But the Russians, she said, "insist on keeping their finger on the trigger of the sophisticated offensive non-nuclear weapons" that they have supplied to Egypt and demand the same control over weapons supplied to Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Algeria and even to Jordan "should the Russians, as everyone expects, begin to supply them with arms."

Miss Hollingworth reported that there are 3,000 Russians, Czechs, Bulgarians and Poles in Egypt and another 1,000 instructors training Egyptian troops in and around the Suez Canal zone. "There is no doubt, even to the most casual observer, that the morale of Egyptian forces has increased enormously since the period of intensive training with the Russians began," Miss Hollingworth reported, noting that other Russian groups are at work in plants near Cairo where "new Russian weapons are assembled." She said that, so far, the Russians have not required Egypt to pay for the new arms.

British Foreign Office Says Security Council Resolution Is 'Balanced' Document

LONDON, Dec. 12 (JTA)—The Foreign Office today defended the British-sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution on the Middle East which was adopted unanimously last month as a "balanced" document which states the principles on which a Middle East settlement should be based but "does not call" for Israeli withdrawal in advance of acceptable arrangements for Israel's security."

The Foreign Office statement was contained in a letter to the Board of Deputies of British Jews which had earlier expressed misgivings over certain provisions of the resolution. The letter stated in part:

"Israeli withdrawal is balanced by termination of all claims of states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threats or acts of force. Furthermore, the necessity for guaranteeing freedom of passage through international waterways is also specifically mentioned. The resolution states the principles on which a settlement should be based but it does not call for Israeli withdrawal in advance of acceptable arrangements to provide for Israel's security in accordance with the balancing provisions."

Postmaster-General Edward Short declared here today that while "relations between Britain and Israel took a dive last June, largely through misunderstandings," Britain's relations with Israel "are based on principles, unlike the relations of a Western European country that shall remain nameless," Mr. Short, the keynote speaker at the annual luncheon of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce, and who served last month as Britain's official representative at Balfour Day celebrations in Israel, was obviously referring to France.

Common Market Again Postpones Action On Israeli Bid for Association

BRUSSELS, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Israel's bid for association with the European Economic Community came up today at a meeting of the six member nations currently underway here but was deferred to a meeting of the Council of Ministers scheduled for an unspecified date following the New Year holiday. It was reported that almost all of the participants favored preferential treatment for Israel but agreed that the question required further study.

Trade Mission Chief Says Rumania Seeks Friendship of All in Middle East

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Rumania's Foreign Trade Minister Girogio Ciura was received today by Foreign Minister Abba Eban. He told Mr. Eban that his country's policy was one of friendship toward all states in the Middle East and said that he is greatly impressed by Israel's development and the diligence of its population. Mr. Ciura arrived here yesterday at the head of a delegation that will negotiate air, tourism and trade agreements with Israel.

Israel Sets Up Facilities for Return of West Bank Arabs But Return Lags

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Israel has designated Mondays and Thursdays as the days when persons holding permits to establish permanent residence on the West Bank under the family re-union plan may cross over the the East Bank. A total of 22 permit holders was admitted yesterday in addition to two children who had no permits.

But the re-union plan is lagging, Israeli authorities report. Since a 10-day suspension was lifted last Friday, only 31 persons have crossed although the applications of 200 have been approved and turned over to the International Red Cross. The plan was suspended by Israel while Jordanian authorities delayed the return of the body of an Israeli fighter pilot who was shot down over Jordan in a clash last month. The body was returned last Friday.

Meanwhile, the military government announced that it has relaxed its restrictions on visits by West Bank residents to Jordan and at least a dozen crossed the river yesterday for business or family reasons. Israel authorities said they might permit traffic in the opposite direction if Jordanian authorities agreed. Up to now, only goods for market are permitted by Jordan to move in both directions and truck-drivers are required to return within a specified time limit.

UN Special Political Committee Begins Four-Day Debate On Palestine Refugees

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 12 (JTA)—Rumania today called on both parties in the Middle East dispute to find a solution to the problem by direct negotiations in a quiet atmosphere. The statement was made by Mr. M. Predescu during the four-day debate in the special political committee on the Palestine refugee question. He called for a political settlement by resorting to peaceful means by all sides in the dispute. He said that a withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territory should take into account the security of all states in the region.

The British representative, J. H. Lambert, said that he could not share the view that the refugee problem is political by nature. He called on all member states of the U.N. to contribute to UNRWA and said that two governments so far contribute 80 per cent of the UNRWA budget.

He said it is imperative that displaced Arabs should be allowed to return to their homes and those who remain should be allowed to live in peace.

Earlier, the committee agreed to grant hearings to the Palestine Liberation Organization, a group supporting terrorist activities against Israel, and to the so-called Palestine Arab delegation, with the proviso that the hearings would not constitute recognition of the groups by the U.N.

The annual discussion of the refugee problem was opened by Laurence Michelmore, commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, who warned that his agency faced a \$9 million deficit and urged member nations which have not yet pledged funds for the refugees to do so.

Mr. Michelmore said that taking into account the 14,000 refugees who have returned to the West Bank, there is now in Jordan a total of 577,000 refugees of whom 245,000 are persons who have been displaced since the June war. He said that the number of displaced persons in the UAR from areas occupied by Israel is now estimated to be between 60- and 70,000 and 4 Syrian refugees are said to number 100,000.

The figure on refugees in Jordan quoted by the UNRWA head differed sharply from those given today by Jordanian Ambassador Mohammad el-Farra who claimed that Jordan now holds 964,000 refugees including 719,000 there previously and 245,000 new arrivals since the June war. Mr. El-Farra, in a speech filled with denunciations of Israel, accused that country of expelling Arabs from their homes, destroying villages and torturing and oppressing the Arab inhabitants of Israel.

Rabbinical Authorities Find Heart Transplant Conforms to Religious Law

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Rabbinical authorities here and in Britain have hailed the first successful transplant of a human heart, the operation performed on Louis Washkansky, of Cape Town ten days ago, as an act that conforms to the over-riding consideration in Jewish law, the saving of a human life.

Rabbinical opinion of the medical feat in the light of Jewish law was sought by the South African Jewish Times, whose editor cabled Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth in London and spoke to Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper of Johannesburg, Chief Rabbi Israel Abrahams of Cape Town and Rabbi Arthur Super, Chief Minister of the Reform congregation in Johannesburg.

Dr. Jakobovits, regarded as a world authority on Jewish medical ethics, declared in a cable to the paper that "Judaism cannot but enthusiastically applaud the medical triumph in service of human life." Rabbi Casper said that while the Halachic position remains to be studied and defined in light of the new operation, the over-riding consideration of Jewish law is the saving of life and "it would be hard to find a clearer and more direct application of this principle than in the case of the heart transplant such as we have witnessed."

Rabbi Abrahams said that the operation falls within the category of "acts that might normally be regarded as transgressions of Jewish law, in order to save life." Rabbi Super said that "as far as Reform Judaism is concerned, we are very much in favor of human transplant and autopsies and in fact anything which is likely to result in human life being saved however remote the chances."

The 53-year-old Washkansky was born in Lithuania, came to South Africa at the age of 10 and served in the South African army during World War II. He and his wife are members of the Sea Point Hebrew Congregation in Cape Town where their son was bar mitzvahed last year. Mrs. Washkansky is active in the Zionist movement.

New Anti-Jewish Nazi Party Is Being Built Up In Australia

CANBERRA, Australia, Dec. 12 (JTA)—An Australian Nazi party is emerging here which uses the swastika as its symbol, attacks "Jewish control of international finance" and circulates Arab propaganda material against Israel.

The leader of the group, which calls itself the Australian National Socialist Party, is 26-year-old Edward Cawthron, a research worker at the National University of Australia, who claims that "the basic philosophy of national socialism can be applied to any country at any time." He says his party will win a large membership and achieve political power in Australia. Like home-grown Nazis in other countries, Cawthron ridicules the figures given of Jews murdered in Nazi concentration camps. In a party journal which he edits, he attacks "the Jews on the New York Stock Exchange" the Australian Labor Party and "the Communists."

American Intellectuals Condemn Soviet Treatment of Jewish Minority

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA)—American intellectuals joined today to protest Soviet anti-Semitism and issued a public statement condemning the "forcible cultural extinction" of the 3 million Jews of the USSR. Protesting against "this frenzied anti-Jewish assault" were 198 prominent artists and intellectuals — including five Nobel Prize winners — who signed a two-page advertisement to appear in the Dec. 21 issue of the New York Review of Books.

The advertisement cites the 15th anniversary of the arrest and murder of 24 leading Soviet Jewish intellectuals accused of being "rebels, agents of American imperialism, nationalist bourgeois Zionists and enemies of the USSR." It points out that "this spurious charge has provided the dark theme of much Soviet propaganda on the Jews in all the subsequent years — tragically, even today" and charges that "official Soviet practice perpetuates the Stalin policy of depriving Soviet Jews of continuity with its past and of any hope of a future."

The statement further charges that "Soviet policy in the Middle East, culminating in the diplomatic break with Israel, has been accompanied by an enormous anti-Semitic propaganda effort at home and abroad whose virulence has only rarely been equalled in recent Soviet history. The Jews have long been regarded in the USSR with suspicion and hostility as strangers, aliens and actual or potential enemies. The death of a culture, the enforced disappearance of a richly endowed community, the incitement of anti-Semitism, cannot be a matter of indifference."

On Sunday, a vigorous protest against the Soviet Union's treatment of its Jewish minority was endorsed by 344 members of the U.S. House of Representatives who signed their names to an advertisement in the New York Times on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of Human Rights Day. The advertisement was sponsored by the 25 organizations comprising the American Jewish Conference in Soviet Jewry.

Ginsberg, New UJA General Chairman, Says 'Sky The Limit' on 1968 Campaign

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA)—Edward Ginsberg of Cleveland, newly elected general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said here today that the UJA's 1968 campaign has been launched as a "no limit" campaign without the usual cash goal in order to bring home to the Jewish communities and individual contributors the enormous scope and dimensions of the needs that the 1968 campaign must fulfill.

Speaking at an informal press conference, Mr. Ginsberg said that "with the sky the limit" the various communities will exceed their normal quotas, just as they did in last June's Emergency Fund campaign of which the 1968 drive is a continuation. In reply to questions, he said that if a specific cash goal had been set, many communities and contributors might revert to the quotas that applied to them prior to last June's crisis.

Mr. Ginsberg differentiated between philanthropy which he described as "disciplined giving" required by society, and the transcendent feeling of responsibility and obligation that was manifest in the unprecedented outpouring of gifts from American Jewry last June when it seemed that Israel was facing extinction. He chided, however, those givers who "needed a war to wake them up" and said it was the UJA's task to educate such people to their obligations. The majority of American Jews, he noted, do not regard their UJA contributions as only a responsibility to their fellow Jews in Israel and elsewhere but as a privilege inherent in the Jewish tradition. He noted further that Jews are in the forefront of their communities in all fund raising efforts whether for Jewish or non-sectarian needs.

Mr. Ginsberg, a lawyer and, at 50, the youngest general chairman in the UJA's 30 years' history, said that he will be spending much time in New York and travelling over the country on behalf of the 1968 campaign. He also disclosed his intention to greatly expand the national leadership of UJA by enlisting younger men in the campaign on a voluntary basis. As a first step, he said, he has increased the number of UJA national chairmen from six to ten and will expand the UJA executive committee and the UJA cabinet. He said a plan was under consideration to organize on a state and regional basis in order to involve more and more people in positions of responsibility.

Ontario Bar Group To Shun Clubs Practicing Racial, Religious Discrimination

LONDON, Ont., Dec. 12 (JTA)—Trustees of the Middlesex County Law Association have adopted a resolution prohibiting the holding of any affair or meeting of the Association at any club or establishment that restricts its membership on the basis of race, creed or color. The unprecedented move was followed by similar action by the Faculty Association of the University of Western Ontario, comprising 78 per cent of the entire 700-man university faculty.

ZOA To Establish Music Center In Israel Bearing Name of Richard Tucker

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA)—A Richard Tucker Music Center will be established on the Kfar Silver Agricultural High School campus at a cost of \$200,000 by the Zionist Organization of America.

The Center, to be built in honor of Richard Tucker, Metropolitan Opera star, "for his devotion to the Jewish people and Israel," will be part of the school named after Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, American Zionist leader, near Ashkelon, Israel. The Center will be a major institution of the ZOA's pre-college educational program in Israel and will contain facilities for concerts, recordings and the teaching of music.