

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXIV--Fiftieth Year

Wednesday, January 3, 1968

No. 2

De Gaulle Tells French Grand Rabbi He Did Not Intend to Promote Anti-Semitism

PARIS, Jan. 2 (JTA)--President Charles de Gaulle reportedly told Grand Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of France yesterday that he had been surprised by the Jewish reactions to his November 27 press conference comments on Israel and the Jewish people and that it had been far from his intention to promote any anti-Semitic views.

Gen. de Gaulle made that statement in a private conversation with Rabbi Kaplan, which was held in connection with a traditional New Years Day ceremony at which the President received the heads of the major religions in France. At the press conference, President de Gaulle called Israel "a war-like state, bent on expansion," and declared that the Jews were a "domineering" people who had earned "ill-will." He was severely criticized by both Jews and non-Jews, inside France and overseas for those comments.

Gen. de Gaulle reportedly agreed readily with Dr. Kaplan that help given to Israel by French Jewry could not be considered an act of dual allegiance and that to him, such aid implied "no problem" of this kind. Rabbi Kaplan had issued a statement on behalf of French Jewry, criticizing Gen. de Gaulle for the press comments.

Israel Parliament Given 1968-69 Budget of \$1.7 Billion; Reduction is \$35 Million

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Israel's Knesset (parliament) was told by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir today that he contemplates a 1968-69 budget, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, of 5,987 billion Israeli pounds (about \$1.7 billion). The budget would be about \$35 million below the budget for 1966-67.

Some 34 percent of the budget, Mr. Sapir said, would be allocated to development projects, and the remainder would be used for ordinary, governmental expenditures. The figures for defense were kept secret, as usual. But the Finance Minister said that the country's defense needs place a heavy burden on the country, and the Israeli citizen pays almost two-thirds of all his taxes for defense.

Several tax reductions are planned for the next fiscal year, Mr. Sapir said, mainly for housing and for large families. The reductions, he declared, are designed partly to ease the tax burdens on new immigrants. It was predicted at the Knesset that the new budget would be approved before the new fiscal year opens.

In presenting the budget, Mr. Sapir told the House that price stability and slow expansion of Israel's economy would continue in the coming year. He also said that the Jewish Agency has resumed responsibility for many services in the fields of immigrant absorption, immigration and social welfare benefits for immigrants and residents of settlements. Partly, he said, this move has been made possible by the funds contributed to the Israel Emergency Fund campaigns in 1967, thus freeing the Government of certain responsibilities and allowing it to reduce its own expenditures in the relevant fields.

Israel Concerned About Effect of New U.S. Money Policy on Tourism

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Informed sources here said today that the new, American tight money policy on overseas spending, announced yesterday by President Johnson, will not affect Israel because it is considered a developing country.

However, some worry was reported over the possibility that tourism to Israel may be adversely affected by the new restrictions. American tourists have usually been about half of the tourists coming annually to Israel and, even in poor years, Americans represented about 40 percent.

The possible effect on tourism was regarded with particular concern because this is Israel's 20th anniversary year, and a record number of visitors had been expected. The United States decisions on credits were sent to David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel by William M. Martin, chairman of the Federal Reserve system.

Britain Confirms Eshkol Will Visit London to Confer with Wilson and Brown

LONDON, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Circles close to the British Government confirmed today previous reports that Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol will visit London, and will confer here with Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Foreign Secretary George Brown. As far as Britain is concerned, it was said, no definite agenda for the Anglo-Israeli meeting has been set, and either side will be free to bring up any problem it thinks relevant to the discussions at this stage.

The Guardian asserted that Mr. Eshkol was coming to secure British "understanding" of Israel's insistence on direct peace talks with the Arab states. Thus far, the date for Mr. Eshkol's visit has not been set, but it is believed that the Israeli Premier will arrive here January 16, from the United States. He is expected to stay here a couple of days.

Britain Warns U.S. of Soviet Missile Menace to American Fleet in Mediterranean

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 2 (JTA)--British authorities have warned the United States of a serious build-up of Soviet missile strength in the Mediterranean, menacing the U.S. Sixth Fleet and the southern and southeastern flanks of NATO, it was learned here today. According to the British sources, Soviet missile ships and rocket launchers have been supplied in significant numbers to the Arab countries, while the Red fleet itself is operating an increasing number of missile-firing units, including submarines, in the Mediterranean.

Soviet "SAM" ground-to-air missiles, which have been operational for some time, are believed to have been installed in Egypt by Soviet military technicians. Thus, say the British, the Soviet zone of influence in the Mediterranean area has been extended by an estimated missile range of 300 to 1,200 miles.

A New York Congressman meanwhile warned today that American inaction, "through failure to provide Israel with effective deterrents, coupled with massive Soviet arms shipments" to the Middle East, is "driving out Arab realists and moderates and giving center stage to the Arab extremists and revolutionaries."

Rep. James H. Sheuer, a Democrat, in a letter to the Washington Post, assailed the "slow delivery" of American jet aircraft to Israel. "With French doors closed," he said, "only the United States can supply Israel with the clear and unmistakable deterrent strength she must have to convince her hostile neighbors and the Soviet Union that their preparations for another war are futile. If the Arabs are allowed to dream, as they did in June, that they are capable of destroying Israel, the result would be catastrophic." Rep. Sheuer warned.

United Nations Middle East Emissary to See Eban Tomorrow for Third Time

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, the United Nations special envoy to the Middle East, will come here Thursday for further talks with Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban. It will be his third visit to Jerusalem since he established his headquarters at Nicosia, Cyprus, last month. He is expected to advise the Foreign Minister of Egypt's view on how to free 15 foreign merchant ships that have been stranded in the Great Bitter Lake section of the Suez Canal since Egypt closed the waterway last June. Ambassador Jarring will remain in Jerusalem for one or two days.

Israel Repatriates 500 Egyptian POWs; Still Holds About 5,000 More

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Five hundred Egyptian prisoners of war, two high-ranking officers among them, were repatriated by Israeli authorities last night under the supervision of the International Red Cross. Israel still holds some 5,000 Egyptian prisoners of war, captured in last June's Six-Day War. Egypt claims to hold "more than ten" Israeli prisoners, including pilots and a marine commando. The latest batch of Egyptian POWs crossed the Suez Canal in Canal Authority boats chartered by the International Red Cross.

Israeli Killed, Two Wounded in Clash With Jordanian Infiltrators

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA)--One Israeli soldier was killed this afternoon and another soldier and a civilian were wounded in a clash with an armed band from Jordan which crossed into Israeli territory and attacked field workers near Ein Yanav, in the Araba region south of the Dead Sea. An Army spokesman reported that the marauders crossed into Israel at 2 p.m. local time and were engaged by an Army unit posted to guard the field workers. The wounded civilian was a member of Ein Yanav settlement.

In Jerusalem, today, police sources revealed that an attempt was made a few nights ago to assassinate a Ramallah lawyer, one of a group of prominent West Bank Arabs who have been advocating the establishment of a separate Palestinian entity within the framework of a general peace treaty, instead of re-joining the West Bank with Jordan. Police said that the would-be assassins were masked men with revolvers.

An earlier attempt to murder — or frighten — a West Bank Arab leader was made last week when a bazooka shell was fired at the home of a Ramallah doctor who had publicly favored independence from Jordan. The house was damaged but no one was hurt. Police said that the attackers in both cases were still being sought.

Goldmann Says Every Zionist Leader Will Have to Go to Israel to Retain Position

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, disclosed at a press conference here today that the Jewish Agency executive has agreed that no Zionist leader in the Diaspora will be able to retain his position unless he immigrates to Israel.

This stipulation, adopted at the plenary session of the executive attended by American and Israeli members in Jerusalem last week, was in line with the decision to create within the Zionist Organization an elite group of practicing Zionists who will pledge and fulfill their obligation to immigrate to Israel. The new group will be named Brith Olim, Union of Immigrants, Dr. Goldmann said, and will be a non-political, non-partisan organization. It will be accorded special status within the World Zionist Organization and will enjoy greater representation that its numerical strength might ordinarily warrant, he stated.

Dr. Goldman announced that February 25 is the date set for a world-wide conference of Zionist leaders in Jerusalem to "prepare the climate" for the next World Zionist Congress, which will open there June 9. He also disclosed that the Jewish Agency executive decided that aliyah will remain a function of

the Jewish Agency, while the Israel Government would take the major responsibility for absorbing immigrants. Dr. Goldmann expressed the hope that the world-wide Conference of Jewish Organizations that he heads will come to embrace more organizations and will deal with more problems than hitherto.

Israeli Exports Seen Up in 1967 Despite War's Effect on Economy

LONDON, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Israel's exports rose considerably during the first 10 months of 1967, despite the "massive dislocation" of Israel's economy caused by the Six-Day War, the Trades Advisory Council reported here today. The Council is an association of Jewish businessmen and industrialists in this country interested in tightening British-Israeli economic relations.

According to the Council's figures, Israel's exports during the first 10 months of 1967 totaled \$445 million, compared to \$419 million in the same period of 1966. There are negative factors, however, that must be taken into account, the Council warned. These factors involve the virtual boycott of Israeli goods imposed for political reasons by the East European countries, with the exception of Rumania; and an apparent drop in West European and American purchases of cut and polished diamonds, Israel's largest export in terms of value.

The Council reported that Israel's currency reserves stand at \$750 million and have apparently not been affected by the recent devaluation of the pound.

At the pre-devaluation rate of exchange of \$2.80 per pound sterling, Israel imports from Britain in 1966 amounted to 57 million pounds sterling (\$159,600,000). During that year, British exports to Israel amounted to 27 million pounds sterling (\$75,600,000), exceeding the British exports to the Soviet Union for 1966. The Council's report said that British business circles are understood to be optimistic regarding an increase in British-Israeli trade.

Australia Reports Increase of Exports to Israel During Year Ending Last June

MELBOURNE, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Israel sold less to Australia but bought more from that country during the year ending on June 30, 1967, according to "Australia in Facts and Figures," quarterly publication of the Australian News and Information Bureau. Australian imports from Israel were valued at \$1,541,000 in the period under review, compared to \$1,732,000 in the same period of the previous year, a decline of approximately \$200,000. But Australian exports to Israel rose by about \$800,000, amounting to \$2,030,300 in the year under review, compared with \$1,263,000 in the previous year.

Second So. African Heart Transplant Patient Also a Jew; Daughter in Israel

CAPETOWN, South Africa, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The second patient to undergo a heart transplant operation here is a Jewish dentist, 58 year-old Dr. Philip Blaiberg, whose 19 year-old daughter, Jill, is reportedly working as a volunteer in an Israeli kibbutz. Dr. Blaiberg served as a Captain in the South African Medical Corps during World War II. One of his patients at the training camp was the late Louis Washkansky, also a Jew and the first human heart transplant patient in medical history. Washkansky died here of pneumonia 18 days after the operation which, in itself, was a success.

Australian Jews Report Two Separate Nazi Parties; One With Four Members

SYDNEY, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Two Nazi parties, which style themselves National Socialists, are operating in Australia, one in Sydney and the other in Canberra, the capital, it was reported today by the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies. The two parties are separate organizations. The one in Sydney is led by an Arthur Smith. Its counterpart in Canberra, headed by E. Cathron of the Australian National University, calls itself the National Socialist Party of Australia. It is reported to have only four members.

Gestapo Official, Convicted of Mass Murder Last April, Is Released From Prison

BONN, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The court at Bielefeld has ordered the release from prison of Lothar Heimbach, 59, who was convicted last April of mass murder and sentenced to nine years at hard labor and five years' loss of civil rights. Heimbach's crimes were committed while he was chief of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police, in Bialystok, Poland, during World War II.

Heimbach's release from Bielefeld prison followed that of two other convicted war criminals. The court explained the leniency shown Heimbach by asserting that he had spent four years in an interrogation jail awaiting trial and that, since the two others had been freed, he was entitled to equal treatment under the law.

New High School, 2 Kindergartens, Opened in Israel Through UJA-IEF Funds

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--A new high school, built with funds donated by the New York Jewish Teachers Community Chest through the Israel Education Fund of the United Jewish Appeal, was dedicated at the immigrant township of Yahud. A delegation of New York teachers, headed by Max G. Rubinstein, president of the Community Chest and Dr. Charles G. Eichel, executive vice president, attended the ceremonies.

The new school contains 15 classrooms, an electrical workshop and a library. A second stage, now under construction, will contain five more classrooms and workshops for metalcraft, heavy machinery, draftsmanship and welding. Two kindergartens built with funds supplied through the UJA's Israel Education Fund were dedicated at Ganei Tikvah. They represent a donation from the estate of the late Morris Ginn, of Wilmington, Delaware.

Canadian Jewish Congress Gives Judaica Collection to National Library

MONTREAL, Jan. 2 (JTA)--An extensive collection of Judaica has been formally presented to the National Library in Ottawa, as a gift of Canadian Jewry in observance of Canadian Confederation. The gift, received on behalf of the Government of Canada by John J. Connolly, Government leader in the Senate and Minister Without Portfolio, was presented by Lavy M. Becker, chairman of the national executive of Canadian Jewish Congress, who was accompanied by Jacob M. Lowy, chairman of the CJC's special centennial committee, and Dr. Samuel Lewin, secretary of the committee which assembled the collection.

The collection, comprising Jewish classics and creative writings in many languages, particularly in Canada's two official languages — French and English — included also many books in Hebrew and Yiddish. Mr. Becker expressed the hope that "this collection would serve as a beginning for the establishment of a special section of Hebraica along the lines of such sections in other national libraries." Also presented were a complete set of microfilm of all issues of the first Jewish daily newspaper in Canada, "The Jewish Daily Eagle," since its inception, and several copies of a filmstrip of the Pavilion of Judaism at Expo '67, commissioned by the CJC as a centennial project.

Chicago College of Jewish Studies Receives Valuable Judaica Collection

CHICAGO, Jan. 2 (JTA)--A private collection of Jewish artifacts, manuscripts and ceremonial objects, some of them more than 1,000 years old, has been donated to the College of Jewish Studies here by Maurice Spertus, a Chicago philanthropist and businessman, in whose name the College has opened a museum. The collection, one of the largest of its kind in the world, is valued at half a million dollars. Mr. Spertus also donated \$100,000 in a cash endowment fund to cover administrative costs of the Maurice Spertus Museum of Judaica.

According to Dr. David Weinstein, president of the college, the Spertus gift "represents one of the largest single gifts to an American undergraduate Jewish college." The collection, unique in its heavy concentration on Near Eastern and North African Jewish objects, contains the largest and finest collection of Yemenite manuscripts in the world, he said. The Jewish College of Chicago, founded in 1925, provides academic and professional training in Judaic and Hebraic studies in four-year degree programs.

'Sovietisch Heimland' Advises U.S. Jews to Worry About Anti-Semitism at Home

LONDON, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The Moscow-published Yiddish monthly, "Sovietisch Heimland" has labeled American Jewry's concern with the conditions of Jews in other lands as an "attempt to divert the attention of the Jewish public from the ills of American society and its treatment of the Jews." This interpretation was contained in an editorial in the December, 1967 edition of the magazine, copies of which reached here today.

The reference was made in a comment on the 41st annual conference of Yivo Institute for Jewish Research in New York, where a paper on "The Struggle of American Jews for the Rights of Other Jews" was presented. "This was an historical survey, but such a title gives the impression that there is a need to fight for the rights of Jews everywhere except in the United States," the magazine said. The balance of the issue was devoted to a series of articles on the 50th anniversary of the death of Mendele Mocher Sforim, the Russian-born author and essayist who is regarded as the father of modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature.

Index Issued for First 50 Years of American Jewish Year Book

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee which co-sponsors publication annually of the American Jewish Year Book, announced today that, for the first time, an index has been published of the Year Book's contents for the first 50 years of its existence, covering the years 1899-1949. The 375-page volume can be obtained, the AJC said, directly from the publisher, Ktav Publishing House, of New York.

The index opens to the students of Jewish affairs invaluable source material for the history and development of the Jewish community in the United States, as well as a record of Jewish life throughout the world. The first 50 volumes, 1899-1949, had appeared without indices.

From 1899 to 1907, the American Jewish Year Book had been published by the Jewish Publication Society. Since 1907, it has been published by the Committee in partnership with the Jewish Publication Society.

Dr. Isidor Lichtfeld, Chief Rabbi of Hesse, Germany, Dead at 74

FRANKFURT, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Memorial services were held here today for Dr. Isidor E. Lichtfeld, Chief Rabbi of Hesse and chairman of the Rabbinical Council of West Germany, who died here at the age of 74.

Rabbi Lichtfeld was born in Austria, educated at Dusseldorf and at Jews College in London, and held a law degree in addition to his rabbinical credentials. During World War I, he served as chaplain for Jewish troops in the Kaiser's army. Rabbi Lichtfeld was originally anti-Zionist, but became strongly pro-Zionist after World War II.

Dr. Joseph Kissman Dead at 78; Rumanian Jewish Socialist Leader and Author

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here today for Dr. Joseph Kissman, attorney, journalist, president of the Jewish Labor Bund of Rumania from 1930 to 1937, and a former member of the presidium of the Jewish National Committee of Austria. He died here Sunday, at the age of 78. Born in the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, he received a doctorate in law at the University of Vienna in 1913.