

# JTA daily news bulletin

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**Eshkol Hints on Arrival to See Johnson He Would Talk About U.S. Phantom Jets for Israel**  
NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, arrived here late this afternoon on his way to Texas to confer with President Johnson, and indicated he would discuss with the President the supply of arms, possibly Phantom jet planes, to Israel.

After bad weather which forced his El Al Israel Airlines plane to land nearly two hours late on its flight from Israel, Mr. Eshkol and his party came to the John F. Kennedy International Airport here, guarded by extraordinarily heavy security details of Federal agents and local police. He was greeted formally by Samuel King, the acting United States Chief of Protocol, as well as by protocol officials representing the United Nations, the State of New York, and New York City. At the International Airport Synagogue, near the landing strip, he was greeted by about 500 persons, many of them among the outstanding leaders of American Jewry.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Mrs. Eshkol; Rabbi Yaakov Herzog, director-general of the Prime Minister's office; Adi Yaffe, his political secretary; Col. Israel Liyor, his military aide; and Moshe Bitan, deputy director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and head of the Ministry's American desk.

(Prior to his departure earlier today from Israel's international airport at Lod, Mr. Eshkol said he would discuss with President Johnson "problems concerning our security and also our needs in armaments, so that we do not stay behind in the arms race with our neighbors." In his talks with the President, he said, he will "try to explain Israel's position and the need to promote the cause of peace for Israel and for the region as a whole.")

## Says Soviet Missiles Is One of Factors Motivating Desire to See Johnson

At an extraordinarily crowded news conference immediately after he landed — covered not only by the world press but also by television and radio — Mr. Eshkol read a statement in which he said that the recent events in the Middle East had opened possibilities for peace — but, simultaneously, "created the danger of a new war." He voiced "fond memories" of his previous meeting with President Johnson, in 1964, and said Israel "appreciates the President's dedication to the peace and progress of our area."

Later, at the synagogue, he told the Jewish community of America that Israel appreciated, too, Jewry's aid to Israel "during the days of peril." Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of American Jewish Organizations, representing 21 organizations with a total membership of 4.5 million Jews, voiced confidence during the synagogue reception that the United States would supply Israel with military aid "to deter any new assault which the huge and recently-received supply of Soviet weapons may tempt the Arab nations to undertake."

Mr. Eshkol told the newsmen that Soviet-made ground-to-ground missiles had been installed on Arab territory, and that the fact was one of his motives for wanting to talk with President Johnson. Asked specifically whether he would seek American Phantom jet planes in his talks with the President, he indicated that he would do so but said the subject might be covered in a communique following the Texas conferences.

## Would Accept French Planes Again If de Gaulle Reverses Position

Mr. Eshkol's attention was called to a statement made today by Secretary of State Dean Rusk, in which the latter voiced hope that Russia would work with the U.S.A. toward limitation of the arms race in the Middle East. The Israeli Premier replied that he saw no evidence on which to base such a hope. Asked whether Israel would again accept planes from France, in the event that French President de Gaulle reversed his recently announced position opposing Israel's actions during the June war, Mr. Eshkol replied in the affirmative.

Regarding the possibility of direct negotiations now between Israel and the Arab states, Mr. Eshkol said he did not know what offers of that kind are being carried by Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the special United Nations peace emissary to the Middle East. The latter is now canvassing political attitudes in all the major Middle East capitals, on the Arab side as well as in Israel. Mr. Eshkol had declared in his formal statement:

"When direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries could be set in motion, many problems would find solution far more rapidly than it is generally imagined today in an atmosphere laden over 20 years with tension and hostility."

The Premier declared he was looking forward to the meetings with President Johnson and discussions with him on United States-Israel ties and on the current situation in the Middle East. He emphasized that, during the 20 years of Israel's existence, "deep and lasting ties of friendship have developed between Israel and the United States." This friendship, he said, "rests on the solid foundation of the common Biblical heritage and the dedication to democracy, to freedom and to peace."

According to Mr. Eshkol, "the events in the Middle East in 1967 have, for the first time, opened up possibilities for peace. At the same time, the danger of a new war is ever present. Our area is at the crossroads. World statesmen can do much to enhance the positive trends." He stated, that knowing of the interest of President Johnson and the people of the United States in peace in the Middle East, he fervently hoped his visit might advance that cause.

#### Knows Heart of American Jewry Is With Israel; Greets Crowd in Hebrew

In the jam-packed International Synagogue, where the cream of American Jewish leadership was assembled, Mr. Eshkol emphasized, in response to the formal greetings, that "in this great and stormy period, through which Israel is living, the bonds of historical involvement and of common spiritual destiny have deepened between American Jewry and Israel." He expressed the hope that American Jewish youth will come to Israel to take part in rebuilding and development. He said that he, Mrs. Eshkol and their associates were deeply moved by the welcome in the airport's "Bet Kneset," and declared he would welcome the opportunities on this visit to meet with American Jewish leaders of all groups.

"In days of peril, as in days of achievement, we have known that the heart of American Jewry beats with us," said Mr. Eshkol. "We know that this unity will continue as we face up to the great challenges. Jewish unity and Jewish fraternity have reached unprecedented heights in recent months."

He referred in Hebrew to the maxim "all Jews are responsible for one another," and stated that "privileged are we to live in a generation in which Jewish independence has been restored in the Land of our Fathers, in which Jewish dignity has been uplifted, in which from the pit of despair and agony we have moved to fulfillment. In this new epoch now unfolding, may you, the largest Jewish community in the world, and we in Israel reborn, together answer the summons of our common historical involvement and spiritual destiny." In Hebrew he said: "I greet you with the greeting of 'shalom' from Jerusalem, a city that is compact together. Peace to all near and far."

#### Rabbi Schacter Voices Trust U.S.A. Will Continue to Support Israel

Rabbi Schacter told the Premier, in his official greeting: "We believe that our Government will not be deterred from its announced policy of working for an enduring peace in the Middle East — a peace which can be achieved only by direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. We expect that American support for Israel will continue to strengthen Israel's just cause. And we are prayerfully confident that our Government, recognizing that Israel's needs coincide with America's national interests, will supply the Jewish State with the tools and equipment necessary to defend her people."

"American Jewry," Rabbi Schacter continued, "magnificently demonstrated during the tense days of May and June of 1967 that its heart is one with Israel. Deeply conscious of the Arab threat to Israel's existence as a nation and to the lives of its people, we are thankful to God that the Arab threat to destroy Israel was averted, and we remain proud of Israel's steadfastness, heroism and victory."

"But it was not the Jewish community alone that rejoiced in the fact that the annihilation of Israel did not come to pass. The American people as a whole hailed Israel's triumph as a vindication of their faith in justice. They also saw in Israel's victory a strengthening of the American position in a vital area of the world, and an enhancement of democracy as a whole."

Following the reception at the Airport Synagogue, Mr. Eshkol left for the Plaza Hotel in New York, where he rested prior to a series of meetings and functions scheduled at the United Nations tomorrow.

(In Jerusalem, it was announced officially today that Mr. Eshkol will visit London on January 17 and 18, and will confer with both Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Foreign Secretary George Brown.)

#### Cairo Announces Plans to Release Ships Stranded in Suez Canal Since June

LONDON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--The semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, reported today that the Suez Canal Authority has completed plans to free 15 merchant ships of several nationalities that have been stranded in the Great Bitter Lake, near the southern entrance of the Suez Canal, since last June.

#### Israel Eases Rules on Visit to Jordan by Arabs in East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Israel authorities will issue special passes to residents of East Jerusalem for visits into Jordan, the Ministry of Interior announced today. The passes will be valid for a single trip only and will permit the bearer to remain in Jordan for up to two weeks.

#### Israel's Social Welfare Minister Meets With Humphrey While on Visit to Liberia

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, now on a tour of Africa, met in Liberia with Israel's Minister of Social Welfare, and discussed matters of interest to the two countries, it was reported here today. Dr. Burg, like the Vice-President, had come to Liberia to attend the swearing-in of President William Tubman for another term of office. The Israeli Welfare Minister arrived in London last night for a weekend of conferences with various Jewish leaders in Britain.

#### 10,000-Tree Grove to be Planted Near Gaza in Memory of Late Australian Premier

MELBOURNE, Jan. 4 (JTA)--A grove of 10,000 trees will be planted near Gaza in memory of the late Prime Minister Harold Holt of Australia, who drowned last month, it was announced today by Asher Joel, national president of the Anzac Memorial and Forest Committee in Israel, of which the Prime Minister was a patron.

### China-Made Mines Blast Offices of Israeli Water Facility; Intruders Escape to Jordan

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Mines believed to have been made in Communist China were used by terrorists last night to blow up the offices for regional water installations in the upper Jordan Valley, Israeli officials reported today. Because the installations do not function during the winter season, no personnel was present. Pumps and an electric power unit were undamaged.

The officials said the blast occurred shortly after midnight, when the mines were electronically detonated. The pumping station is located near the Yarmuk River, south of the Shaar Hagolah kibbutz. The installation provides water for many collectives in the area, including Kinneret, Degania, Beth Zera and Affikim.

Terrorists who left pamphlets signed by El Fatah, one of several Arab guerrilla groups operating against Israel, cut their way through barbed wire fences to enter the area and plant the mines. Footprints of five persons were found leading to the Yarmuk River. The intruders apparently crossed the Yarmuk into Jordan.

### Israel's Citrus Exports Up by 18% Despite War, Marketing Official Reports

LONDON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Israel's citrus industry, which accounts for 30 percent of the nation's exports, did not suffer as a result of last June's war, and its export crop has in fact increased by 18 percent this season, Moshe Levin, European director of the Citrus Marketing Board of Israel, said here today. Mr. Levin spoke before a large gathering of citrus fruit wholesalers and retailers in the London area. He noted that the Israeli fruit may be relatively cheaper than fruit from other countries, as a result of the devaluation of the Israeli pound.

Mr. Levin said the increase in citrus production for export is represented by a record 19 million standard cases, of which 4 million cases of Jaffa oranges and nearly a million cases of grapefruit have been assigned to the British market. This is an increase of 7 and 9 percent respectively over last season's exports to Britain.

He said that, over the last 10 years, the export of Jaffas had risen from 8 million to 17-1/2 million cases per annum, an increase of 117 percent. Jaffas now account for about 25 percent of the European orange market. Mr. Levin said that there will be no major changes in the policies of Israel's citrus marketing board. As in previous years, part of the crop will be sold at auction and part by private contract.

### Israel, Brazil Sign Pact for Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy to Aid Development

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Israel and Brazil today signed a pact under which Israel will aid Brazil in the development of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, especially to aid Brazil's underdeveloped areas.

The agreement was signed on Israel's behalf by Dr. Israel Dostrowsky, director-general of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, who has spent the last week in Brazil as a guest of the Government. During the period, he visited all of the nuclear installations in this country.

Under the pact, he said at a press conference today, Israel will send to Brazil a group of scientists and other experts to help develop here the use of radioisotopes by industry, development of hydrology, and researches for the location, analysis and use of hidden minerals. At the same time, Brazil will send to Israel a number of technicians to study the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Announcement of the pact came on the heels of a New Year statement made by Marshal Arthur Costa e Silva, President of Brazil, during the period of Dr. Dostrowsky's visit. The President told the nation, among other things, that, among the Government's most significant achievements in 1967 was its finalization of its friendly ties with Israel. The President called attention particularly to Brazil's treaty with Israel, concretized during the last nine months, for Israeli technical assistance for economic projects in the country's underdeveloped Northeast region.

"The Brazilian press hailed today the pact with Israel as one of great significance. Jornal do Brasil, one of the most influential daily newspapers here, noted that Brazil now has atomic energy pacts with seven countries, including Israel, the United States and France, and added: "Of all the agreements we have with foreign governments for the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, our pact with Israel is the best because it cements our ties for the coordination of our activities for practical purposes. Those activities will be of great use in our development of economic and social aims."

### Cardinal Presides, Rabbis Participate in Buenos Aires Observance of 'Peace Day'

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Two leading rabbis joined here with clergymen of other faiths in the celebration of Peace Day, an annual event established by Pope Paul VI. Participating in the ceremonies, that were presided over by Antonio Cardinal Caggiano, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, were Conservative Chief Rabbi Dr. Guillermo Schlesinger of the Congregacion Israelita de La Republica Argentina; Liberal Rabbi, Dr. Leon Klenicki. Dr. Schlesinger pronounced the first invocation, declaring that "the absence of war does not mean peace."

### Solel Boneh Gets \$5 Million Contract for Hospital in East Africa

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA)--A contract for the construction of a \$5 million hospital in Tanzania, East Africa, has been awarded to Solel Boneh, the construction cooperative of Histadrut, Israel's federation of labor, it was announced here today. The hospital, financed by a German-Dutch Protestant Missionary fund, will contain 460 beds, and will be located near Lake Victoria.

## Protestant Minister Says Clergymen Who Accused Israel of Atrocities are 'Liars'

TORONTO, Jan. 4 (JTA)--A Protestant minister who was an eyewitness to Arab-Israeli hostilities in Jerusalem during last June's war, said here that clergymen and others who circulated stories of alleged Israeli atrocities and desecration of churches were, in effect, "liars."

"I would hate to say that such nice people were liars, but there you are," the Rev. B. Douglas Young, president of the Institute of Holy Land Studies, told the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society at Toronto Bible College. "I saw many Arab cruelties but none by Israelis. The very first shells from Jordan fell on the Hadassah Medical Center, near our home. What kind of war is that?" he asked. Rev. Young said that "throughout, the Arabs used anti-personnel and fragmentation bombs to cause maximum pain and death to human beings." He attributed much of the criticism of Israel to "leftist" churches in Canada and the U.S. "because Israel is the only obstacle to Russian expansionism in the Middle East."

The Nova Scotia-born cleric, who has a doctorate from Dropsie College, Philadelphia, has taught in Jerusalem since 1963. He said reports circulated by some Canadian and American clergymen that Israelis desecrated churches were "absolute nonsense."

## Interfaith Clergymen Off to Seek Peace in Mideast, Viet Nam; Reform Leader is Co-Chairman

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--A group of 22 Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergymen left here last night on a 22-day peace mission that will take them around the world for meetings with leaders of Western and Eastern faiths to discuss how to unify their efforts for world peace. The immediate concerns of the mission are the war in Viet Nam and the Middle East crisis.

The group, whose co-chairman is Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will attend the interreligious symposium of peace in New Delhi from January 10 to 14; will meet with Pope Paul VI and the Vatican Peace Commission in Rome; and with Israeli Government and religious leaders in Jerusalem. They will confer in Geneva with officials of the United Nations, the World Council of Churches and the World Jewish Congress. In Istanbul they will meet with the Ecumenical Patriarch, Athenagoras I. They will also interview Buddhist and Catholic leaders in Viet Nam and Japan.

## 'Supersol,' Showing Profits, to Sell \$5 Million in Debentures in U.S.A. and Canada

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Israel's largest supermarket chain, "Supersol," will issue \$5 million in convertible debentures in the United States and Canada to finance a major expansion program, it was announced here today. The issue will be underwritten by the Oshawa Company, Supersol's Canadian affiliate, which is owned by the Bronfman and Wolfe families of Toronto. Supersol announced a profit of a half-million Israel pounds (about \$170,000) for 1966-67, and expects a similar profit for the current fiscal year. The business has 1,600 common stock holders in the United States and Canada.

## JTA Radio Program to be Heard on Station WABC Sunday Morning

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--The Week in Jewry, a review of the Jewish news previously heard on Radio Station WABC on Sunday evenings at 11:45, will be heard on that station this Sunday morning at 6:30. The program, a service of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, is under the auspices of the New York Board of Rabbis. Victor M. Blenstock, editor and general manager of JTA, will present the news.

## Rabbi Max Weiss Dead at 75; Taught Religious Therapy at Academy for Jewish Learning

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Rabbi J. Max Weiss, a professor of religious therapy at the Academy for Higher Jewish Learning and secretary of the Jewish Institute of Religion, died here yesterday at the age of 75. Rabbi Weiss, who retired from the pulpit in 1960, had been rabbi of Temple Adas Emuno in Hoboken, N.J., for 10 years and, prior to that, of the Washington Heights Free Synagogue in New York. He was ordained in 1918 by the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, and held degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University.

## Mrs. Muriel L. Nirenstein Dies at 55; Active in Educational, Religious Fields

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Mrs. Muriel L. Nirenstein, active in Jewish education, cultural and philanthropic endeavors, died here yesterday at the age of 55. Mrs. Nirenstein was the wife of Dr. Samuel Nirenstein, a lawyer and former president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. She was a former chairman of the cultural committee of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, and was national sponsor of the women's branch of the UOJC. She was also active in work for the Hebrew Teachers Training School for Girls, the Teachers Institute for Women of Yeshiva University, and Boys Town of Jerusalem.

## R. Ben-Ari, Actor, Co-Founder of Habimah, Dies in Moscow at Age of 68

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--R. Ben-Ari, a well-known actor and one of the original founders of Habimah in Moscow, before that world-famous ensemble left the Soviet Union, ultimately to become the National Theater of Israel, died in Moscow this week, according to information received here today. He was 68.

Born in Moscow, he came to the United States with the Habimah when that group first toured this country in 1926, but, unlike other members of the troupe, stayed on here. As a Hebrew actor with Habimah, he was especially known for his role in "The Dybbuk," the play for which Habimah was widely hailed. Mr. Ben-Ari appeared here on the Yiddish stage and in English on television. He became a well-known theatrical director and wrote the history of the Habimah Theater in Yiddish. He also lectured and wrote widely, mostly in the leading Yiddish and Hebrew newspapers in the world. More recently, he was lecturer on drama at the Brandeis Institute in California. He had gone to Moscow to visit a brother, and was stricken with a heart attack there.