

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. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Monday, January 8, 1968

No. 5

Johnson, Eshkol Pledge "Shalom" to Each Other as Premier Arrives For Texas Talks

RANDOLPH AIRBASE, Tex., Jan. 7 (JTA) -- President Johnson and Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol mutually pledged "Shalom," peace, to each other's countries and to the rest of the world, as Mr. Eshkol arrived here today for 22 hours of private conversations with the American leader at the latter's ranch, near here.

As many hundreds of persons--Jews and non-Jews--cheered loudly as they shivered in the sub-zero, windy weather, following Mr. Eshkol's arrival in a special presidential plane from New York, President Johnson averred "this is a cold day, but a warm greetings." He thanked the Texans for turning out en masse for the welcoming ceremonies.

Among the greeters were children representing the nearby San Antonio Jewish community, carrying welcoming banners in Hebrew and waving small flags embellished with the Star of David. A military guard of honor presented arms as an U.S. Air Force band played military airs. The President and Mr. Eshkol left immediately for the president's LBJ Ranch in Mr. Johnson's private, Star jet plane.

The Texas White House announced that, among the U.S. officials participating in the Johnson-Eshkol talks at the ranch are Secretary of State Dean Rusk; Lucius Battle, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; and Walt W. Rostow, the President's chief adviser on international affairs.

In greeting the visitor, President Johnson said that peace would be the main objective of the "hopeful days" of discussion between himself and the Israeli leader.

"Shalom," said President Johnson. "The traditional greeting of Israel has special meaning for us all today. We meet in peace. We will talk of peace. We will try to extend the peace that is in our hearts to all men willing to share our partnership of good faith and good purpose. We will be together for only two short days. But they will be long with the friendship our nations share and full with the warmth of our happiness that you are here. Above all, they will be hopeful days. This Texas land was born in that spirit--of promise, opportunity and of neighbors working hand in hand for the common good."

The President added, "welcome to this land, Mr. Prime Minister. I hope its spirit refreshes you after your long journey. I know its hospitality will lift your heart and help you to find that peace which all Americans are proud to seek with you."

Responding, Mr. Eshkol told the President that, since he had first met him in 1964, he had enjoyed the "fond memories" of the President's hospitality. His "central concern" he said, was peace not only for the Middle East area "but for the entire world." He emphasized that the dream of peace had been sought by Israel since ancient days, and asserted he hoped that peace would be achieved. He said he knew "how much the United States was doing to aid the quest for peace."

Jewish Community Participates in Reception; Gifts for President and Family

The Prime Minister was greeted at an impressive ceremony at the military airfield. Among those, in addition to President Johnson and White House officials who were present, were Mayor W.W. MacAllister of San Antonio, U.S. Congressmen Henry Gonzales and Abraham Kazen, both Texas Democrats, Gen. Frank Madsen, commanding officer of Randolph Field; Mrs. Harold Vexler, president of the Jewish Social Service Federation who represented the Texas Jewish community; and a number of other public officials. A pretty young girl, Anita Rachman, presented Mr. and Mrs. Eshkol with a corsage of flowers as they stepped from the plane.

Mr. and Mrs. Eshkol presented gifts of special interest to President and Mrs. Johnson reflecting ancient and modern Israel. To the President the Eshkols presented a case made of Polisander wood, containing velvet-lined drawers in which there was a collection of Israeli coins dating back from the Maccabean period through modern times. The President also was given a 17th Century volume of Itineraria to the Holy Land, compiled by a European pilgrim, Fuller, replete with maps and illuminations.

Mrs. Johnson was presented with a set of ancient cosmetic vessels and ornaments, consisting of three flasks for ointment and perfume, dating about 200 BCE; three gold rings, a bead necklace, a cosmetic scraper for the removal of oil and ointments, dating from 200 BCE to the 1st Century of the Christian Era; and a modern hand-wrought set of silver jewelry, consisting of a necklace, bracelet and earrings of original Israeli design and craftsmanship made of sea-glass pebbles set in silver.

Mr. and Mrs. Eshkol brought for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robb, the President's new son-in-law and daughter, a pair of hand-wrought silver candlesticks, Israeli designed, set in a black leather box lined with white velvet. The President's grandson, Patrick Lyndon Nugent, received a gift of a Noah's Ark and animals, hand carved by an Israeli craftsman.

Voices Hopes for Direct Talks With Arabs After Luncheon at U.N.

Yesterday, Mr. Eshkol attended Sabbath services at New York's prestigious Fifth Avenue Synagogue, Orthodox, conducted by Rabbi Emanuel Rackman. There, he was honored by being called to the Torah.

Friday, the Israeli leader was tendered a kosher luncheon at United Nations Headquarters in New York by Secretary-General Thant, after a 45-minute conference with Mr. Thant. Following the luncheon, he told newsmen that it was on his suggestion that Egypt was planning to release the 15 foreign ships marooned in the Great Bitter Lake area of the Suez Canal. He voiced hopes that a solution to the problem would be worked out, adding "maybe this will be a beginning of something."

It was disclosed at the U.N. that Mr. Eshkol had invited Mr. Thant to visit Israel, and that the Secretary-General had accepted the invitation "in principle."

Mr. Eshkol said following the meeting with Mr. Thant: "It is my hope, and that of all the people of Israel, that the present diplomatic talks now in progress, following the Security Council resolution looking forward to a more peaceful region, will indeed lead to direct negotiations between the parties with the direct objective of bringing lasting peace and security to all the peoples of the Middle East. Surely, after 20 years of hostility, the time has come for all the countries of the region to live within secure and recognized borders, freed from the threat of war."

"The principles of international peace and cooperation set forth in the U.N. Charter echo the inspired teachings of the prophets of Israel. The State of Israel is pledged to strive for the attainment of these ideals in our own lifetime in order, as the Charter puts it, 'to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war'. It is our abiding hope that peace will come to our area, and that all the countries of the Middle East can work together for the economic and social development of the region as a whole, in peaceful cooperation."

Robbery Suspect Foiled, Shot in Incident On Floor Below Eshkol Hotel Suite

NEW YORK, Jan. 7(JTA) -- A robbery suspect and a security guard wounded each other in a gun and knife duel in a 13th floor suite of Manhattan's posh Plaza Hotel, just one floor below the suite occupied by Israeli Prime Minister and Mrs. Eshkol, late yesterday afternoon. The guard, Aaron Greenberg, was stabbed just below the heart. The suspect, Spencer Sands, received a bullet wound in the stomach.

The scuffle occurred in the suite of Manuel Espinosa Yglesias, president of the Banco de Comercio in Mexico City. The suspect forced his way in and held the banker's wife at knife-point in what was believed to be an attempt at burglary. Security measures were tightened outside of Prime Minister Eshkol's suite after the incident, although there was no indication that the intruder was aware of Mr. Eshkol's presence in the hotel.

Canada Sets Program for Greeting Eshkol; To See Pearson Next Monday

TORONTO, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Prime Minister John Roberts of Ontario and Mayor William Dennison of Toronto will personally greet Israel Prime Minister Levi Eshkol when he arrives here with his entourage next Friday, Jan. 12, on a state visit to Canada. Mr. Eshkol is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, of Canada, on Monday, Jan. 15, in Ottawa.

While in Toronto, the Israeli leader will attend a public meeting Saturday evening, Jan. 13 at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. The meeting will be sponsored by the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Federated Zionist Organization of Canada and the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto. Mr. Eshkol is scheduled to leave for Montreal on Sunday, Jan. 14 and is expected to appear at the Hadassah-WIZO conference taking place there that day.

Eban Says Egypt Has Not Approached Israel on Freeing Ships; Sees Jarring for Fourth Time

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Israel is still awaiting Egypt's proposals for the planned release of the foreign ships stranded in a section of the Suez Canal since Cairo blocked the canal last June. This fact became clear here today after a Cabinet meeting in which Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported he had met for the fourth time today with Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations special peace emissary to the Middle East. Mr. Eban said Mr. Jarring had made no mention of Egypt's plans to release the stranded ships.

In Israel's view, any plans by Egypt to use any portion of the canal must come through Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, the chief of the U.N. cease-fire teams, who had negotiated the Israeli-Egyptian agreement under which both sides could use the canal--or neither. So far, nothing had been received on this point from Gen. Bull. Mr. Eban said that, after his meeting with Ambassador Jarring today, the envoy left for Amman, capital of Jordan.

The Cabinet also heard a report on security affairs from Gen. Moshe Dayan, the Minister of Defense. In the absence of Premier Levi Eshkol, who is in the United States, the Cabinet session was presided over by Minister of Finance Pinhas Sapir.

Egypt Only One that Could Resume War, But Not Sans Soviet Go-Ahead, Says Dayan

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Egypt, the strongest of the Arab states, is the only one likely to start a new war, "but she will never risk one without permission from the Kremlin," Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told a meeting of Defense Ministry workers here last night. Gen. Dayan was confident that

there would be no renewed warfare along the West Bank because its inhabitants have no desire for war and their thinking may affect the leaders in Amman.

He conceded, however, that Israel will never be able to entirely eliminate terrorist activities, "because they operate from bases beyond our borders." Nevertheless, Gen. Dayan said, "we are defeating the primary aim of the terrorists, which is to disrupt normal life in Israel." He said, that whatever develops, Israel's future borders will be drawn according to her security needs. "They will not remain, as before June 5, near Natanya and Kfar Saba." The two towns he mentioned lie in what was the narrowest portion of Israel prior to the June war.

Gen. Dayan indicated that Israel's forces were fully ready to meet any new assault "from the southern front, south of the Suez area." A new war would start there, he said, "because, behind the southern front stands the strongest Arab state and one that is vying for leadership of the Arab world and has the support of Russia." He said he was confident that the West Bank will remain quiescent militarily, "not because the inhabitants support us or want us to control them, but because they know that a new war will bring in its wake only destruction and ruin to themselves and their homes."

USA Bills Israel for 3.3 Million to Pay Families of 'Liberty' Crewmen Killed in June

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The United States Government has sent Israel a bill for \$3.3 million for compensation to the families of 34 crewmen killed June 8 on the USS Liberty, off the Sinai coast. Israeli planes and torpedo boats had attacked the ship during the June war. Robert McCloskey, the State Department press officer, said that the bill was sent to Israel on December 29. After the incident, the Israeli Government expressed regrets, and said it would make amends.

New Spanish Law Could Improve Climate for Jews, Interfaith Mission Finds

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A four-man interfaith fact-finding mission that has just returned from Spain reported here this weekend that, while the new Law of Religious Freedom passed by the Spanish Parliament last July falls short of original expectations, the religious climate for the non-Catholic minority in that country seems likely to improve in the year ahead. The mission was sponsored by the Appeal to Conscience Foundation and was headed by its president, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, of the Park East Synagogue. The other members were Dr. Harold A. Bosley, minister of Christ Church Methodist, vice-president of the Foundation; Rev. Eugene K. Culhane, managing editor of the Jesuit weekly America; and Charles Taubman, a New York businessman. Both the latter are members of the Foundation's board.

The group reported that most Catholic and non-Catholic spokesmen in Spain had serious misgivings about a section of the new Law that required non-Catholic religious groups to submit full membership lists and a financial statement before they can enjoy the privileges guaranteed by the law. This provision has caused apprehension among the 7,500 Jews in Spain, according to Max Mazin, president of the Madrid Jewish community, the report said. In addition to the Jews, there are 30,000 Protestants and 2,000 Moslems in Spain.

But, the report said, "we are satisfied that all parties concerned--the men charged with administering the law as well as the spokesmen for non-Catholic groups--are more interested in solutions than in showdowns." As evidence of the Spanish Government's desire to make the law more palatable, Rabbi Schneier cited the five months' extension of the registration deadline, from December 31, 1967 to May 31, 1968. "It is an undeniable fact that many conservatives fear that a pluralistic society would present a threat to the unity of Spain," the report said. But "it was the unanimous opinion of the mission that there is a desire for change among the more enlightened Government leaders."

World Congress Units Urged to Press for U.S. Ratification of Anti-Genocide Treaty

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- All constituents of the American section of the World Jewish Congress were urged today to use their influence to secure U.S. Senate ratification of various human rights documents adopted by the United Nations, especially the anti-genocide convention adopted by the U.N. in 1948 and never approved by the U.S.A.

A statement issued by Jacob Katzman, acting chairman of the WJC's American section, and Max Melamet, the organization's executive director, urged all WJC groups to help observe International Year for Human Rights, set by the United Nations for the entire year 1968. The "Year" marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption by the U.N., in 1948, of the convention against genocide and of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Both those documents had been adopted by the General Assembly, in Paris, without dissenting votes.

Noting "with satisfaction" the progress made in the field of human rights in the last two decades, "particularly in securing wide support for the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration," the Katzman-Melamet statement called attention, however, to the fact that a number of the U.N. documents relating to human rights remain unratified by the U.S.A. "Foremost" among these, the statement noted, is the convention against genocide.

Ratification of several human rights documents adopted by the U.N., including the one banning genocide, had been urged before the U.S. Senate by Presidents Truman, Kennedy and Johnson. The WJC section urged not only ratification of the anti-genocide convention but also the more recently adopted U.N. conventions on the elimination of racial discrimination and on international covenants on civic, political, economic and cultural rights.

Social Clubs Seen as Foci for Top Job Discriminations Against Jews

NORFOLK, Virginia, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The discriminatory membership practices of some social clubs result in the exclusion of Jews from the highest ranks of industrial employment, because major business and community policies are often established within the walls of such clubs, according to Harry Pincus, Jr., chairman of the Community Relations Committee of the United Jewish Federation of Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

Mr. Pincus cited this point in announcing the results of a lengthy study by the CRC of club discrimination in this area, which is paralleled in many other communities throughout the country. It is the conclusion of the CRC that social clubs which discriminate against Jews should not be the sites for community, professional or charitable functions, Mr. Pincus said.

San Francisco Rabbi Joins Ecumenical Consecration of Catholic Bishop

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Rabbi Joseph A. Fine of this city joined with six Protestant ministers and five prelates of the Eastern Orthodox Church at the consecration here of Msgr. Mark J. Harley as auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Church of San Francisco. The ceremony was the first of its kind in which other than Roman Catholic clergymen participated. Bishop Harley expressed the hope that it would symbolize "the one-ness of the human family."

California Negro Senator Dismisses Black Anti-Semitism, Praises Israel

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A Negro State Senator said here today that talk about anti-Semitism among Negroes applies only to a small group of militants and is not characteristic of the Negro community as a whole.

Sen. Mervyn D. Dynally, the only Negro legislator in the State's upper house, made his remarks at a press conference following his return from a 10-day visit to Israel which, he said, impressed him greatly. Senator Dynally had particular praise for Israel's program of international cooperation and the work of Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute.

Scientific Training for Top High School Students Planned by Yeshiva and Federal Body

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Twenty-five outstanding high school science students will have the opportunity to work with leading scientists on a variety of research projects next summer in a training program financed by the National Science Foundation and directed by Dr. Moses B. Tendler, professor of biology at Yeshiva University. The projects will be conducted at local hospitals, medical colleges and research centers, Yeshiva University announced today.

Dr. Tendler said that the students, all in their junior year, will be selected on the basis of their academic qualifications and interests, without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.

Jewish Theater for Children Offers \$1,000 Prize for Best Full-Length Play

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The Jewish Theater for Children will offer a \$1,000 prize for the best full-length play for children in the English language on a Jewish theme, it was announced today by Philip Kasakove, chairman of the Theater. The prize will be the 12th offered by the group with funds made available by Norma U. Levitt, a member of the Theater's board of directors. Manuscripts for the 1968 competition must be submitted not later than December 31, 1968.

The purpose of the contest is to stimulate original dramatic literature for older age group elementary and junior high school pupils, which will give expression to ethical and spiritual values reflected in Jewish life, folklore, history and culture. Prize winning plays will be given professional production.

Yeshiva U Students Create First College Newspaper in Hebrew in U.S.A.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The nation's first college newspaper in the Hebrew language has been established by students at Yeshiva University's Erna Michael College of Hebraic Studies here, it was announced today. The newspaper, "Hamashkif" (The Observer), has been created, according to co-editors Harry T. Berkowitz and Milton M. Markowitz "to stimulate interest among college students in Hebrew as a living language."

American Jewish Congress Head Urges Johnson to Respond Positively to Hanoi Peace Bid

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- President Johnson has been urged by the head of the American Jewish Congress to respond positively to statements by Hanoi that peace talks "will" begin if the U.S. stops bombing North Viet Nam. Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, national president of the Congress, said in a telegram to the White House:

"We urge you, Mr. President, not to let this opportunity slip by, either by delaying our response or by imposing conditions. Any other reply would seriously compromise our country's repeated declarations in pursuit of peace."

The American Jewish Congress leader said that cessation of the bombing would entail a "minimal risk" for the U.S. "in order to achieve an optimum return."