

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Eshkol Greeted By City, Province, Government in Montreal; Sees Pearson Today

MONTREAL, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Leaders of Canadian and local Jewry joined ranking representatives of the city, province and the Federal Government today in greeting Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who had come to Montreal on his four-day visit to Canada. He is scheduled to meet in the capital, Ottawa, tomorrow, with Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

Arriving on schedule, at 11 a.m., at the international airport, Mr. Eshkol, accompanied by his wife, was greeted, in addition to officials of the various levels of government, by Michael Garber, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress; Allan Bronfman, president of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University; and Sam Chait, president of the Federated Zionist Organization of Canada. Present also were Israel's new envoy to Canada, Ambassador Aryeh Eshel, and other members of Israel's diplomatic and consular missions to Canada. Mr. Eshkol addressed the Jewish gathering at the airport in Yiddish.

After a reception at City Hall, headed by Mayor Jean Drapeau, Mr. Eshkol presented to the city, on behalf of his Government, the Israel Pavilion which had been one of the highlights of the recently closed Expo '67 here.

This evening, Mr. Eshkol attended a dinner of the Israel Bond Organization here, at Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue, where leaders of the Bond Organization in this city and in the Commonwealth pledged continuing support for Israel's economic development.

This evening, he was the principal guest and speaker at the Golden Jubilee convention of the Hadasah-WIZO Organization of Canada (WIZO stands for the Women's International Zionist Organization). Honored guests at the event included also the top leadership of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Federated Zionist Organization of Canada, and the Allied Jewish Community Services of Montreal, the central fund-raising body of the Jewish community here.

## Toronto Gives Him Heartwarming Reception; Denies Plan to Seek Canadian Planes

Friday, Mr. Eshkol stepped out of an Air Canada plane at an ice-covered Toronto airport, to receive a heartwarming welcome from hundreds of Toronto Jews and several hundred Toronto Jewish school children who had braved the cold to greet him. Representatives of the Commonwealth Government, the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto were also on hand to welcome the Israeli leader and his party. The Canadian flag and Israel's Star of David were displayed together at the airport. Mr. Eshkol greeted the school children in Hebrew and said he hoped they would consider visiting or living in Israel.

Answering questions at a press conference at the Toronto airport, Mr. Eshkol said it had not been in his plans to raise the question of military aid from Canada and acquisition here of jet planes, but said he would be glad if the question were brought up.

In replying to questions about President de Gaulle of France and his recent expressions regarding Israel, Mr. Eshkol said that he would like to see Gen. de Gaulle end the embargo he had imposed on arms shipments to Israel, and release the 50 Mirage-V jet fighter-bombers that Israel had bought and had paid for in cash.

Mr. Eshkol was taken from the Toronto airport to a reception given by Prime Minister John T. Roberts, of Ontario and Lieutenant Governor Earle Rowe. Later he and his party were guests at a reception given by Mayor William Dennison of Toronto. The Israeli prime minister told his hosts he was happy to be on Canadian soil, and expressed deep appreciation to Prime Minister Pearson for the invitation. He strongly commended the Canadian Jewish community.

In a statement at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, before his plane left the United States, Mr. Eshkol said he was "deeply convinced" of President Johnson's "friendship and his understanding of our problems."

## Israelis in London Term Report of Eshkol Plan to Seek Mideast Settlement as 'Nonsense'

LONDON, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Israeli sources here described as "absolute and utter nonsense" a report in the Sunday Observer that Prime Minister Eshkol is coming here to discuss terms for a Middle East settlement that will embrace all questions at issue with the Arabs including the future status of Jerusalem. Mr. Eshkol is due here later this week for meetings with Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Foreign Secretary George Brown, on his way home from the U.S.A. and Canada.

British sources said today that no agenda was fixed for Mr. Eshkol's talks with the British leaders. They said that no specific questions have been mentioned in connection with the forthcoming meeting, and that they had no information that Israel was prepared to discuss the future of Jerusalem.

**Terrorists Set Fire to Oil Tank Near Eilat; Jordanian Mortars Cover Escape of Saboteurs**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Terrorists operating from Jordan set fire to an oil storage tank about two miles south of Eilat, Israel's southernmost port, late last night, in one of the most daring acts of sabotage yet perpetrated, a military spokesman announced today. The terrorists also lobbed mortar shells into the eastern suburbs of Eilat in a diversionary attack to cover the escape of the saboteurs.

A Jordanian mortar attack against Moshav Beth Yossef in the Beisan Valley early this morning drew return fire from Israeli mortars. No casualties or damage were reported in the exchange. Explosives found under a small bridge in the Jenin area of the West Bank, last night, were dismantled without causing damage.

The Eilat incident was the first attack by terrorists against oil facilities in Israel. A military spokesman said the attack occurred at about 10 p.m., local time. The Eilat fire brigade fought the blaze, and had it out by 2 o'clock this morning.

The mortar barrage began about an hour and a half after the attack on the oil tank, but the shells hit open ground and caused no casualties. Footprints of the mortar squad members were found more than 100 yards from the Jordanian border, along with mortar shell fuses.

**Israeli Cabinet Sets \$11 Million for Civil Defense; Four Times Previous Sum**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA)--The Cabinet today announced a civil defense allocation amounting to \$11 million for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1968. The sum represents a four-fold increase over last year's allocation of \$2.8 million. The money will be used to build new bomb shelters and other civil defense installations. A similar sum is anticipated for fiscal year 1969.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Cabinet today that Prime Minister Eshkol's visit to the United States has been a success and has strengthened the friendly ties between that great power and Israel, both of which are determined to work for peace in the Middle East. The Foreign Minister said that Mr. Eshkol will report in detail on his American trip when he returns to Israel.

Referring to the exchange of letters between President de Gaulle of France and Israel's former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Mr. Eban said that de Gaulle's attitude as expressed to Mr. Ben-Gurion in a letter dated Dec. 31 showed no change from his press conference remarks of last November 27 when he branded Israel an aggressor nation bent on expansion.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reviewed the security situation and the latest acts of terrorism and sabotage, including the blowing up of an oil storage tank near Eilat last night.

**Washington Reports Johnson Promised More Skyhawks for Israel, But No Phantom Jets**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 14 (JTA)--Informed sources reported here this weekend that President Johnson promised Prime Minister Levi Eshkol that the United States will send more A-4s -- the Skyhawk fighter bomber -- to Israel, to help her maintain military superiority over the Arab states. These sources said that, while no specific number of the aircraft was set, Israel would probably get 20 planes, roughly a squadron. Delivery will probably follow that of 48 Skyhawks -- three squadrons -- being sent to Israel under a sales agreement concluded in 1966 which is expected to be completed late this year, the sources said.

Israeli sources meanwhile reported that President Johnson responded "affirmatively" to Mr. Eshkol's requests for weapons aid and agreed with the Prime Minister that both the United States and Israel were interested in creating secure and recognized borders between Israel and the Arab states. However, these sources said, the President made no commitment to Mr. Eshkol on an Israeli request for 50 F-4 Phantom jets, the most advanced operational plane in the American arsenal. Israel had been pressing vigorously for the Phantoms as well as additional Skyhawks, in order to offset Soviet military shipments to the Arab states. In the joint communique with Mr. Eshkol, a week ago, President Johnson indicated that Soviet arms deliveries to the Middle East would be a key factor in future consideration of Israeli requests.

**POW Exchange Under Way Between Israel and Egypt; Expected to be Completed Wednesday**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA)--The first group of Egyptian prisoners of war to be released as a result of an agreement reached between the Israeli and Egyptian governments, through the mediation of the International Red Cross, were turned over to Egyptian authorities on the East bank of the Suez Canal, near Kantara on Friday. The number of POWs involved was not disclosed. Red Cross representatives supervised the operation.

Israel still holds some 4,500 POWs taken during last June's Six-Day War. Egypt holds between 10 and 15 Israeli prisoners, mainly fliers and Marines. It was hoped that the exchange of prisoners would be completed by Wednesday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, an all-Swiss group, announced in Geneva that Israel and Egypt had both indicated their readiness to begin a prisoner exchange after "several months" of negotiations by the committee. The Israelis, however, are believed to have spurred Egyptian agreement by their release of 500 Egyptian soldiers and two high ranking officers on January 1, and 120 others last Tuesday. According to observers here, the action was intended to put pressure on the Egyptian Government to reach an agreement for the release of all POWs.

## Israel Bonds 1968 Quota Set at \$289 Million; Rothberg, Feinberg Reelected

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA)--More than 400 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada voted this weekend to provide a major share of Israel's \$289,000,000 Development Budget this year through the sale of State of Israel Bonds. The decision was reached at the 1968 planning conference of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization which met at the Hotel Commodore to consider maximum financial participation in strategic economic development projects in Israel.

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the organization, emphasized that "at a time when almost all of Israel's resources must be devoted to maintaining her position in the struggle for a lasting peace, the launching of development projects in industry, aviation and commerce vital to its economic growth in 1968 will depend more than ever on the results of the State of Israel Bond campaigns in North America and other parts of the free world."

The conference reelected Samuel Rothberg, of Peoria, Ill., as national campaign chairman, and Abraham Feinberg, of New York, as president of the Israel Bond Organization. Special honors were paid by the group last night to Abraham Harman, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, who is completing his tour of duty in the capital.

Dr. Schwartz said that, in the aftermath of the Middle East hostilities of last summer, Israel looks to the Israel Bond Organization to provide more than half of the funds required to meet the country's development needs for the coming year. In the past, he explained, Israel Bond receipts covered only one-third of the Development Budget. He added that Prime Minister Eshkol's visit to the United States had served to underline Israel's greater reliance on American Jewry for economic aid. He pointed out that the bulk of the proceeds from the sale of Israel Bonds in the United States in 1968 would remain in this country, as in previous year, to repay loans, to cover the purchase of machinery and raw materials, and to pay for other U.S. items exported to Israel.

Dr. Schwartz stated that the \$289,000,000 in Israel's new Development Budget will be allocated to major branches of the economy as follows: \$19,000,000 for agriculture; \$17,000,000 for water projects; \$21,000,000 for mines and minerals; \$7,000,000 for electricity; \$32,000,000 for industry and crafts; \$20,000,000 for transport; \$31,000,000 for posts; \$64,000,000 for housing; \$12,000,000 for roads; \$25,000,000 for government and public buildings; \$7,000,000 for loans to local authorities; \$6,000,000 for tourism; \$7,000,000 for oil pipelines and wells; \$5,000,000 for miscellaneous enterprises, and \$16,000,000 as a reserve for unspecified development projects.

### Boyar Outlines Major Development Projects to be Aided by Bonds This Year

Louis H. Boyar, of Los Angeles, chairman of the board of governors, outlined as follows the major development projects which will be financed with the aid of Israel Bond income in the current year:

1) Construction of a new 42-inch oil pipeline from Elath to the Mediterranean to bring about a major increase in the amount of oil which can be pumped from ships berthed at Elath on the Gulf of Akaba to Ashdod and Haifa on the Mediterranean. It is expected that the new pipeline will be able to carry 50,000,000 tons of oil per year; (2) Expansion of the Dead Sea Works, with a goal of 1,000,000 tons of potash production each year by 1970; (3) Initial construction of the Arad Chemical complex, planned for the development town of Arad in the Negev to exploit the phosphate deposits in the area; (4) Construction of a new plant of Chemicals and Phosphates Ltd., to produce 80,000 tons of ammonia and 30,000 tons of urea per year; (5) Development of facilities for the utilization of nuclear energy for peacetime industrial purposes;

6) Construction of a new air terminal at Lydda capable of handling supersonic planes, and the purchase of additional up-to-date planes for El Al Israel Airlines as a means of furthering the growth of the country's tourist trade; (7) Building 17,000 new housing units during 1968; (8) Addition of another 38,000 telephones during the year; and (9) Construction of new roads, including completion of the widened highway from Tel Aviv to Haifa, and building a new road linking Lydda Airport with both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

"As Israel moves into the supersonic and nuclear age as part of her economic life," Mr. Boyar said, "Israel Bonds must play a role of increasing importance in its development as a modern, advanced economic entity."

The decisive importance of continued aid to Israel's economic development was emphasized also by Mr. Rothberg, who stressed the fact that Israel's export trade and industrial production had suffered substantial losses as a result of the summer crisis of 1967. In addition to the problem of restoring the economy to normal operation, Israel is confronted with the task of further reducing unemployment and sustaining the economy of areas which came under her administration seven months ago, he said.

Noting that there is still substantial unemployment in Israel, Mr. Rothberg declared: "Because Israel Bond funds reached Israel in record amounts during 1967, it was possible to keep unemployment under control, in spite of the economic strains caused by the critical developments of last June. Unemployment reached a peak of 42,500 in March, but was down to 31,000 by the end of the year. However, Israel is still a long way from achieving the kind of full employment which existed in 1964 and earlier years. That will require continued concentration on the expansion of the country's export trade. The recent currency devaluation has been a step in the right direction. Now Israel must concentrate on an accelerated expansion of industries which produce for export, providing an increase of employment opportunities on a basis which is economically sound."

Mr. Rothberg announced that the 1968 Israel Bond campaign will be officially launched at a four-day international inaugural conference to be held in Miami Beach from Thursday, February 29 through Sunday, March 3. The occasion will also welcome Maj-Gen. Itzhak Rabin, chief of staff during the recent Arab-Israel conflict, who has been named as Israel's new Ambassador to the United States.

The Israel Bonds, which are on sale this year, consist of a \$500,000,000 Fourth Development Issue which was launched on September 15, 1967. They are available in twelve-year savings bonds beginning at \$100 which mature at 160% of the issue amount and fifteen-year coupon bonds, beginning at \$500, which pay 4% interest per annum.

#### Boyar Honored on 70th Birthday; Women's Division Plans Participation

A special highlight of the conference was a tribute to Mr. Boyar in honor of his 70th birthday. A silver breastplate for the Torah (Scrolls of the Law) was presented to Mr. Boyar by Mr. Rothberg, in behalf of the Israel Bond Organization. The inscription on the presentation cited Mr. Boyar for "a lifetime of exceptional service to the cause of Jewish survival and the building of the State of Israel. His unbounded generosity and forceful leadership have earned for him a unique place of honor in American Jewry and in the affections of his colleagues."

A special award was also presented to Himan Brown, noted radio and television producer, in recognition of his service as volunteer producer and director of the annual Chanukah Festival for Israel sponsored by Israel Bonds at Madison Square Garden.

At a separate session of the national women's division of the Bond Organization, held in conjunction with the conference, a plaque was presented to Jacques Lipchitz, the famous sculptor, in recognition of his "devoted support for Israel through exemplary participation in the Israel Bond program." At the session, women's division leaders from the United States and Canada set plans for their 1968 Israel Bond campaign. Mrs. Jan Pearce, national women's division chairman, presided.

In an address to the women delegates, Mrs. Pearce paid tribute to them for their "intense awareness of Israel's needs in the coming year." "There is every reason to believe," she said, "that your efforts will be translated into an overwhelmingly successful campaign in 1968, for you have demonstrated your willingness and ability to make this so."

Three campaign seminars were held in conjunction with the women's division session. Mrs. Oscar Rudnick, of Worcester, Mass., was chairman of a seminar for small cities; Mrs. Milton Berger, of Rochester, N.Y., was chairman of a seminar for medium cities; and Mrs. David Sindell, of Cleveland, presided at a seminar for large cities.

#### Hias Adopts \$2,375,000 Budget for 1968; 50,000 Jews Slated for Migrant Services

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA)--United Hias Service has adopted a 1968 budget of \$2,375,000, designed to provide migration and related services for more than 50,000 Jews throughout the world, it was announced here today by Carlos L. Israels, agency President. He said that, as a result of the Six-Day War "new and vital resettlement needs were created." He referred to the more than 25,000 Jews who fled Arab countries in the wake of the swift Israeli victory.

"Members of our overseas staff are stationed at docks, airports and reception centers to interview and process the refugees. United Hias is aiding a significant number of these uprooted and homeless people to establish new lives in Western countries," Mr. Israels said.

He estimated that, in 1968, the agency would be called upon to assist a total of 6,650 Jewish men, women and children from Eastern Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Cuba to immigrate and resettle in free countries of the Western world. "This increase includes 1,950 persons who will be aided to immigrate to the U.S., about 50 percent over the number who found new homes in this country last year," he said.

According to Gaynor I. Jacobson, UHS executive director, French-speaking Jews from North Africa are finding excellent resettlement opportunities in Canada. This year, he said, in cooperation with the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, "we anticipate that United Hias will assist about 1,200 Jewish refugees and migrants, mainly from Morocco, to immigrate and resettle in Canada.

As for Cuba, the Hias executive noted there are still about 2,000 Jews there, out of a pre-Castro Jewish population of about 11,000. "In 1968 our agency will aid about 400 of these people to immigrate and resettle, mainly in the U.S. Since the Castro uprising, thousands of Jewish refugees from Cuba have been integrated into the fabric of American society as a result of the outstanding cooperation and support of local Jewish resettlement agencies in every State of the Union."

In commenting on the budget, Mr. Jacobson stated the new U.S. immigration legislation, which abolishes the national origins quota system on July 1, 1968, has created a world-wide competition for immigration visas. "United Hias is making every effort at this time to expedite and finalize immigration plans for those who will be affected by the changeover in the law," he said.

#### Javits Says In Israel U.S. Should Supply 'Sophisticated Weapons'

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, told a press conference here that "the United States should supply Israel with sophisticated equipment, in view of the fact that Russia has practically restored the pre-war arsenal of the Arab countries."