

JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXV-Fifty-First Year

Tuesday, January 30, 1968

No. 21

Gen. Bull to Warn Egypt Against Work on North End of Canal Without Agreement

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of the U.N. cease-fire observers corps in the Middle East, left here for Cairo this afternoon, presumably carrying a warning from Israel that she will regard as a breach of the cease-fire, any attempt by Egypt to unblock the northern end of the Suez Canal.

Cairo radio said today that survey work in the northern section of the Canal will begin tomorrow. Israel has agreed to the unblocking of the southern end of the Canal in order to free 15 merchant ships that have been stranded there since last June. But Israel vetoed an Egyptian plan to carry out a similar survey in the North which is considered here as an attempt to explore the technical possibilities of re-opening the Canal without the agreement of Israel. The agreement of both sides is required by the Israel-Egyptian cease-fire agreement of last June in order for either one to make use of the Canal. Gen. Bull is believed to be carrying Israel's objections to Cairo in the hope of avoiding any new incidents along the Canal.

Political circles here believe that Israel would agree to the re-opening of the Canal to ships of all nations, except those of Egypt as long as Israeli shipping is barred from the waterway. It is not considered likely however that Egypt would agree to such terms for reasons of national prestige and because Egyptian tugs and pilots are required to guide shipping through the Canal.

Security Forces Smash New Arab Terrorist Organization, Seize 71 Men

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Israeli security forces smashed a new Arab underground terrorist organization in a series of lightning raids on the night of Jan. 24-25 that netted 71 members and a large cache of arms and ammunition, a military spokesman announced today.

The new group, organized into cells, called itself "el commune el Arab." The raids and arrests followed tip-offs from Arabs previously arrested and interrogated by security police. Among the arms seized were submachine guns, rifles and mortar shells.

Israel Defense Expenditures Equal 70% of Income, Gen. Allon Tells UJA

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., Jan. 29 (JTA)--Gen. Yigai Allon, the Israeli Minister of Labor, told American Jewish leaders at a conference here that Israel will "be spending more for armaments in the next two-year period that we did in the decade between the Sinai campaign of 1956 and the Six-Day War last June." He said that 70 percent of Israel's income was being diverted to defense purposes.

Gen. Allon, a hero of Israel's war for liberation in 1948, spoke at a banquet tendered in his honor by the Western Region leadership conference of the United Jewish Appeal Saturday night. He said that in view of his nation's tremendous defense burden, "we in Israel appreciate and are grateful for the generous aid that we received from the Jews of America through the United Jewish Appeal's Israel Emergency Fund, Edward Ginsberg, of Cleveland, general chairman of the UJA, warned at the same affair that there can be no let up on the need and urgency of the Emergency Fund in 1968 because of the Arab states' attitude of "no negotiations and no peace" with Israel.

Gen. Allon devoted much of his address to a analysis of Israel's relations with Egypt whose president, Nasser, was taken prisoner by Gen. Allon during the 1948-49 war. He said that "despite our bitter disappointment with Nasser, we in Israel still believe that he is first and foremost an Egyptian patriot who wants to see his country retain the independence he fought for in his time." In that light, Gen. Allon predicted, Nasser is bound to realize that the ever increasing presence of Russian advisors and technicians in Egypt, backed by large Russian naval units in Egyptian ports, poses a threat to Egypt's independence.

The speaker reiterated Israel's desire for peace with all of her neighbors and said that toward that end Israel is prepared to negotiate with the Arab countries individually or collectively. He said both Israel and Egypt would benefit from a peace treaty because it would permit them to divert the huge sums they are spending for armaments to much needed social services and economic development.

Little Hope Held Out For Lost Israeli Submarine As Wide Search Continues

LONDON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Naval experts here held out little hope today for the Israeli submarine Dakar and her crew of 69 officers and men, posted missing in the Eastern Mediterranean since last Thursday. Newspapers speculated meanwhile on the coincidental loss of the French submarine Minerva which went missing yesterday off Toulon in the Western Mediterranean. The Times saw nothing beyond a "cruel coincidence" in the loss of the two undersea craft. The Daily Mail noted that NATO naval chiefs were "puzzled" by the disappearance of two submarines in the Mediterranean within three days of each other. But naval officials emphasized that they had "no solid evidence" to link the disappearances with the Soviet fleet that has been operating in the Mediterranean in increasing strength since last June.

(Early today, Israel was swept by a rumor that the Dakar was entering Haifa harbor under its own power. There were reports that signals had been intercepted which might have been emitted from the marker buoys released by submarines in distress, but the Jerusalem Radio said no signals had been received which could have come from the missing underseas craft. At Nicosia, Cyprus, headquarters of the British searching units, it was said that no signals had been intercepted.)

A massive international sea-air search continued to comb the area between Israel and Cyprus for traces of the submarine which has been missing since last Thursday. Two British Argosy planes and a photo reconnaissance Canberra-type plane are participating in the search from the RAF base on Cyprus. They were joined by two Coastal Command Shackleton planes from Malta. Four vessels of the U.S. Sixth fleet along with British, Turkish and Greek warships and 11 Israeli vessels criss-crossed the seas in the area but so far have turned up no sign of the missing submarine.

It was learned from Cairo today that Egyptian authorities had warned U.S. and British naval aircraft conducting a search for the Dakar to keep out of Arab territorial waters.

Orthodox Scholars Pray for Safety of Missing Submarine During Torah Reading

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Psalms and prayers were recited at a conclave of Orthodox scholars and youths here last night for the safety of 69 crewmen aboard the Israeli submarine Dakar which has been missing in the Eastern Mediterranean since last Thursday. The occasion was the festivity marking completion of the sixth reading of the Talmud, a tradition of study established by the world assembly of the Agudat Israel in 1923. A full Talmud reading -- a page per day -- occupies seven years.

Rabbi Menachem Porush, Aguda member of the Knesset, led the prayers for the missing vessel and her complement.

State Dept. Official Minimizes Soviet Military Role in Middle East

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--The State Department holds the position that "despite press reports to the contrary, we have no evidence of any kind that the USSR has installed any such (ground-to-ground) missiles in Arab countries up to the present time, or that such installation is imminent." The denial was made by Assistant Secretary of State William B. Macomber, Jr., in a letter to Rep. J. Herbert Burke, Fla. Rep.

Mr. Macomber conceded that "some Arab countries have received certain other types of tactical missiles." He said that "there has been no evidence of a large new influx of Soviet military personnel into Syria, Egypt, Algeria or other Arab countries." Government estimates on the numbers of Soviet personnel in these countries, he said, were "classified" information but "I am able to say that they are substantially below the figures cited in recent press reports."

The State Department official also minimized the danger of Soviet airpower operating from Egypt. He said that the Soviet TU-16 bombers had been in Egypt on a temporary mission but had returned to the USSR. The Russians, he added, had not sent any of their best long-range and medium-range bombers to the Middle East.

Although he minimized the extent of Soviet military personnel placement in the Middle East, Mr. Macomber revealed that "increased Soviet military activities in the Mediterranean area" have been discussed by the United States "with our NATO allies." He said that "instability and disputes in the Middle East have provided a basis for increasing Soviet pressure and influence." He also noted that "the Soviet resupply of losses in military equipment suffered by some of the radical Arab states in the June 1967 war has given Moscow a chance to make up for the psychological loss it suffered in the Arab military defeat."

Outlining the aims of American policy in the Middle East as "to promote our important political and commercial interests," Mr. Macomber said that "we believe it essential to maintain a collaborative relationship with the moderate elements in the area with which we have had long and friendly ties. We hope that our ties can be restored, in time, with those states in the area which broke diplomatic relations with us last year during the Arab-Israeli war; but we insist that relations can be resumed only on the basis of mutual respect and dignity, and under conditions which will specifically compensate us for damages suffered."

Congressman Cites Arab Arms Buildup, Urges Phantom Jet Sales to Israel

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 29 (JTA)--Rep. Richard Schweiker, Pennsylvania Republican, citing a dangerous arms buildup of Arab states by the Soviet Union and France, urged that the United States Government immediately approve the sale of Phantom jet fighter-bombers to Israel. A member of the House armed services committee, Rep. Schweiker addressed a Jewish National Fund dinner here.

He said United States approval of such a transaction was "crucial" because France had cancelled contracts to provide Israel with jet planes. He condemned President de Gaulle of France for withholding planes from Israel and offering them to Iraq. He accused Gen. de Gaulle of anti-Semitism and malice toward Israel. He said de Gaulle's conduct was producing "tragic consequences."

Kosygin, In Interview, Stresses Demand That Israel Withdraw From Occupied Territories

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Soviet determination to bring about Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories was emphasized by Soviet Premier Aleksí Kosygin in an interview published today by Life Magazine. Premier Kosygin told Life that "We are very concerned over events in the Middle East." He said the USSR was "not in favor of the liquidation of Israel" but did insist on exerting every political effort to force withdrawal to the positions held before June 5.

Mr. Kosygin charged that "The U.S. gives Israel grounds for not freeing this territory, and this creates tension in the area." The United States, he said, "for one reason or another, is pursuing an aggressive policy and playing with fire." He asserted that "had the U.S. joined the efforts of the Soviet Union, then doubtless Israel would have freed the seized lands in a couple of days." He insisted that "there can only be one solution — to leave the territory and return it to the Arabs. This must be done as soon as possible."

According to the Soviet leader, "The Arab countries and in particular the UAR — pursuing a very flexible policy — had almost agreed to the settling of the navigation problem and to relinquishing claims to the elimination of the State of Israel. But the U.S. by giving every support to Israel, encourages it not to set the occupied territories free. This policy of connivance with Israel's aggressive aspirations is inevitably creating another dangerous seat of tension. The U.S. bears responsibility."

Pope Tells B'nai B'rith Leaders He Will Oppose Any Persecution of Jews

ROME, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Pope Paul VI assured two Jewish leaders here yesterday that wherever and whenever persecution of the Jews occurred, he would speak out against it. He said that his greatest desire was to rectify the wrongs of the past.

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church held audience with Dr. William Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, and Herman Edelsburg, director of its international council, who are touring European capitals. The Jewish leaders exchanged gifts with Pope Paul. They presented him with an 18 century amulet and a silver Kabbalistic box. The Pope gave his visitors a gold medal and a newly-published book on St. Peter.

Dr. Wexler gave the Jewish Telegraphic Agency a report on the Papal audience. He said that he and Mr. Edelsburg had informed the Pope that "steady progress is being made in implementing the Vatican Council's 1965 declaration on the Jews although certain dioceses in certain countries lagged behind others in updating the catechisms and textbook references to the Jews. Their information was based on reports received by the B'nai B'rith from 46 countries. They referred specifically to Spain where Jews and Protestant minorities are concerned with a law that require them to submit financial reports to the authorities and the names of all congregants before they can enjoy the benefits of the new law on religious freedom in Spain.

In the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Australia, Dr. Wexler told the Pope, the doors of better interfaith relations have "opened wide than ever" since the Vatican Council. Dr. Wexler said the Pope stressed the need for patience in striving for real implementation of the Council's declarations not only on the parish level but among the higher clergy.

Dr. Wexler and Mr. Edelsburg left for Vienna where they are scheduled to meet Bundeskanzler Klaus on various questions including the fight against anti-Semitism and restitution for Austrian victims of Nazism.

Cardinal Seper Named to Vatican Commission to Interpret Council Decisions

ROME, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Franjo Cardinal Seper, who strongly supported the revision of Roman Catholic doctrine on the Jews at the second Vatican Council in 1965, has been appointed a member of the 7-man commission for the "interpretation of Vatican II," it was announced here today. Cardinal Seper, the Archbishop of Zagreb, was previously appointed to the post of Prefect of the Congregation for Faith and Doctrine. During the Ecumenical Council's sessions, he was one of the chief advocates of changes in Catholic textbooks and catechism to eliminate the accusation of deicide against the Jews.

Catholic Bishops Conference Reorganizes Secretariat for Jewish Relations

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., Jan. 29 (JTA)--Reorganization of the former Subcommittee for Catholic-Jewish Relations established by the American Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in 1965, was announced today by Bishop Francis P. Leipzic, of Baker, Oregon. Bishop Leipzic is Moderator of the new Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations.

The new Secretariat will have its headquarters at Seton Hall University here with Father Edward H. Flannery as executive director. Bishop Leipzic also announced the appointment of an Executive Committee for the Secretariat and a Board of Consultants.

The subcommittee was originally established to increase Jewish-Christian understanding and dialogue. It published "Guidelines for Catholic-Jewish Relations" in 1966. The new secretariat, Father Flannery said today, "should prove a potent instrument in achieving new advances in Jewish-Catholic harmony in the United States and should contribute effectively toward putting to naught the productions of those observers who have despaired of the Jewish-Christian dialogue in the wake of the Arab-Israeli war of last June."

Committee To Fight Blaine Amendment Repeal Is Reorganized in New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA)--A new move in Albany to strike the Blaine Amendment, prohibiting state aid to religious schools, from the New York State Constitution was labeled today as a "blatant, foolish and unnecessary disregard of the voter's will." William Haddad, co-chairman of the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty, said his group will reactivate itself to fight a bill introduced into the State Senate by Republican Majority leader Earl W. Brydges, calling for repeal of the Blaine Amendment.

The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty which includes leading Jewish fraternal and service organizations and representative groups of Conservative and Reform Judaism, was established last year in opposition to a new State Constitution which would have eliminated the Blaine Amendment. The new constitution was decisively defeated by the voters of New York State last November, mainly on the issue of state aid to religious schools. The new constitution was supported, among others, by Roman Catholic and Orthodox Jewish groups.

Continental Committee Established To Launch 1968 Israel Bond Drive

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Formation of a continental committee of Jewish communal leaders to organize the launching of the 1968 campaign for State of Israel Bonds was announced today by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz of New York, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization. The committee will plan and direct the preparations in the U.S. and Canada for the International Inaugural Conference for Israel Bonds, which will be held at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami, Feb. 29-March 3.

Major General Itzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador-designate to the United States, who served as Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces during the Six Day War of 1967, will be the guest of honor at the conference, which will also celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the State of Israel. Chairmen of the conference committee are Samuel Rothberg of Peoria, national campaign chairman of Israel Bonds, and Louis H. Boyar of Los Angeles, chairman of the national board of governors.

Mrs. Paula Ben-Gurion Dies in Beersheba Hospital After Long Illness

BEERSHEBA, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Mrs. Paula Munwess Ben-Gurion, wife of the former Prime Minister of Israel, died here today at the age of 76. Mrs. Ben-Gurion, who had been ill for several years, was rushed to Beersheba Hospital last night from her home in Sdeh Boker after suffering a hemorrhage. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son and two daughters.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Sdeh Boker, the Negev settlement where Israel's former Prime Minister and his wife made their home. Her coffin will lay in state tomorrow prior to burial.

Condolence visits were paid to Mr. Ben-Gurion today by Cabinet ministers, members of the Knesset and labor leaders from all political factions. Among the latter was Mrs. Golda Meir, former Foreign Minister of Israel, who was a bitter political foe of Mr. Ben-Gurion in recent years.

Mrs. Ben-Gurion was born in Minsk, Russia, on April 8, 1892 and was brought to the United States by relatives when she was 13. She studied at the Brooklyn Jewish Training School for nurses and later worked as a student nurse at Beth Israel Hospital in New York City. She met her future husband in New York where Mr. Ben-Gurion came after being expelled from Palestine by the Turkish authorities. They were married at City Hall on Dec. 5, 1917. A few months later, Mr. Ben-Gurion returned to the Middle East and enlisted in the Jewish Legion, the first Jewish military unit in modern times, which fought with Lord Allenby to liberate Palestine from Turkish rule.

Mrs. Ben-Gurion joined her husband in Palestine at the end of World War I, bringing with her an infant daughter, Geula, who was born in New York during her father's absence. In 1920, the Ben-Gurion family spent several months in London where Mr. Ben-Gurion was sent on a mission for the Zionist Organization. Their son, Amos was born there. Their youngest daughter, Renana, was born later in Jerusalem.

Mrs. Ben-Gurion was best known as a housewife and mother during her husband's rise to international prominence. But she was constantly at her husband's side in his public appearances and during private chats with visitors from all over the world. One of her last public functions was the naming of the Israeli luxury liner Shalom at St. Nazaire, France in 1963.

American Jewish Leaders, Organizations, Pay Tribute to Paula Ben-Gurion

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Tributes to the late Mrs. David Ben-Gurion were offered today by American Jewish leaders who had known her over the years and by the national organizations working with Israel.

A statement by Edward Ginsberg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, paid tribute to her as "a dynamic and indomitable woman," Abraham Feinberg, president and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, hailed her "singlemindedness of purpose and loyalty without parallel."

The American Jewish Committee, in a statement, described Mrs. Ben-Gurion as "a gracious and gallant lady." Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, said she was a "remarkable personality who shared with her distinguished husband the idealism and courage that created a nation."