

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Report Suez Canal Zone Quiet; Egyptians Suspend Clearance Activities

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The Suez Canal sector was reported quiet today after the 90-minute artillery flare-up yesterday and a military spokesman reported that there was no sign of activity along the Egyptian-held west bank of the canal.

Broadcasts over the Cairo Radio last night declared that Egypt had suspended all operations to clear the canal to permit the release of 15 merchant ships stranded in the southern portion of the waterway. The broadcasts blamed Israel for the suspension. The shooting yesterday followed Egyptian attempts to send survey boats into the canal's northern sector. Israeli units fired warning shots at the craft. The Egyptians responded by shelling Israeli positions at Kantara and Dar Sueir.

Israel held that Egypt was violating the cease-fire agreement of last June when it sent boats into the northern sector of the canal without Israel's prior assent. The agreement provided that neither side navigate or use the canal in any way without agreement by the other. Israel had agreed last week to Egyptian operations to clear the southern end of the canal to free the stranded merchant ships. Israel contended that Egypt's attempt to enter the northern end of the canal yesterday constituted a violation of that agreement as well.

### Israel Envoy Accuses Egypt of 'Premeditated Hostile Act' in Canal Incident

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 31 (JTA)--Ambassador Joseph Tekoah, head of the Israel delegation to the United Nations, charged last night in a televised interview over the Eastern Educational Network that Egypt had been guilty of a "wilful and premeditated hostile act" in opening fire on the Israelis in the canal zone yesterday.

Earlier, the Egyptian envoy, in a letter to Secretary General U Thant, accused Israel of blame for the incidents which he termed "a flagrant violation of the cease-fire resolutions" and asserted that "they obstruct those operations which have been undertaken by the Suez Canal Authority for the release of those ships."

(In London, The Financial Times said today that Egypt's attempt to start operations in the north end of the canal had probably been undertaken at the urging of the Soviet Union. The paper said Russia wanted the entire canal restored to operation.)

## France To Supply Iraq With Mirage Jet Fighters, Train Its Squadrons

LONDON, Jan. 31 (JTA)--France will supply Iraq with 32 Mirage jet fighter-bombers and 20 other Mirage aircraft of different types as part of a 67 million pounds sterling (\$160.8 million) arms agreement that will be signed in Paris next week by President de Gaulle and President Aref of Iraq, the London Daily Telegraph reported today. The arms deal with Iraq will re-open the question of de Gaulle's attitude toward Israel and the Jews in general, the paper's diplomatic correspondent said. Iraq fought against Israel last June and still has forces in Jordan.

According to the report, France will lend Iraq 12 Mirage jets until the Iraqi planes are ready for delivery and will train three squadrons of the Iraqi Air Force in the operation and maintenance of the supersonic warplanes. France will also supply Iraq with 100 air-to-air Matro rockets and 72 Nord rockets. Spare parts and accessories will also be supplied but outside the terms of the arms agreement. The other types of Mirage jets going to Iraq, the Telegraph said, are 16 E3-3 interceptors, two photo reconnaissance planes and two two-seater trainers.

## Retiring NATO Commander Warns of Threat of Soviet Buildup in Mediterranean

NAPLES, Jan. 31 (JTA)--U.S. Admiral Charles Griffin, retiring Commander of the Southern European forces of NATO, warned here today that the Soviet build-up of naval power in the Mediterranean poses a significant threat to Italy, Greece, Turkey and the whole southern flank of the Western alliance and has caused NATO to alter its strategy. Admiral Griffin said that while some of the Soviet's "protégés" suffered a disastrous military defeat last June, "the ironic fact is that the Soviets emerged from that episode with their power position greatly enhanced and their Arab clients more dependent on them now than ever before."

Admiral Griffin estimated that the Soviet naval force in the Mediterranean numbers about 25 to 40 surface ships of which over half are of the combat type and the rest of support type. He confirmed that Russia is building helicopter carriers.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent whether the Soviet fleet included amphibious forces, the Admiral said that "it is established that amphibious equipment is carried by the Soviet fleet and it can also be assumed that where there is the equipment there are also the troops to use the equipment."

Admiral Griffo said that the basic Russian goal is the expansion of its power and influence by the creation of subservient regimes which they have done along the southern flank of the Mediterranean. "If they succeed in entrenching themselves in this area of vital concern," he said, "they will create a totally different situation for the Western allies." He predicted, however, that NATO would cope successfully with this challenge as it had with all others since the end of World War II.

### Israel Replies to Charges of 'De-Arabization' of Occupied Territories

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 31 (JTA)--Israel today refuted allegations by the "Arab Group" at the United Nations that it was pursuing a deliberate policy of "de-Arabization" in the territories occupied during last June's war in order to further the settlement of Jewish immigrants and eventual annexation. Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, permanent representative of Israel to the U.N., declared in a letter to Secretary-General U Thant that Israel "is determined to ensure normal civilian life and economic development free from the threat of violence and bloodshed" in the occupied territories. He added that "it is a source of satisfaction that agricultural, commercial, industrial, education activities and public services are continuing normally in all these regions and are being developed and expanded."

Ambassador Tekoah's letter was written in response to a letter addressed to the Secretary-General on Jan. 24 by Souheil Chammas, charge d'Affaires of the Lebanese mission to the U.N., who was chairman of the "Arab Group" this month. The Lebanese letter had accused Israel of "systematically perpetrating acts of persecution, torture and oppression against the civilian population in all occupied territory" and of carrying out mass deportations of Arabs.

Ambassador Tekoah charged in his letter that these allegations, most of which have already been refuted by Israeli representatives in the U.N., are part of a continuing Arab policy of "belligerency, incitement and hate propaganda against Israel." He said it is not surprising that those who seek to heighten tensions and foster hostility are not pleased by the normalization of life in the occupied territories. "They will, however, find no support for their designs among the vast majority of the area's population. Jews and Arabs alike are weary of the long and bitter strife and want now to live at long last in peaceful co-existence." Ambassador Tekoah requested that his letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

### Search Continues for Missing Submarine as Sistership Makes Port

HAIFA, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Samples of an oil slick taken from the sea between Famagusta, Cyprus, and the Lebanese coast were being examined in laboratories here today as the search continued for clues to the fate of the missing Israeli submarine, Dakar. The oil slick was found in roughly the same area from which wireless distress signals were detected on Saturday. The signals may have come from the Dakar's radio indicator buoy but no buoy was found and the submarine did not respond to calls on its wireless frequency. The oil samples are under study in the laboratories of the Haifa Technion, the Army and several fuel companies.

The Dakar's sistership, the new Israeli submarine Dolphin, arrived at her home base today without maiden voyage fanfare. The former British undersea craft had taken part in the massive sea-air search for the Dakar but had nothing to report. The Dolphin and the Dakar left Portsmouth Naval Base, England, on Jan. 9 after being commissioned under the Israeli flag. The Dolphin made the 2,000 mile voyage on the surface but the Dakar made part of the trip submerged.

### New Snowstorm, Gales, Lash Jerusalem for Second Time in Two Weeks

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Heavy snow, lashed by gale winds, hit Jerusalem again this afternoon rousing fears that this city was in for a repeat of the devastating snow fall that virtually paralyzed it two weeks ago.

Householders began to stock up on food items as traffic hampered by snow drifts and slush slowed down to a crawl in some of the main thoroughfares. No breakdowns in public service were reported. But some residents are still without telephone service from the previous snow storm and many streets are still littered with fallen tree branches. Local meteorologists noted that Jerusalem usually experiences snow no more than twice in a decade.

### Israel's Citrus Exports to Exceed Last Year's, Marketing Chief Reports

LONDON, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Israel's current citrus exports are now running 600,000 cases ahead of last year despite the season's late start, the delayed arrival in Israel of many citrus-loading vessels and the severe gales and snowstorms which eliminated the equivalent of 2 million cases from the citrus export market. This report on the status of Israel's number one export was given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here today by Moshe Levin, European Director of the Israel Citrus Marketing Board. He said that despite all of the obstacles, Israel will export an estimated 37 million cases of citrus fruit this season, about 3 million cases more than last season.

Mr. Levin said that Israeli oranges are selling for an average of one pound sterling (\$2.40) per box or carton on the European market. He said that the fruit is very good and that the demand is about the same as last year, which was a good year. Mr. Levin noted that Spanish oranges, Israel's chief competitor at this time of year, were affected by the cold spell which invariably benefits Israeli sales to some extent. Mr. Levin said that the storm damage suffered by the Israeli citrus crop did not add up to a total loss. While fruit blown off the trees by the high winds was not suited for export, it was adequate for the factories that make citrus juice and other by-products.

## Resistance Group Voices Concern Over Rise of Neo-Nazism in West Germany

BRUSSELS, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Concern over the rise of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party in West Germany and with the influence of former Nazis in their own country was expressed here today by the International Union of Resistance and Deportees. A delegation representing the Union will meet with the West German Secretary of State in Bonn on Feb. 16 to discuss the problem of neo-Nazism in connection with the NPD.

Hubert Halin, general delegate, assailed the racist implications that have crept into the linguistic dispute between French-speaking Belgians and those of Flemish descent. He attributed it to the influence of former Nazis such as Wim Maes, chief of the extremist Flemish nationalist movement.

## Polish Govt. Permits West German Court Officials to Inspect Auschwitz Camp Site

BONN, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Judge Hans Meher of the Frankfurt court, with two state prosecutors and three defense lawyers, has been granted permission by the Polish Government to visit the site of the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. Their purpose is to gather evidence in connection with the trial of former "Kapos" concentration camp guards selected from the camp inmates -- who are charged with war crimes and are to go on trial soon.

## To Unveil Monument to Dachau Victims on Anniversary of Camp's Liberation

MUNICH, Jan. 31 (JTA)--A memorial monument to the victims of the infamous Nazi concentration camp at Dachau will be unveiled at the camp site on May 5, the 23rd anniversary of the camp's liberation by Allied forces in World War II. The monument, designed by sculptor Nandor Glid, won first prize in an international competition for the design of the memorial. Glid also designed the memorial that stands on the site of the Mauthausen concentration camp. At least 40,000 Jews and many other anti-Nazis, including Germans, were killed at Dachau.

## Polish Govt. Reveals Plans for Marking Warsaw Ghetto Revolt Anniversary

WARSAW, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The Polish Government announced today details of an official program to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. It will include the unveiling of the first tablet bearing the names of all who fell in the abortive revolt against the Nazis in 1943.

Preliminary to the anniversary, the Union of Partisans and Freedom Fighters will conduct a seminar on the history of the revolt and its significance. The lectures will stress the Polish-Jewish collaboration during the revolt. The Jewish Social and Cultural Association will organize a symposium of its own on the same theme.

The memorial tablet will be unveiled at the Jewish cemetery on Gensza Street on April 18, the day before the anniversary. On April 19 there will be a military parade and pilgrimage to the Ghetto Memorial, a mass meeting and a special performance by the Yiddish State Theater.

## Nazi Destruction of Latvian Jewry Documented in Book Published in London

LONDON, Jan. 31 (JTA)--A book documenting crimes against the Jews and others during the Nazi occupation of the Soviet Latvian Republic in World War II, has been published here. Edited by A. Kadukas, a Russian, it drew its material from official Soviet sources such as governmental archives and historical institutes. The title is "We Accuse."

The book documents, in text and photographs, the destruction of Jewish communities in Latvia during the period 1941-45 in which many Latvians were willing collaborators of the Germans and were responsible for some of the worst atrocities. Latvians who refused to collaborate were also imprisoned and killed. Before World War II the Jewish community in Latvia numbered 150,000 persons. It is virtually non-existent today.

## Finds Egyptian Jews Who Settled Here After 1956 Well-Adjusted to U.S. Life

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Ninety percent of the small community of Egyptian Jews in the United States have adjusted well to life in this country "and, despite their recent arrival, have made useful contributions to the economy of the country by their professional and business skills." This was the evaluation of Dr. Victor D. Sanua, associate professor of psychology at Yeshiva University's Wurzelwer School of Social Work, in a study he conducted here on the adjustment of Sephardi (oriental) Jews in the New York area. The study was undertaken on behalf of the World Jewish Congress and was published in the Jewish Journal of Sociology in London.

Dr. Sanua said that there are approximately 450 Egyptian Jewish families in the New York area, virtually all of who came to the United States following the 1956 Suez campaign when quota restrictions were relaxed owing to the ill-treatment of Jews in Egypt. He said that 90 percent of them belonged to the middle and upper classes in Egypt and that their economic success "can be attributed to their high level of formal education and their knowledge of several languages." Many have opened businesses while others have been employed by large companies and quickly became prosperous and self-sufficient, the survey said.

The survey found that 85 percent of the Egyptian Jews continued to socialize with friends they had known in their native country. It also found that the French culture in Egypt had, to a certain extent, replaced the traditional Sephardic practices still found among Spanish and Syrian Jews living in America.

## New York Legislature Urged to Reject Bill to Repeal Blaine Amendment

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress today urged the New York State Assembly to "reject and repudiate" a bill adopted by the State Senate in Albany last night which would repeal the Blaine Amendment in New York's constitution barring state aid to parochial schools. The Senate passed the bill by a 35 to 17 vote. Before repeal can be effected, however, the measure must be approved by the Assembly at this session, by both houses at the next legislative session and by the voters in a state-wide referendum.

In a statement issued here today, Stanley Geller, chairman of the Church-State Commission of the New York Metropolitan Council of the AJC, declared that "we deeply regret the action of the State Senate in re-opening the inter-religious battle that was fought in the campaign to repeal the Blaine Amendment by means of a new New York State constitution. Though the voters unanimously rejected that constitution, the Republican leadership has seen fit to try again."

Legislators in Albany today saw little chance of the Assembly acting on the new bill this year. The bill was introduced by Senator Earl W. Brydges, majority leader of the Republican-controlled Senate.

Mr. Geller noted in his statement that the Senate's action was "particularly regrettable because the battle could have been avoided by waiting for the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court on two major church-state cases which may well determine the constitutionality of public funds for parochial schools." One of the cases involves a state law under which textbooks are loaned to non-public schools.

Mr. Geller said that "the unseemly haste of the State Senate in attacking the separation provisions of the State constitution will, we trust, be rejected and repudiated by the Assembly in either defeating or refusing to take action on the Assembly version of the Brydges bill."

## N.Y. Board of Rabbis Urge President to Redouble Peace Efforts in Viet Nam

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The New York Board of Rabbis went on record today as recognizing President Johnson's "arduous task" in seeking an honorable peace in Viet Nam and commended the Government "for continuing to call North Viet Nam to the conference table."

The 87th annual meeting of the Board, which includes 900 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, urged the President "to explore every possibility -- no matter how faint" and to redouble his efforts to seek peace and pursue it." At the same time, the Board, recognizing the right of dissent, appealed to those "who have taken issue only with our government's Viet Nam policy, to direct their pleas to Hanoi and its allies to respond to the U.S. request for a peace conference."

Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman of Lawrence, L.I., was elected 37th president of the Board, succeeding Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow of Cedarhurst, L.I., who was elected chairman of the newly-created board of governors.

In a series of resolutions on world, national and domestic affairs, the Board called on the United States "to stand determinedly in support of freedom-loving and democratic Israel and to support Israel's plea for direct negotiations with her Arab neighbors." It called on the United States to supply Israel "with every means for defending herself." The Board also called on young American Jews to plan on spending a year or two in Israel.

Another resolution denounced the continued activities of the Soviet regime "to destroy Judaism and Jewish culture." It asked the United States Government to intervene for Soviet Jewry.

On the national scene, the Board deplored Negro anti-Semitism and called for a united effort by Negro and white leaders to prevent deterioration of relations between the Negroes and the white community and particularly with the Jewish group.

The Board also called for an emergency conference of religious leaders to deal with "the eroding morals and attitudes" of youth, after Rabbi Klaperman, in his presidential address, charged that "our youth is bartering morality for marijuana, loyalty for LSD, duty for dissent, responsibility for rebelliousness and sanity for sex."

## Congress Women's Division to Press Fight for U.S. Ratification of Rights Treaties

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The president of the American Jewish Congress' national women's division announced today that the organization will undertake a nationwide campaign during the current Human Rights Year to win U.S. ratification of the anti-genocide convention of the United Nations and other human rights treaties.

Mrs. Charles Snitow, of Scarsdale, declared at a luncheon meeting attended by 500 women that "until the record of the United States equals its pretensions, I consider it false for Americans to refer to themselves as leaders in the field of human rights." She noted that during the past 20 years, the U.S. Senate has ratified only one U.N. convention on human rights, that dealing with slavery. Nine other international treaties, including conventions protecting the political rights of women and outlawing genocide, forced labor and racial discrimination, have been "pigeonholed" by the Senate and "apparently ignored" by the Executive branch, Mrs. Snitow said. She said that the campaign to win ratification will be conducted in association with other human rights groups. In addition to the anti-genocide pact, the group will press for ratification of the conventions dealing with women's rights, refugees and discrimination in education and employment.