

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## United Nations Report Finds Egypt Responsible for Suez Canal Clash

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 1 (JTA)--A United Nations report issued by Secretary General U Thant tonight placed blame for the artillery exchange between Israeli and Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal last Tuesday on the Egyptian forces. The report, in effect, substantiated Israeli charges that the attempt by the Egyptians to send survey boats into the northern sector of the canal had been undertaken in full knowledge of the fact that Israel had refused to agree to operations there and despite last-minute warnings of the Israeli position transmitted on the morning of Jan. 30 by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, the UN cease-fire observation chief.

The UN chronicle of events on Jan. 30, when the Egyptians made two attempts to send boats from Lake Timsah into the northern sector of the canal, largely substantiated the Israel report on the incident.

The major part of the report was devoted to a detailed review of the negotiations leading to the Israeli agreement to permit the Egyptians to begin work to free the 15 merchant ships trapped in the canal since the June war. When the question was first raised in negotiations, Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban of Israel notified UN Ambassador Gunnar Jarring in a letter dated Dec. 27 that "we are prepared to give our agreement to the southward exit of the 15 ships stranded since June 7 in the Suez Canal." The letter stressed that this would be "a one-time operation without prejudice" to the Israel-Egyptian agreement on use of the canal.

In subsequent talks in Cairo, the report revealed, the Egyptians refused to recognize that Israel had any rights in the matter and, on Jan. 1, to make matters clear, Israel restated its position to Gen. Bull. The report noted that since Israel was firm in its opposition to work in the northern stretch "it was necessary for UNTSO (United Nations Truce Observation Organization) to warn the UAR that it could not give assurance about maintaining the cease-fire if the survey boats moved northward." Gen. Bull, it was disclosed, personally passed on this warning to the Egyptians.

On Jan. 21, the report noted, Israel Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned Gen. Bull that Israel's agreement covered only survey and clearance of the southern part of the canal. He told the UN official that if the survey showed this impractical, Israel would then be ready to consider the question of northward evacuation.

Gen. Bull asked Gen. Dayan to reconsider this position and on Jan. 25 Gen. Dayan replied, stressing that Israel "cannot agree to any activities concerning the release of these stranded ships except in the context of the southward exit." He pointed out that this ruled out survey efforts in the northern sector.

### Thant Urged Israel to Drop Opposition to Extension of Survey

The Secretary-General then asked Israel to reconsider its position. Ambassador Joseph Tekoah repeated Israel's position and urged the Secretary-General to advise Egypt "that the survey be confined to the south." The Secretary-General declined to pass on this advice while agreeing to inform Egypt of Israel's continued opposition. On Jan. 27, Ambassador Tekoah notified U Thant, and Jerusalem notified Gen. Bull that "in no circumstances can the northward survey be carried out without our consent."

The Secretary-General, on Jan. 28, informed Eban that the Egyptians would be informed that the UN cease-fire forces would not be able to prevent armed clashes if they undertook the survey in the north. He again urged that the Israelis modify their position, insisting that the survey was merely "a technical undertaking." On the same day, the Secretary-General here and Gen. Bull in Cairo, warned the Egyptians that the northern survey could not be carried out without risk of a clash.

Ambassador Eban reviewed the whole course of the negotiations in a letter to the Secretary-General dated Jan. 31 in which he stressed the urgency, pending final solution of the canal question, "that existing agreements governing the present situation be scrupulously observed." He pointed out that the Egyptians were directly responsible for the Jan. 30 incident since they had acted in violation of the agreements and "in defiance" of a specific request from the Secretary-General and Gen. Bull.

He said if the Suez Canal cease-fire agreement "can be set aside unilaterally by the UAR, then this precedent will affect the entire process of the establishment of peace through the promotion of agreements." He concluded by affirming that "Israel continues to favor the southward release of the 15 stranded vessels and will do whatever is necessary to facilitate it."

### Plan to Free Foreign Ships Stranded in Suez Canal Again Deadlocked

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The question of extricating 15 ships stranded in the southern end of the Suez Canal apparently reached an impasse today. No new proposals were forthcoming from Egypt while Israel stood firm on her refusal to permit the Egyptians to start clearing operations anywhere but in the southern sector of the canal.

The United Nations special representative to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, conferred for 90 minutes today with Israel's Foreign Minister, Abba Eban but the subject of the stranded ships was barely touched on, it was learned. It was understood that Mr. Eban reiterated Israel's position that only the southern portion of the canal can be cleared. It was Egypt's attempt to send survey boats into the northern section Tuesday that touched off a two hour exchange of fire between Israeli and Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal. Ambassador Jarring returns to his Cyprus headquarters tomorrow and is scheduled to go to Egypt again next week.

In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol said it was Israel that took the initiative for clearing the southern end of the Suez Canal in order to free the stranded merchant ships. He said that he had suggested to Ambassador Jarring that the ships leave via the canal's southern exit when the latter had asked him for some kind of a "gesture" by Israel on the canal question. His disclosure came at a question-and-answer session at Bar Ilan University.

The Prime Minister said that it was clear to Ambassador Jarring and all others concerned that Israel was not prepared to give in on the canal question and that she had agreed only to the opening of the southern end. "What happened along Suez Tuesday (the artillery exchange between Israeli and Egyptian forces) proves that we mean business," he said. "We have heard that Egypt wants to clear the entire canal. I shall not say what we think. But we are on the banks of Suez and the borderline lies in the middle of the canal." Israel has insisted all along that the future of the Suez Canal cannot be decided unilaterally by Egypt and that if the canal is re-opened it must be to the shipping of all nations, including Israel. Egypt's attempt to begin clearance work in the northern end of the canal, which led to Tuesday's clash, was, Israel insists, a violation of last June's cease-fire agreement.

(In New York yesterday, Yigal Allon, the Minister of Labor, reiterated Israel's readiness to separate the question of the reopening of the Suez Canal for international navigation from the general Arab-Israeli peace settlement negotiations. He stressed, however, that Israel would insist that her ships enjoy equal rights with the ships of other nations in navigation of the waterway.

("It must be understood," he declared, "that in the future, the canal will be open to ships of all nations, or it will be closed to all. There is no reason why Egypt should insist on keeping the canal closed.")

### **Israelis Continue Lone Search for Traces of Missing Submarine**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Israeli ships and aircraft continued searching wide areas of the Eastern Mediterranean today in the hope of finding some clue to the fate of the submarine Dakar which went missing exactly one week ago with 69 officers and crewmen aboard.

But the Israelis searched alone. The ships and planes of other nations which had helped comb the region for evidence of the Dakar, abandoned the search last night as weather conditions worsened. Naval experts have apparently given up hope of finding the Israeli undersea craft or any of her complement alive. Admiral Shlomo Harel, commander in chief of Israel's Navy, conceded yesterday that prospects were "very dim" for finding the Dakar but said the search would continue until every possible hope was exhausted.

### **Golda Meir Agrees to Accept Key Post in New United Labor Party**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Mrs. Golda Meir exercised her womanly prerogative today and changed her mind -- she agreed to accept the post of secretary-general of Israel's new united labor party, an amalgam of Mapai and the former dissident Rafi and Achdut Avodah factions. Previously she had refused the job.

Mrs. Meir, who had been secretary-general of Mapai, relinquished that post when the merger, which she strongly opposed, was effected. However, Prime Minister Eshkol and others in the party urged her to keep the position in the new labor party. Mr. Eshkol visited Mrs. Meir at her home yesterday and apparently his powers of persuasion succeeded. The new party's secretariat will hold its first meeting next week.

### **'Supply Officer' For Fatah Terrorists Sentenced by Israeli Court**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--A military court in the Tulkarem-Samaria district pronounced a 30-year sentence today on an Arab who was convicted of acting as a "supply officer" of El Fatah terrorist gangs active in the district. According to the evidence, the prisoner whose name was not given, brought food to terrorists holed up in caves. Under military law this is a capital offense. But the court exercised leniency because the prisoner gave evidence that led to the arrest and conviction of a large number of El Fatah members.

## Orthodox Groups Resume Battle Against Autopsies in Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Ultra-Orthodox groups renewed their demonstrations against autopsies at a rally here last night attended by more than 4,000 persons. At the same time, posters appeared in Jerusalem streets accusing doctors of selling human limbs for profit. The Orthodox protests had been suspended during the Six-Day War.

The Orthodox groups are demanding revision of the present law which permits physicians to order autopsies without prior consent of the deceased or his family in cases where there are overwhelming medical or scientific reasons for autopsy or the suspicion of foul play. The law requires that three physicians concur in the need for autopsy. The Orthodox contend that autopsies should not be permitted under any circumstances without written consent from the patient prior to death or from his family after death.

The Israel Physicians Association has asked the Prime Minister to take steps to protect the medical profession and the reputations of doctors from "a smear campaign by certain fanatic elements."

## Heavy Snow Hits Jerusalem for Second Time in Two Weeks; City Alerted

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Snow fell for the second consecutive day today in Jerusalem -- and for the second time in two weeks -- as the city girded for a possible repeat of the havoc caused by the earlier storm.

The Knesset (Parliament) prudently cut its session short last night so that members could get home before roads became impassable and public transport suspended -- as it was two weeks ago. Several morning newspapers thought this too timid and roundly criticized the Knesset praesidium in editorials today.

But Jerusalemites, who are supposed to experience only two snowfalls a decade according to weather bureau statistics, were taking no chances. Emergency services were organized by the municipality and snow clearing equipment was primed and ready. The only mishaps reported initially were frozen fuel in central heating pipelines and several collisions as automobiles skidded on the snow-slicked streets.

## Human Rights Commission To Study Enforcement of UN Anti-Bias Declaration

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 1 (JTA)--The United Nations Human Rights Commission, which will begin a five-week session on March 5, will consider measures for speedy implementation of the United Nations declaration on elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, according to the 27-point agenda made public here today. The Commission will also consider proposals for dealing with Nazism and racial intolerance made by its Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The Ukrainian representative on the Commission, Petre E. Nedballo, this year's chairman, was expected to make a major issue out of the agenda item on measures against Nazism and racial intolerance and to direct a sharp attack against West Germany because of the recent spectacular electoral successes of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party. In a special memorandum prior to the Commission meeting, the Ukrainian delegate warned of the need for "new effective measures" for the eradication of Nazism and militarism, and for new measures "to avert the neo-Nazi danger."

Before the Commission will be a proposal of the Subcommittee calling for Commission adoption of a recommendation to the U.N. Economic and Social Council of a draft resolution calling on all states to ratify the convention against discrimination and to recognize the rights of groups and individuals to submit complaints of violations.

The Commission will consider at length plans for observance of the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights as proclaimed by the General Assembly. The Assembly decided that this year should be devoted to intensive national and international efforts to ensure human rights and to mark progress made thus far in their accomplishment.

## Report Foreign Intercession Has Been of Little Help to Jews in Arab Lands

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The intervention of international agencies and friendly powers has made no impression on the various Arab countries with respect to their Jewish citizens who have been arrested or "subjected to cruel oppression and often direct persecution," according to a report by the World Jewish Congress made public here yesterday. The report was prepared by the executive committee of the WJC's British section for the national biennial conference that opens here Saturday night.

The report noted that there had been no major change in the situation of Eastern European Jews since last June's Arab-Israeli war. The main concerns of the WJC, according to the report, are the position of Soviet Jewry, Jews in Arab countries, human rights and the struggle against Nazism and anti-Semitism. Over 200 Anglo-Jewish organizations are affiliated with the British section of the WJC.

## Charge Discrimination Against Jews in New York City Poverty Programs

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The principles and procedures governing Jewish and ethnic representation on poverty boards in New York City and the allocation of anti-poverty funds threaten to bring on severe ethnic conflicts in the city, a rabbinical expert on the program declared here.

Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, a member of the New York City Council Against Poverty and president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, made the charge at a press conference at which the New York chapter of the American Jewish Committee challenged New York City anti-poverty officials to look into revamping the entire local poverty program "in the interests of all the poor, no matter from what area or what group."

Rabbi Weinberger criticized the Council Against Poverty decision to allocate anti-poverty funds on the bases of poverty indices which he said were based on "life styles" different from those of Jews and other groups. The indices include juvenile delinquency, venereal disease, welfare roll membership and narcotics addiction, problems from which Jews are largely free.

Theodore Ellenoff, president of the New York AJC chapter, declared that attempts by Jews to gain help from poverty corporations through duly prescribed democratic methods have been frustrated by a stubborn refusal to consider the problems of poor Jews.

Rabbi Weinberger also charged that the exercising of full control over poverty funds by local autonomous organizations had on occasion resulted in one group's domination of a corporation, in effect freezing out the poor of all other groups. He noted that Jews have representation on only one of the community corporations through which anti-poverty funds are programmed, that in Williamsburg in Brooklyn. An election last October 30 in Crown Heights, in which Jews took part, for a planning committee to name such a corporation is in dispute.

Rabbi Weinberger said that the emphasis on local funding through community action programs revealed an "insensitivity" to the problems of poor Jews because their need is less for community organizations than it is for job training and job opportunities. Such emphasis, he asserted, reflects "a widespread misapprehension" that the anti-poverty program is simply "a riot-preventing stop-gap measure" rather than "a long overdue national effort to provide vocational and educational training so that the productive capacities of the deprived within society can be developed."

## Montreal Protestant Board Approves Pact for Subsidy of Jewish Day School Pupils

MONTREAL, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Jewish education officials hailed today the announcement by the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal that it was ready to give associate status to elementary Jewish day schools and thus make such schools eligible for substantial financial aid under a new Quebec education law. The school board thus gave its official approval to terms of an agreement worked out with the Canadian Jewish Congress for such aid.

Under the confessional school system in Quebec, "public" schools are under either Protestant or Catholic auspices, and Jewish parents who send their children to Jewish day schools must pay school taxes regardless of which schools their children attend. Some 3,000 children attend the Jewish day schools which have applied for associate status under Bill 37, which became effective last July 1. The school board, will now enter negotiations with each of the applicant day schools. Schools which meet the school board's educational and building standards will receive a subsidy of \$30 per school month for each pupil or \$300 per pupil a year for the 10-month school year.

Subsidies are provided only for the secular portion of the Jewish day school pupil's education, with parents remaining responsible for the Jewish portion. The Jewish education officials said that the grant will cover most of the education costs, even for those Jewish schools providing Hebrew or religious courses.

## \$2.2 Million in Israel Bonds Sold at Boyar Birthday Dinner

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1 (JTA)--A record sale of over \$2.2 million in Israel Bonds was announced at a 70th birthday tribute to Louis H. Boyar, chairman of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization which opened the 1968 Bond campaign here last night. Ambassador Avraham Harman, Israel's retiring Ambassador to the United States, joined more than 1,000 other persons paying tribute to Mr. Boyar's record of service and leadership at a dinner party in his honor.

Ambassador Harman said the Arabs had made two grave miscalculations: when they interpreted Israel's exercise of free and open discussion under a democracy as weakness and when they thought that American Jewry would falter in its support of Israel.

Samuel Rothberg, of Peoria, Ill., national campaign chairman of the Israel Bond Organization said that "if we are concerned about the future of Israel, we must see to it that her economy is strengthened to the maximum, so that she will be able to withstand any challenge that might come."

## Youth Indifference to Judaism Blamed on Parents and Community

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1 (JTA)--A sociologist lecturing here blamed parents and the community for the indifference manifested by Jewish youth toward Judaism. Dr. Charles S. Liebman, associate professor of political science and sociology at Yeshiva University, said "Jewish youth accept the manifest values of their parents and to the extent that we are disappointed in our youth we reject our own image." Dr. Liebman delivered the eighth annual Evelyn A. Margolis Memorial Lecture at Temple University.