

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Three Israelis Killed By Landmine in Series of Terrorist Actions

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Three Israeli field workers were killed and two were injured today when the tractor trailer they were riding in struck a mine near Kibbutz Ashdod Yaacov in the Beisan Valley. The incident, which occurred shortly past noon, coincided with a Jordanian artillery attack on Israeli forces along the West Bank near Damiya Bridge. The attack touched off an artillery and small arms duel that erupted intermittently throughout the afternoon and the last reports was still going on.

According to a military spokesman, the Jordanian attack began around noontime and the ensuing exchange of fire lasted until 1:30 p.m. At 1:45 p.m., the Jordanians opened fire with high trajectory weapons (mortars) and at 2:00 p.m. opened fire again with artillery.

Four Arab marauders were killed and two were wounded in a clash with an Israeli patrol north of the Dead Sea last night as other raiders fired bazooka shells into the Romema quarter in north-west Jerusalem, a military spokesman announced today. He said that a curfew has been imposed on several villages in former Jordanian-held territory north of Jerusalem as security forces hunt the terrorists. No Israeli casualties were reported.

Explosives were detonated under a residential house in northern Jerusalem shortly before dawn today. The building is one that El Fatah terrorists attempted to blow up a year ago.

The bazooka attack was launched from a speeding car shortly before midnight. Two shells were fired, one of which slightly damaged a building near Allenby Square. No casualties were reported but the explosions shattered glass in neighboring buildings. Police rushed to the scene where an investigation is still underway.

(The Syrian-based El Fatah terrorist organization claimed that it has set up secret bases and arms caches in Israel-occupied territory and inside Israel itself from which it intends to wage an intensified campaign of sabotage and terrorism. The El Fatah announcement appeared in the Lebanese Post of Beirut.)

## De Gaulle Says United Nations Should Delimit New Frontiers in Middle East

PARIS, Feb. 8 (JTA)--President de Gaulle of France proposed today that the United Nations draw the permanent boundaries in the Middle East. He made the suggestion in the course of a speech at a reception honoring visiting President Aref, of Iraq who replied with a speech praising French policy in the Middle East and denouncing "Zionist propaganda." The reception, held at the Hotel de Ville, Paris' City Hall, was boycotted by many prominent Frenchmen who had been invited.

Gen. de Gaulle opened his remarks by lamenting the "state of war" that has prevailed in the Middle East for the past eight months and said it could be ended and peace achieved by a settlement that reversed all of the "damage" done to the Arabs. The French leader reiterated his peace plan which, he said, calls for the withdrawal of military forces from all occupied territories, the establishment of normal peaceful relations between Israel and the Arab states, the repatriation of refugees, free navigation for all in international waterways and permanent borders outlined by the United Nations. Diplomatic observers here were quick to note that the last item represents a new proposal by Gen. de Gaulle.

The Iraqi president, who is seeking Mirage jet planes and other armaments from France, said he was not surprised that "the noble French people side with justice in the Middle East" and have "exposed Zionist propaganda to the light."

Gen. Barzani, leader of the Kurdish nationalists in Iraq, has urged President de Gaulle not to go through with a reported \$160.8 million arms deal with President Aref. The Kurdish leader told de Gaulle that the supply of arms to Iraq by France would "only encourage new destruction and massacres" of Kurds, Le Monde reported today. The Iraqi army and airforce have been deployed for ten years or more in an attempt to crush the Kurdish autonomy movement.

## Arabs Rejecting Tito's New Proposals for Mideast Solution, London Reports

LONDON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Times of London reported today that the Arabs are turning a cold shoulder to Marshal Tito's peace plans for the Middle East which Israel has already categorically rejected. The Yugoslavian President has reportedly been pressing for a revised version of proposals rejected by the United Nations last June. They called for Israel's unconditional withdrawal to the pre-June 5, 1967 boundaries in return for a declaration of non-belligerency by the Arabs.

The Tito plan now reportedly advocates the establishment of de-militarized zones and freedom of shipping which is "too much to swallow" for most Arab commentators, The Times said. Earlier this week, the Israel Foreign Ministry charged that Marshal Tito was interfering with the efforts of duly constituted agencies and emissaries of the United Nations to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis.

**Soviet Press Assails Israel Over Canal Clash, Says Dayan is Preparing for New War**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Soviet press, led by Izvestia, the Government organ, and Pravda, the publication of the Soviet Communist party, is charging Israel with aggression in the recent fighting in the Suez Canal which brought to a halt plans for freeing 15 stranded foreign merchant ships and backing completely Egypt's claim that Israel has no rights on the Canal.

Pravda asserted that no agreement exists under which Israel has the right to supervise everything that is going on in the Suez Canal and Egypt was right in rejecting the "irrelevant claims of Israel." It charged that Israel "continues deliberately to aggravate the situation in the Middle East."

Izvestia called Israel's warnings that the clearance agreement did not cover the northern sector a "maneuver aimed at misleading the world public." Ignoring the confirmation by U.N. Secretary General U Thant that the agreement covered only the southern canal sector, the Government newspaper declared that Egyptian clearing boats were fired on when they set out for the northern sector "under an agreed timetable of work."

Sulskaya Shizn, official publication of the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party, assailed the "double-faced adventurist policy of the present rulers of Israel." Skulskaya Zhizn's commentator, Andrei Baturin, charged that Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israel's Defense Minister, "openly supports the scheme of accelerated preparations for a new war against the Arab countries."

**Israel Labor Ministry Reports 2,800 Drop in Jobless in January**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The number of unemployed in Israel dropped by 2,800 between December, 1967 and January, 1968, according to provisional figures released by the Ministry of Labor here today. The Ministry also reported that 27,500 persons had registered with labor exchanges. The drop in jobless was attributed largely to employment in the citrus groves during the harvest season.

**To Build 2,500 Housing Units for Arab Families in East Jerusalem, Ben Tov Reveals**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Plans to erect 2,500 modern housing units in East Jerusalem, all of them outside the old walled city, were announced here today by Housing Minister M. Ben Tov. He said that work on the first 500 units will begin in April. The new quarters will be occupied by Arab families who are to be evacuated from the old Jewish quarter inside the walled city, Mr. Ben Tov said. These families took up residence in the Jewish quarter after the 1948 war when the Jordanian Arab Legion occupied the old city, Mr. Ben Tov pointed out.

The new flats will constitute a vast improvement in living conditions for their occupants, he said. The buildings will be of a high standard with central heating and stone fronts. An additional 200-300 one- and two-family dwellings will be started in East Jerusalem next Spring.

Residents of East Jerusalem will be issued Israeli identity cards and special permits allowing them to travel to Jordan on visits, according to the Ministry of Interior. Up to now, only West Bank residents have been permitted to visit in Jordan.

The Military Government reported that it has issued 4,000 licenses for shops and other business enterprises in the Samaria and Judea areas of the West Bank since last June's Six-Day War. In addition, 6,089 drivers' licenses were issued and 4,722 cars were registered in the two regions.

**Arab Women Protest Reported Plan to Shift Arab Population from Gaza**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Three hundred Arab women from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem sent a protest to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan today against alleged plans by Israel to evacuate the Gaza Strip and send its residents to the West Bank or Jordan. The women also demanded the return of all refugees. The Israeli authorities have never announced any such plan.

**Asks Tourist Tax Exemption for Pilgrims to Holy Shrines in Israel**

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Agudath Israel of America asked President Johnson Wednesday to exclude from the Administration's proposed travel restrictions those Americans who travel to the Holy Land to visit religious shrines. It said that trips to Israel to visit religious shrines "should not be equated with overseas tourism for pleasure," since they "stem from deeply-rooted religious commitments."

**Diplomats, Indian Officials Attend First Israeli Reception in New Delhi**

NEW DELHI, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Representatives of more than a score of countries and high officials of the Indian Government, the ruling Congress Party and the Socialist Party attended a reception given here tonight by the Israel delegation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It was the first official reception ever held by Israel in India's capital and it indicated that Israel is not without friends in this huge Asian nation, politics to the contrary notwithstanding.

The hosts at the affair were Zeev Sharef, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry who heads his country's delegation to UNCTAD and Ambassador Michael Comay who is serving as floor chairman of the Israeli delegation. Among the notable present were Dr. Chandrashaker, Indian Minister of Health,

## Israel Accuses Egypt of 'Deliberate Provocation' in Canal Survey Attempt

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 8 (JTA)--Israel charged today in a letter to United Nations Secretary-General U Thant that the Egyptian action in sending boats from Lake Timsah northward in the Suez Canal on Jan. 30 was "an act of direct and deliberate provocation." It asserted that the action "can only be interpreted as being part of a calculated plan to sabotage the evacuation of the stranded ships." The Israeli letter, signed by Ambassador Joseph Tekoah, head of the Israeli mission, was in reply to a charge by Egypt that Israel was responsible for the failure of attempts to free 15 freighters of various nationalities stranded in the canal since the June war. The Egyptian attempt to move boats into the north end of the canal met with Israel's resistance and was followed by a 90 minute artillery duel.

In his letter, Ambassador Tekoah said "for twenty years, the United Arab Republic has been waging war against Israel. For twenty years it has barred the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping and to cargoes destined to and from Israel. Last summer, the UAR led the other Arab states in an attempt to destroy the State of Israel. On June 6, 1967, it stopped all navigation in the Suez Canal. It deliberately blocked up the canal and in that way, the 15 vessels in question became stranded. Israel has no responsibility for the blocking of the Suez Canal and has no interest at all that these vessels should remain stranded in it. The Government of Israel is in favor of the early opening of the Suez Canal for the free and unimpeded navigation of the ships and cargoes of all nations. Until that is achieved, Israel must insist that the conditions created in the Suez Canal under the cease-fire and the arrangement concerning navigation in the canal reached in the summer of 1967, be fully respected."

Ambassador Tekoah pointed out that under that agreement, the sailing of any ship in the canal by Israel or Egypt was a breach of the agreement unless the other party agreed. He said that Egypt was "fully aware of its own commitments in this matter" and equally aware of Israel's agreement to proposals from Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, the U.N. envoy, to allow the southward exit of the stranded ships as a one-time operation without prejudice to the existing agreement. The letter concluded by restating Israel's policy as favoring the southward release of the stranded vessels and "free passage in the Suez Canal open to all shipping including her own." It pledged cooperation for such a policy.

## Hadassah Leader Rejects Concept Zionist Must Be One Living in Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The concept that only a person committed to living in Israel can be a Zionist was challenged here by the head of the largest single Zionist organization in the world. In remarks prepared for delivery at the opening session of its mid-winter conference Saturday night, Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, of New York, national president of Hadassah, declared that Jewry outside of Israel "has a significant role to play in the collective survival of the Jewish people and we will not accept the definition or philosophy that a Zionist is only one who is committed to living in Israel." She went on to say that "it is our job to create the atmosphere for Aliyah (immigration), but it is only the realities of life in Israel that will get Olim (immigrants) to stay... The repudiation of Zionism, unless it means personal Aliyah, will not only fail to bring one more Jew to Israel, but will discourage those who are working to help Aliyah."

Mrs. Jacobson was to speak before 150 Hadassah leaders representing the organization's 318,000 members in the United States and more than 2,000 in Israel. The gathering here is the first major Hadassah conference to be held in Israel. The opening session will be attended by President Zalman Shazar and Mrs. Shazar.

Mrs. Jacobson outlined in detail Hadassah's continuing efforts to promote immigration and the success it has had among the organization's young adult and youth sections. Of those members preparing to settle in Israel, she said "we didn't force them. They came to this decision themselves. However, we feel that it would be a great disservice to make those who decided not to come to Israel feel that there is no important Zionist mission to fill in American life."

"Zionism," Mrs. Jacobson said, "is being attacked by the extreme left and the extreme right, by the Soviet Government, by Arab politicians, by the militant New Politics Movement in the United States. When Israel leaders also attack -- though their motives are far different -- it takes real conviction to hold on to our beliefs." Organizations, like individuals, the Hadassah leader said, should not be required to prove "a uniqueness" in order to justify their existence.

"It is the task of Zionists to translate the concepts of Jewish unity and the centrality of Israel into an action program," Mrs. Jacobson said. "This means influencing the course of Jewish education and encouraging Jewish students to learn about Israel at first hand through work and study programs. It does not mean that we do not understand Israel's need for Western Aliyah."

She asked: "Will the future needs of Israel and the Jewish people be better served with, or without an organized, identifiable Zionist movement? No one is more critical than Hadassah of the vexations and frustrations of Zionist organizational life. "Nevertheless," she said, "we are convinced that a candid and objective evaluation will yield an affirmative answer."

## Ambassador Harman Takes Leave of Secretary of State Rusk

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Secretary of State Dean Rusk said farewell today to Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman who called at the State Department for a final meeting. The Department described the meeting as a "courtesy call." Mr. Harman will leave Washington next week after serving a long period here as envoy of Israel.

## Jewish Colonization Association to Support New Projects in Israel, France

LONDON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) announced here today that a series of projects in Israel and grants to Israeli institutions will account for the largest share of its budget in 1968. But the ICA is also maintaining its traditional support of institutions outside of Israel involved in the resettlement, training and education of needy Jews, the announcement said.

The ICA is a philanthropic society established by Baron Maurice de Hirsch in London in 1891. Its purpose then, as now, was to assist Jews to emigrate from countries where they suffered persecution or economic hardships, to resettle them elsewhere and find them productive employment. It established large Jewish agricultural settlements in Argentina. Activities in Israel have claimed an increasingly larger share of the Association's budget since that nation was founded nearly twenty years ago, the report said.

The ICA has allocated over 150,000 pounds sterling (\$360,000) in 1968 to a housing fund established in Paris to find homes for Jewish families from North Africa. To date, ICA, along with other organizations that it helps, has found homes for more than 12,000 North African Jews, the report said. In addition, it will share with the United Hias Service the cost of transporting Jews to new homelands from Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Arab countries. It will aid the Alliance Israelite Universelle, which maintains a network of Jewish schools in various African and Asian countries, and will contribute to the general budget of the World ORT Union, the organization for rehabilitation through training.

Projects in Israel already in progress or about to be undertaken by ICA in collaboration with the Jewish Agency in 1968 include: the construction of three new settlements in the Biranit region of Western Galilee; the extension and enlargement of agricultural production at Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi, and the consolidation of the agricultural and economic bases of four other settlements which the ICA either founded or aided substantially. In addition, the ICA announced that it will make grants in 1968 to the Hebrew University, the Mikveh Israel — Israel Agricultural School, the Youth Aliyah movement and the Weizmann Institute of Science.

## Tel Aviv University is Ready to Accept Freshmen and Juniors from U.S. Colleges

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Tel Aviv University has completed all arrangements for the admission of students from abroad for the freshman and junior years. Dr. George S. Wise, its president, announced here today. He said hundreds of applications had already been received for the fall semester opening in November and are being processed here by a faculty team.

Exchange agreements and mutual accreditation of courses of study have been completed with over 30 American institutions, he said. The first-year program includes 30 semester credits in Hebrew, English, the humanities and social sciences. The junior year program offers 32 credits in Hebrew, Jewish studies, Middle East studies and electives in the humanities and sciences. Students who do not know Hebrew take a crash program in the language from July to November. Students who know Hebrew are able to attend the regular university courses.

Dr. Wise said new dormitories are being prepared for the foreign students on the 10,000 student campus and scholarships will be provided for qualified students. Non-Jewish students, he said, would be welcome and some have already registered. He pointed out that Tel Aviv University offers a broad undergraduate program leading to the bachelor's degree as well as graduate studies in the humanities, natural sciences and medicine.

## Shelve Plan to Name Veterans Hospital After Rep. John Rankin

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The House Rules Committee today deferred indefinitely a bill to name a Veterans Administration hospital at Jackson, Miss., in honor of the late Rep. John Rankin, Mississippi Democrat, a notorious anti-Semite. Rep. Rankin served in the House from 1921 to 1953. In those years he sought to justify Nazi genocide and made the most vitriolic attacks on Jews ever heard in Congress. He was also an outspoken opponent of equal rights for Negroes.

The bill to establish a "John Rankin Hospital" as a veterans facility was shelved after protests were made to the Rules Committee that this would be offensive to veterans of Jewish and Negro backgrounds.

## Jewish Agency Reports Increased Attendance for Hebrew Courses Here

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency reported today an expansion of Hebrew classes in an Upan conducted here by the Herzl Institute and the Agency's department of education and culture. Some 620 students are expected to enroll in Upan courses beginning later this month, as against 500 enrolled in the semester which has just ended. Last year at this time there were 300 students enrolled, the Agency spokesman said. Thirty-two classes have been scheduled for the new term.

## Young Leadership Group to Make Two-Week Survey of Postwar Israeli Needs

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Thirty-nine members of the Young Leadership Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal will leave Sunday for a two-week survey of postwar needs in Israel. Gerald H. Weiner, of New Castle, Pa., is chairman of the mission. Each member of the mission is paying his own way.