

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Tuesday, February 20, 1968

No. 38

Jordanians Reportedly Are Backing King Hussein in Crackdown on Terrorists

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--King Hussein of Jordan apparently had the support today of his subjects in a campaign to halt Arab terrorist incursions against Israel from Jordanian territory. According to eye-witness accounts by travellers arriving here from Amman this morning, Jordanians, including refugees from the West Bank, demonstrated there against "foreign elements" who care nothing about the problems of the Jordanian people. Amman newspapers headlined an announcement by Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed that Jordanian security forces seized two large arms caches near Aqaba, Jordan's only seaport, which is adjacent to the Israeli port of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba. The newspapers also reported that a hunt is on for the leaders and members of the Syrian-trained El Fatah gangs that have used Jordan for months as a base for raids against Israel. At one point, a mob almost lynched suspected El Fatah members as they were being led to a police station, eye-witnesses said. There were no other reports of arrests.

(Reports from Beirut, Lebanon, said that the El Fatah terrorist organization has announced that it will defy King Hussein's anti-terrorist decrees and that it would allow no regime to halt guerrilla raids on Israel. According to the dispatch, an El Fatah spokesman in Damascus said today that "the objective of Fatah has been and still is to operate in occupied lands for the liberation of Palestine.")

The arms discovered at Aqaba, probably concealed there for future use against Israel by El Fatah, consisted of 250 machine guns, some anti-tank weapons and large quantities of ammunition. King Hussein, in an address over Amman radio on Friday following Israel's acceptance of his appeal for a cease-fire, promised to halt terrorist raids into Israel from Jordan and to punish those who ignored his orders. "I shall not allow anyone to supply the enemy with pretexts and justifications for aggression," he said.

(Writing in the London Evening Standard today, Jon Kimche said that Hussein's denunciation of terrorists, in defiance of Cairo and Damascus, was "not as foolhardy as it might appear" because the Jordanian monarch "was assured the fullest support of both the Soviet Union and the United States in making this stand for a political settlement with Israel.")

Cabinet Session Receives Reports on Military Diplomatic Developments

Chief of Staff Brigadier Chaim Bar-Lev briefed the cabinet here yesterday about the security situation and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reported on last week's fighting along the Israel-Jordan border following Jordanian shelling of Israeli settlements there. Foreign Minister Abba Eban assessed the results of diplomatic efforts preceding the Thursday clash and the situation in Jordan which followed it.

Gen. Dayan informed the cabinet that he cancelled his visit to the United States last week because of security reasons. His visit may take place later but no dates have been set, it was learned.

Gen. Rabin Arrives in Washington To Take Up New Functions as Ambassador

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Israel's new Ambassador to the United States, Gen. Yitzchak Rabin, arrived here at Dulles International Airport tonight to take up his new duties. To reporters who met him at the airfield, he said he was glad to have been appointed ambassador to this country and saw his new duties as "a heavy responsibility."

The former chief of staff of the Israeli forces, said that no particular significance should be attached in connection with his appointment to the fact that he was a soldier. Almost every Israeli, he noted, had military experience. He said it was not necessary to stress the importance Israel attached to the "warm and friendly relations which now exist" between it and this country and promised that he would seek in Washington to make Israel stronger, not only militarily, but in all fields. He remarked that in his previous assignment -- as chief of staff -- his primary mission had been to prevent war, but when this could not be accomplished, his mission had been to win the war. He failed in the first, he said, but won in the second.

In response to questions, the envoy said that the statement by King Hussein on restraining terrorists using Jordan as a base of operations against Israel suggested that "we achieved something in the military action last week that resulted from Arab terrorism."

The Ambassador declined to be drawn into discussion on the question of Israel's request for license to buy F-4 Phantom jet fighters here. He noted, as a military man, that there was "always something better" in the field of weaponry. Asked to comment on the announcement last week that the United States would sell weapons and aircraft to Jordan and whether he was "disturbed" by the American decision, he replied: "Well, nobody can be very happy about it."

The Ambassador was greeted at the airport by a delegation representing the staff of the Israel Embassy, headed by the charge d'affaires, Ephraim Evron. Also present to greet him were leaders of Jewish organizations.

Britain Opposes Reopening of Arab-Israeli issue in Security Council

LONDON, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Great Britain is strongly opposed to returning the Israel-Arab dispute to the U.N. Security Council and would resist such a move, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from authoritative sources here today. These sources said that the impression given to Prime Minister Harold Wilson on his recent visit to Washington was that the United States held the same views.

The possibility of bringing the Middle East crisis back to the forum of the U.N. has been mentioned recently in Egypt and other Arab countries where the press has already dubbed the peace mission of U.N. emissary, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, a failure. The British view, the JTA was told, is that another Middle East debate in the U.N. "would merely provoke another row and if anything, make the situation worse."

(In Jerusalem today, Foreign Minister Eban and Ambassador Jarring had two meetings, after which the U.N. special envoy left for Cairo. It was understood that both meetings revolved around the question of bringing both sides together for peace talks. Ambassador Jarring was due to return to Jerusalem for further talks next week.)

Israel Entering Period of Full Employment, Labor Minister Tells Hadassah

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Delegates to the mid-winter conference of Hadassah here heard an urgent appeal today for large scale aliyah (immigration) especially from Western countries. Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, told the group representing the world's largest single Zionist organization that Israel, for its part, would introduce major reforms in customs, taxation, housing and employment to make the prospect of aliyah more attractive to Jews in Western countries. Without aliyah, he warned, "bitter divisions" would develop between Israeli and the diaspora.

The conference was also addressed today by Labor Minister Yigal Alon who outlined Israel's economic goals and reported a substantial drop in unemployment. He revealed that the number of jobless has declined from 50,000 in March, 1967 to 20,000 in January, 1968. "We are entering a period of full employment," he said, "and this means that there will be many jobs available to enable 5,000 Israelis now living abroad to return home."

The Labor Minister said Israel's economic targets were an improved balance of trade, self-reliance in the production of armaments and an improved living standard for all despite the heavy burdens of national security.

Jewish Journalists Set Up World Union; Parley Greets JTA on Anniversary

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The world conference of Jewish journalists announced at its closing session here tonight the establishment of a World Union of Jewish Journalists which will be open to membership by professional organizations and individuals from all countries. Annual dues of \$10.00 will be levied.

The conference, attended by 75 delegates from 13 countries adopted a resolution pointedly urging Soviet authorities to permit Russian Jews to read "their own newspapers written by Jewish colleagues in Russia." Other resolutions hailed Jewish journalists and the free world press for their objective coverage of Israel's struggles and called on Jewish writers everywhere to support Israel's search for lasting peace. Isaac Rembah, chairman of the closing session, extended greetings to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on its recent 50th anniversary.

Correspondent Urges International Body Study Israel's Treatment of Arabs

LONDON, Feb. 19 (JTA)--A British correspondent whose articles in the Manchester Guardian accusing Israel of "repression" and "coercion" of Arabs in occupied territories have been widely quoted by Arab propagandists in recent weeks, called today for the creation of an "independent commission" to bear out his charges.

The correspondent, Michael Adams, has claimed that Israeli authorities are pressuring Arabs to leave their homes. Israel has vehemently denied this, he said in an article in the Guardian today, but "my two weeks of careful investigation in Jerusalem and on the West Bank found no impartial observer who did not support it." The only way to reconcile the matter, Adams said, "would seem to be the dispatch of an independent commission of inquiry to form its own conclusions on the state of affairs in Israel-occupied Palestine."

Israel's policy toward her Arab minority was defended in a letter from the Rev. William Simpson, general secretary of the Council of Christians and Jews, published in The Times of London. Rev. Simpson declared that "Israel follows no policy of discrimination or apartheid. Arabs enjoy full citizenship rights. Membership in political parties, trade unions and other organizations is open to Arabs and Jews alike without discrimination on ethnic or racial grounds."

Haifa Technion Testing Laboratory Destroyed in \$350,000 Conflagration

HAIFA, Feb. 19 (JTA)--A fire swept through the industrial testing laboratory of the Haifa Technion this morning causing an estimated million pounds (\$350,000) in damage. The laboratory which belongs to the Ministry of Trade and Industry was wrecked. Its contents, however, are insured.

French Oppose Full Association of Israel with European Common Market

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Widely differing views on Israel's future relations with the six-nation European Common Market were cited today in a second report by the working party on Israel's relations with the European Economic Community to the six permanent EEC representatives who are preparing the agenda for a meeting on Feb. 28 of the Council of Ministers. The Council is the policy-making body for Euromart.

Holland and West Germany proposed an agreement to grant free entry to Israeli products to the Common Market. France opposed that idea and suggested only an acceleration of tariff concessions, granted in the Kennedy Round, on items of particular interest to Israel. Italy, Belgium and Luxemburg supported an interim solution granting a 25 percent preference to Israel on a wide variety of products. Israel has applied for associate status in the Common Market.

Israel Frustrates Move at UNCTAD Parley to Bar It from Working Sessions

NEW DELHI, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Israel today challenged the nominating and elective procedures employed at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that have so far kept it off all the various working groups and committees set up at the international gathering. UNCTAD, now in its third week here, is supposed to devise means for advancing the industry and economy of underdeveloped nations.

Ambassador Michael Comay, floor chairman of the Israeli delegation, said that the Conference rules were contravened when the group that has been directing the electoral machinery barred certain developing countries from its deliberations. He said Israel was never consulted about the composition of that group, as required by UNCTAD rules and accused its members of discrimination. He added that the group, known as 77-S, has no official status as a United Nations body and therefore is not qualified to pass on nominations or to serve as part of the electoral machinery. A similar protest was filed by the Cuban delegation.

India's Minister of Commerce, Dinesh Singh, the presiding officer, said that working group meetings would hereafter be open to all countries including those not nominated to membership on them. It is believed that Soviet support of the Cuban protest will strengthen Israel's position and assure its participation in all meetings on an equal basis with other sovereign states.

In an earlier development today, Ambassador Comay hit back at the Soviet delegation which used the Conference last week as a forum to denounce Israeli "aggression" and to demand Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. The Russians, echoed by the Jordanian delegation, blamed Israel for causing serious economic dislocation and political stress in the Middle East.

Ambassador Comay said it was not helpful to inject political issues into a conference devoted to trade and development. He suggested that if the Soviet Union wishes to play a constructive role it should use its influence to bring about a peace settlement in the area for which it professes great concern. He reminded the conference that the U.N. Security Council and the General Assembly had firmly rejected every attempt by the Soviet Union to blame Israel for starting the Middle East war last June. Several Arab and African delegations walked out when Mr. Comay spoke in exercise of his right to reply.

A program to stimulate the flow of private capital into underdeveloped nations, proposed by David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel and a leader of the Israeli delegation, was supported today by Ghana and Ecuador. Ambassador K.B. Asante, head of the Ghanaian delegation, said that in his view the Horowitz plan "would bring mighty reserves of private capital to the rescue of international aid programs" and would help break down the barrier of high interest rates and short term payments.

Mr. Horowitz proposed his plan last week in a speech urging a global economic policy aimed at the rapid expansion of farming and food production to meet the threat of famine in underdeveloped parts of the world. "The problem of capital supply is a crucial one for those parts of the world that are still in the process of developing," he said. He noted that some \$10 billion of potential transfer capital is idle that otherwise would help underdeveloped areas, especially in times of recession, and would also ease the violent fluctuations between boom and depression that affect industrialized nations.

Janner Presses British Govt. for Ratification of Genocide Convention

LONDON, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Sir Barnett Janner, Labor MP, gave notice in the House of Commons today that he will press vigorously for British ratification of the United Nations convention on genocide during the current Human Rights Year.

Sir Barnett, who is chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, reminded House leader Richard H. S. Crossman that he had been advised in reply to a question, that the Government had decided to accede to the genocide convention. Mr. Crossman said he would forward Sir. Barnett's "urgent question and request" to the Foreign Secretary.

Sir Barnett disclosed later that as chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, he had advised the West German Ambassador in London of the deep concern felt here over the rising political power of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party in West Germany and the methods it employed.

Charges World Historians Fail to Deal Adequately With Emergence of Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The failure of American and world history texts to recognize the spiritual and cultural interchange between Jews and Christians throughout the centuries or to deal adequately with the emergence of anti-Semitism in Western civilization, was noted by Rabbi Arthur Gilbert in an address before an audience of Protestant students and faculty at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. Rabbi Gilbert, who is assistant to the president of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation and a frequent participant in inter-religious dialogues, told another audience at the Presbyterian-affiliated Macalester College in St. Paul, that Jewish youth, "in larger numbers than their parents, view their religious affiliation to the synagogue as a significant aspect of their Jewish existence."

In his discourse on history texts at Carleton, an institution affiliated with the United Church of Christ, Rabbi Gilbert said "damage is continually inflicted upon the Jew both by what the historian remembers but also by what he chooses to forget." All religious groups, he said, "have been guilty of reciting history in a selective fashion, revealing thereby our particular prejudices and aspirations." He pointed to "deficiencies" in the historical accounts written by Jewish, no less than by non-Jewish, scholars, who "bear down heavily on Jewish anguish, underscore Christian hostility to the Jews and ignore many periods in history when Jews were well accepted or in intellectual dialogue with the Christian community." It is time now, Rabbi Gilbert said, "for all of us to re-write history books in the light of an ecumenical age."

McKissick Says There Is 'Enormous Residue' of Goodwill Among Negroes for Jews

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA)--The national director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) denied yesterday that his organization was anti-Semitic and said there was "an enormous residue of good-will in the Negro community for the Jews." Floyd McKissick charged that "the interests of white racists" were served by Negro-Jewish hostility.

Addressing a seminar sponsored by the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, an arm of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Mr. McKissick said that any anti-Jewish feeling expressed in the Negro community had been mainly against "Jewish installment merchants, slumlords and the like." This, he said, was a protest against exploitation of Negroes by individuals rather than against the Jewish community as a whole.

Opening Parley Raises \$1.2 Million of \$6 Million Histadrut Campaign Goal

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Israel will not permit the Big Powers to persuade it, as they did in 1956, to withdraw from occupied Arab territory without a stable, permanent peace treaty, according to Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, who recently returned from a visit to Israel. The Senator was the principal speaker at the annual national roll-call conference of the Israel Histadrut Campaign here yesterday. The conference was attended by 1,000 delegates who raised \$1.2 million for support of Histadrut's network of social, medical, educational and vocational projects in Israel. Campaign goal is \$6 million.

Other speakers at the gathering were Yosef Almogi, member of the Knesset (Parliament) and former Minister of Development and Housing in Israel, and Shiekh Kemal Tareef, leader of the Druze communities in Israel who is visiting the United States at the invitation of the State Department. Dr. Sol Steir, director of the National Committee for Labor Israel, fund-raising arm for Histadrut in this country, read a message of greeting from Governor Rockefeller of New York.

Senator Javits said that while Israel is determined to achieve a real peace with the Arabs — not another armistice or cease-fire — "it does not seek to impose 'hard' terms on the Arabs." The Senator said he was "fully convinced" that Israel is ready "to examine and discuss with the Arabs any proposals presented in good faith. They believe only direct negotiations can be fruitful or effective. Their's is a mood of measured self confidence which does not seek a vindictive or punitive peace."

Mr. Almogi said that "the actual struggle between us and the Arab countries is not a conflict between nations but between social systems, between philosophies of life, between feudalism and democracy."

New York UJA Women's Division Launch 1968 Campaign for UJA and Emergency Fund

NEW YORK, Feb. 19 (JTA)--Three thousand volunteer workers for the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York launched their 1968 effort on behalf of the Israel Emergency Fund and the general UJA campaign at the Americana Hotel today. The traditional opening rally marked the official start of the Women's Division's part of the 30th annual New York UJA Drive, which covers New York City, Westchester and Long Island.

Speakers at the rally included Brig. Gen. Joseph Geva, Israel's military attache in the U.S. and Canada, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the nationwide United Jewish Appeal. Presiding was Mrs. Chester M. Ross who is serving as chairman of the New York Women's drive with Mrs. Warren Abrams.

"The time of peril is not yet over for Israel's people," Gen. Geva said, asserting that the "Soviet Union has already supplied Israel's enemies with 450 new planes and better tanks than they had last June." Referring to the clashes and shelling along the Jordan River last Thursday, Gen. Geva said: "I hope he (King Hussein) learned his lesson. Isn't it enough? Don't they long for peace like the Israelis?"