

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Wednesday, February 28, 1968

No. 41

## Israel Ready To Follow 1949 Rhodes Precedents in Negotiating With Arabs

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Official sources made it clear today that Israel is prepared to follow the precedent of face-to-face confrontation established at the 1949 Rhodes armistice talks in future peace negotiations with the Arabs but would never agree to meetings at which a third party served as go-between. The support of a Rhodes-type meeting with the Arabs followed Foreign Minister Abba Eban's declaration in the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that "by agreeing to a form of negotiation which the Arab governments have utilized in the past, we have made a maximal contribution toward advancing the international peace mission" of Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, the United Nations special envoy.

The sources noted that the Rhodes armistice talks with Egypt 19 years ago were not "a separate tables affair" even in their initial stages and that the talks with Jordan on the Greek island were a mere formality because an armistice had previously been worked out between King Abdullah and Israeli emissaries, including Gen. Moshe Dayan, at Shuni, in Jordan. Although the Israeli and Arab delegations lived on separate floors of their Rhodes hotel and did not sit together, the liaison officers of both sides held continuous direct talks.

(A writer in the Communist Party newspaper Izvestia accused Israel of trying to use the Jarring peace mission to the Middle East for its own purposes, as a result of which the mission is deadlocked. The article, by Victor Kudryavtsev, alleged that "under the pretence of willingness to conduct negotiations on a settlement of the conflict, Tel Aviv is not averse to turning Jarring's mission into an instrument of its demand for direct negotiations with each of the Arab states separately. These cunning tactics are being combined with attempts to disrupt the anti-imperialist unity of the Arab countries.")

(In Paris, the independent daily Le Monde hailed Mr. Eban's statement in the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday and said it constituted a breach of the impasse in the Middle East, giving cause for "prudent optimism.")

It was stressed here, however, that the main question was not Israel's readiness to meet the Arabs on Cyprus or even in Cairo or Amman but how the Arabs will react. The answer, some believe, may be given by Ambassador Jarring who is due here today on his 11th visit to Jerusalem.

Considerable surprise was expressed here over the clamor that was touched off in diplomatic circles and in the foreign press over the possibility of an Arab-Israel meeting on Cyprus. Official circles pointed out that there is nothing new in the proposal which was made by Prime Minister Eshkol on his visit to the United States last month. He said at the time that Israel would be willing to meet the Arabs anywhere and had no objection to a U.N. representative sitting in at the meetings as a chairman. The matter was raised with Ambassador Jarring. However, it was stressed here, any interpretation that Israel would agree to a meeting at which the Arabs and Israelis sat in separate rooms while Dr. Jarring shuttled between them, was erroneous.

## Jarring Has Final Meeting With Eban Before Reporting to U Thant

Ambassador Jarring had a long talk with Mr. Eban in Jerusalem this afternoon and then left for New York for his meeting with Secretary General U Thant tomorrow. Informed sources said that "nothing concrete" had emerged from today's talk. Mr. Jarring is expected to be back in the Middle East in about a week's time to resume his shuttling back and forth between Jerusalem, Amman and Cairo.

Diplomatic sources here said that the fact Dr. Jarring would go back to his "circuit-riding" was an indication that there had been no understanding between Israel and Egypt on any kind of direct or indirect talks. They asserted that there had been no exchange in which the UN envoy asked Israel and Egypt to answer yes or no.

It was predicted here that following Ambassador Jarring's visit to UN headquarters in New York, Mr. Thant would make a report to the Security Council which would be largely technical in nature and discuss the substance of his talks with both sides only in general terms.

## London Times Anticipates 'New Chapter' in Middle East Search for Peace

LONDON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The return to New York tomorrow of the United Nations Middle East envoy, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, for consultations with Secretary General Thant, foreshadows a new chapter in the search for peace in the Middle East, The Times of London said. The paper declared that Ambassador Jarring was expected to take the initiative soon to convene a face-to-face meeting between Israel and the Arabs, probably on Cyprus.

"It is, of course, much too early to predict whether the forthcoming meetings at Nicosia — should they materialize — will prove the basis for a modus vivendi between the Arabs and Israelis," The Times said.

## Brown Stresses Mideast Solution Must Ensure Free Passage For All Ships

LONDON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Foreign Secretary George Brown declared in the House of Commons today that in Britain's view "any settlement of the problem of the Middle East must include respect for the right of free and innocent passage through international waterways of ships of all nations." He added that Britain's view had been repeatedly made clear and was embodied in the U.N. Security Council's Middle East resolution of Nov. 22, 1967.

Mr. Brown made his remarks in reply to a question from Labor MP Stanley Henig. Mr. Henig also wanted to know if Britain had advised the United Arab Republic that any pressure exerted on Israel for a quick agreement that would permit the re-opening of the Suez Canal was contingent on a concession by the UAR to allow Israeli shipping to use that waterway. Mr. Brown replied that the question of what concessions were to be made and by whom at any stage of a settlement of the Middle East problem was best left to the United Nations' special representative to the Middle East in his negotiations with the parties concerned.

## Skipper Reports Soviet Warship Tracked Israeli Freighter in Mediterranean

HAIFA, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The master of an Israeli freighter reported to the coast guard station here today that his vessel was tracked by a Soviet warship for several hours in the eastern Mediterranean. He said that he tried to make contact with the Russian vessel but received no reply. The warship steamed away when the Israeli captain radioed Haifa for instructions. The incident was the first instance of a Soviet naval craft tracking an Israeli ship.

## To Remove Customs Barriers Between Israel and West Bank

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The Military Government announced today that customs barriers will soon be removed between Israel and the West Bank. A spokesman said there was no need to maintain the checkpoints because goods imported to the West Bank from Jordan are subject to normal Israeli customs charges at the Jordan River crossings.

## New Labor Party Asks President Shazar To Accept Renomination

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Israel's new united Labor Party today formally asked President Zalman Shazar to be a candidate for another term in office. President Shazar's five year term expires this spring. He is expected to be the only presidential candidate.

## New ORT Apprentice Training Center Is Dedicated in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The John F. Kennedy apprenticeship center for training men and women in a variety of trades, was dedicated here in the presence of United States Ambassador Walworth Barbour, Israel Minister of Labor Yigal Allon and a delegation representing the Women's American ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training. The center is being built jointly by ORT and the Israel Labor Ministry to provide training and lectures to 800 apprentices in various trades. It is one of 43 similar institutions sponsored by ORT in Israel.

## Golda Meir Proposes New All-Israeli Body to Handle Immigration, Absorption

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Mrs. Golda Meir, secretary-general of the new Israel Labor Party, proposed here today the creation of a new body to be run exclusively by Israelis which would incorporate the aliyah (immigration) and absorption functions of the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency. Mrs. Meir, addressing the consultative assembly of the World Zionist Organization, said such a new body made sense because the present Zionist leadership can only tell Jews abroad "go there" whereas Israelis can say "come here" and "this may make all the difference" with regard to aliyah.

Mrs. Meir, herself a veteran of the Zionist movement and the former Foreign Minister of Israel, took a dim view of the forthcoming World Zionist Congress next June as an event that will in any way affect the problems of aliyah. Nothing has changed in the field of immigration despite the fact that almost a year has elapsed since last June's war, she said, so why should anyone believe there will be changes after next June.

The question of immigration -- how to stimulate and organize it, especially from the affluent countries of the Western world -- has dominated the Zionist parley since it opened here Sunday night. One proposal, supported by many delegates and opposed by many, was for the creation of an elite body of Zionists who would personally commit themselves to aliyah. The idea was favored at last night's session by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of Kerer Hayesod, and others. But Arie Handler, president of the Mizrahi Organization of Great Britain, said that the problem of aliyah was not organization but individual and depended on increased educational activities.

Two representatives of Israel's Liberal party -- Minister without portfolio Yosef Saphir and J. Serlin -- stressed that Israel's economy must be geared to the absorption of immigrants before large scale aliyah can be encouraged. Mr. Serlin thought however, that the Zionist movement was "too weak" to undertake such a task.

Mrs. Rose Halprin, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive in New York, speaking today, disagreed with "those who claim that if we fail to achieve the goal of aliyah, the Zionist movement has no raison d'etre. We are faced with a maze of problems that we must solve in addition to aliyah, although that is the foremost problem," she said. Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, suggested that the Zionist program be revised to lay most stress on aliyah and education.

## Israel Says Human Rights Commission Is Not Forum for Resolution on Refugees

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 27 (JTA)--The Israeli member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission declared today that there was no place on the Commission's agenda for a four-power draft resolution, introduced in the Commission yesterday, calling on that body to affirm the rights of inhabitants "displaced or deported since the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East to return to their own country" and to call on Israel to take the necessary measures to facilitate their return.

Dr. Shabtai Rosenne told the Commission that the preamble to the draft resolution gave "an utterly incorrect picture" of the actions of the Security Council and General Assembly which the adoption of the resolution was supposed to reinforce. He warned that adoption of the proposal would prejudice the peace-making efforts of the Secretary-General and his special representative in the Middle East. He charged that the draft showed a "lack of balance" which he said could be explained only on political grounds. The resolution had been introduced by the Indian representative and co-sponsored by Pakistan, Yugoslavia and the Congo.

The Indian delegate denied Dr. Rosenne's charge of political motives and argued that by facilitating the return of persons to their homes, the resolution would help "de-fuse the situation in West Asia (Middle East), thus leading to peace." The draft resolution also received support from the Philippine, Egyptian and Lebanese delegations. The latter criticized the draft, however, for failing to deal with the Arabs displaced in 1948.

A wildly abusive attack on Israel was made by a non-governmental representative, Omar Azoumi of the World Moslem Congress, who accused Israel of genocide and termed Israelis "Zionist murderers." He said the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States had contributed to the "victimization" of the Arabs of Palestine. The British delegate later said that the representative of a non-governmental organization had made "abusive remarks" about his country which were not worth answering.

## Israel Fights Arab-Soviet Attempts to Isolate It At UNCTAD Parley

NEW DELHI, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which opened here nearly a month ago to work out a global strategy for the economic and industrial advancement of underdeveloped nations, has split into various committees and working groups. But they are operating under the shadow of charges by Israel and several other countries that the elective machinery which determined the membership of these groups was discriminatory and violated the conference rules.

The conference, while international in composition, is heavily weighted with Arab and Moslem countries of Asia and Africa which have done their utmost to isolate Israel. They have been actively supported in this by the Soviet bloc, with the exception of Rumania, and by many of the so-called unaligned nations. Conference plenary sessions have been used by the Arab and Communist nations as a form for bitter attacks on Israel although, as the Israeli delegation repeatedly pointed out, UNCTAD is non-political.

The Israelis have specifically charged that through "back-door pressures and machinations" they have been deprived of the opportunity to be elected to working or contact groups. One Israeli delegate, Avraham Darom, said the conference had failed to apply the rule of equitable geographic distribution in committee membership, as envisaged by the U.N. General Assembly, thereby raising a question of moral principles.

## Zionist Official Promises Bombay Jews Equality of Treatment in Israel

BOMBAY, Feb. 27 (JTA)--A member of the Jewish Agency Executive has assured an audience representing the local Jewish community here that immigrants coming to Israel will enjoy equal opportunities in education, social welfare and housing. Woolf Perry, who is vice chairman of the Keren Hayesod, fund-raising arm of the World Zionist Organization, said that "Jewish immigrants from India have been satisfactorily settled in Israel and form an integral part of that nation." Mr. Perry stressed the importance of immigration. He said that the number of people diaspora Jewry sends to Israel "will be decisive in securing Israel's future."

## British Jews Tell Envoy of 'Deep Concern' Over West German Neo-Nazism

LONDON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--West Germany's Ambassador to London, Dr. Herbert Blankenhorn, assured a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews today that the problems they brought to his attention concerning the rising political power and influence of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party in West Germany, were under serious consideration by the Bonn Government. He said the coalition government was considering ways and means of dealing with the problems posed by the NPD and by the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes which is to go into effect in 1969. He invited the delegation to return in the near future to review what progress had been made.

The delegation, headed by Alderman Michael Fiddler, president of the Board, and Sir Barnett Janner, vice-president, urged the Bonn Government to take decisive steps to deal with the menace of neo-Nazism. It noted with "deep concern" that the propaganda and methods of the NPD and of right-wing publications such as the Deutsche National und Soldaten Zeitung, an organ of virulent anti-Israel propaganda, were ominously reminiscent of the Nazis. These trends, they believed, represented a menace to world peace and to Jewish communities outside as well as within Germany. The delegation referred to "disturbing reports" of extremist right-wing influences in the Germany Army and stressed the need for more intensive education in democracy.

## World Jewish Congress Denies Call for Boycott of Ghetto Uprising Commemoration

LONDON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The British Section of the World Jewish Congress categorically denied today that it had ever called for a boycott by Jews of the forthcoming commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt which the Polish Government will sponsor in Warsaw this spring. Alex. L. Easterman, director of the Congress' international affairs department, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that reports of a boycott call issued by the WJC were "ill founded" and "erroneous." He said that "on no occasion has the Congress taken any such decision or made any such pronouncements."

The reports of a boycott call, which were widely published here and abroad, stemmed, according to Mr. Easterman, from words incorporated in a general resolution adopted at the recent national conference of the WJC's British section here. The resolution expressed the WJC's "disquiet and regrets" over Poland's attitude toward Israel since last June's Arab-Israel war but stated its hopes for the restoration of goodwill and confidence between the Jewish world and the Polish Republic. Mr. Easterman noted that constituent members of the WJC are free to express independent opinions but, unless adopted by the parent body, these are not binding.

## Employment Agencies Body to Fight Discrimination in Job Orders

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The Association of Personnel Agencies of New York announced today that it will embark on a three-phase program to combat discrimination in job orders by the State's nearly 1,300 private employment agencies. The program, which was worked out in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the New York State Commission on Human Rights, will be addressed to the ethnic minority groups subject to job discrimination, to the employment agencies and to their client companies.

In announcing the program, Anthony Kane, president of the APANY, noted that the Association was "deeply concerned" about charges that some member agencies accept discriminatory job orders. The first phase of the program, he said, will attack the problem directly through institutional advertising on radio and television designed to regain the confidence of minority groups and "to convince qualified minority group job applicants that it is to their advantage to avail themselves of the placement services offered by private employment agencies."

The second phase, directed to the State's private employment agencies will be primarily educational and will include intensified civil rights seminars such as those sponsored by the APANY in 1965 and 1967 for the training of licensees and job placement counselors. "Thus we will spell out more clearly the nature of the offenses being committed and train as many in this industry as we can reach in the unequivocal refusal of all future discriminatory job orders," Mr. Kane said.

In the third phase of the program "we intend to put all employers on notice that private employment agencies are equal opportunity employers, that their entire staffs are trained in all aspects of civil rights laws governing their operations, and that all personnel are pledged to refusing and reporting discriminatory job orders if they imply a preference for race, color, sex or national origin," Mr. Kane said. Toward that end, the APANY will prepare printed material which all agencies in the state will be asked to distribute to their client companies.

Mr. Kane said that within a short time his association will participate in a survey of New York State private employment agencies to test the results of its program. The test will be conducted in conjunction with the State Commission for Human Rights and the ADL.

## Education Must Be Within Religious Framework, Day School Teachers Are Told

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Four hundred Hebrew day school teachers in the metropolitan area were told today that neither Jewish history nor the physical sciences can be taught as entities completely apart from faith in God. Rabbi Mordecai Gifter, dean of the Telshe Rabbinical College of Cleveland, told the annual Teachers Conference Day here that "the Sinai experience is not a mere historical date but rather a new creation of a people. And it is within this conceptual frame of reference that we can forge Jewish attitudes and survival potentialities."

The conference was sponsored by the National Conference of Yeshiva Principals, an affiliate of Torah Umesorah, the national society of Hebrew day schools. Use of modern teaching methods was discussed in a series of workshops and seminars, with special attention given to the problem of using the new audio-visual tools in pursuit of religious values. Speakers demonstrated use of overhead projectors, teaching machines and language masters in the teaching of the Bible, Talmud, the Hebrew language and Jewish laws and customs.

## B'nai B'rith To Collect Million Paperbacks for Distribution to Troops

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith plans to send one million paperback novels this year to American servicemen and hospitalized veterans, it was announced here today. A nationwide drive to collect the books is currently underway. The campaign is for volumes on Jewish themes and books of general content which will be distributed by Jewish chaplains, the Red Cross and the United Service Organization (USO).

Solomon Rosenbaum, chairman of the B'nai B'rith community and veterans services commission, said that a voluntary B'nai B'rith effort last year resulted in the distribution of 700,000 paperbacks.