

JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Wednesday, March 6, 1968

No. 45

Eban Says Formula Can Be Found If Arabs Really Want to Discuss Peace

JERUSALEM, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban said tonight that if the Arabs were really willing to negotiate a peace settlement, a formula could be found. In a speech summing up a foreign affairs debate in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, Mr. Eban said it was Israel's aim to limit the Arab options to two: maintenance of the present cease-fire agreements or their conversion into peace treaties.

The Foreign Minister said Israel would be satisfied with nothing less than a contractual peace agreement which would include the practical steps for its implementation. He said that this will continue to be Israel's stand when talks are resumed with Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations special envoy in the Middle East.

(Dr. Jarring was due at his Nicosia, Cyprus headquarters tonight after several days of conferences at the United Nations during which he reportedly received clearance on proposals to invite Israel, Egypt and Jordan to send delegations to Nicosia.)

Mr. Eban referred to the speech at Helwan Sunday by President Nasser of Egypt threatening renewal of the war to reclaim the territories occupied by Israel after the June war and said that Israel had noted the threats and would draw its conclusions. He said President Nasser's "unmitigated belligerency" threatened the door to peace that was Israel's only chance of leaving behind it the nightmare of the situation that prevailed last June.

Jordanian Forces Shell Israeli Patrol Along Demarcation Line

TEL AVIV, Mar. 5 (JTA)--A military spokesman reported two exchanges of fire between Israeli and Jordanian forces along the Jordan River demarcation line today, the first since King Hussein's Feb. 16 declaration that he would not give Israel pretexts for retaliation. No casualties were reported.

According to the spokesman, Jordanians opened fire on an Israeli patrol at about 10:00 a.m., local time. The patrol returned the fire and continued on its way. The Jordanians fired several mortar shells at Israeli forces in the same area around noon and again the fire was returned.

Johnson Tells Rabin Present Opportunity For Arab-Israel Settlement Must Not Be Lost

WASHINGTON, Mar. 5 (JTA)--President Johnson and Israel's new Ambassador to the United States, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, exchanged warm, though formal, messages of greeting today as Gen. Rabin appeared at the White House to present his credentials to the President. Mr. Johnson said the United States was "deeply concerned at the continuing tension and repeated conflicts between Israel and its neighbors" and agreed with Ambassador Rabin that "there is, for the first time in two decades, a realistic opportunity for the peaceful settlement the people of Israel and other lands in the Near East so supremely deserve" and "that opportunity must not be lost."

The exchange of messages was in writing. Owing to the President's heavy schedule, he did not meet privately with Ambassador Rabin but received him jointly with the newly-arrived envoys of four other nations who presented their credentials today. A White House spokesman said the meeting was a formality and no matters of substance were discussed. Ambassador Rabin drove in a special limousine sent by the White House, flying U.S. and Israel flags. He was accompanied by a police motorcycle escort. In his message to the President, he said:

*The people of Israel know and appreciate your personal interest in the welfare of their country. They are also mindful of the effort and sacrifice which your country is devoting to the promotion of international peace, founded on the equal rights of all nations, great and small, to a life of security, freedom and independence."

Noting that nearly 20 years have passed since the first Israeli Ambassador presented his credentials to the President of the United States, Ambassador Rabin said "these have been years of constant friendship, understanding and mutual respect for Israel. This relationship has been a source of great encouragement in her struggle for freedom, security and peace. It is also an hour of opportunity for the peoples of our historic region to end the scourge of war and inaugurate an era of peace and responsibility. Israel will not be found wanting in readiness to advance this cherished goal."

President Johnson's message stated in part: "In this the 20th year of Israel's independence it is timely that we review the cordial relations and progressively stronger ties which bind our two countries together. With our own history in mind, we in the United States have watched with comprehension and sympathy as Israel has accommodated within its borders a population from many lands and constructed for them, through the application of science and unrelenting effort, a productive and prospering community. We have admired the generosity and skill with which Israel has contributed to the development of other nations."

The other ambassadors who presented their credentials at the same time as Ambassador Rabin were those of Somalia, India, Nigeria and Panama. President Johnson briefly greeted each separately and permitted photographers and television to record the exchange of credentials.

First Terrorist Attack on Israeli Civilian Traffic Reported From Galilee

TEL AVIV, Mar. 5 (JTA)--A 42-year-old member of Kibbutz Maagan in Galilee was seriously wounded last night when El Fatah marauders from Jordan ambushed a private car in which he and four other members of the settlement were riding. The victim, Amnon ben Soussan, was hit in the chest and back by bullets and a fragment lodged in his lung. He underwent surgery during the night.

The incident, the first in which Arab gangs struck at a private car on a main highway, occurred shortly before midnight on the road between Beisan and Sammakh on the southern end of the Sea of Galilee. The kibbutz members were driving home after a visit to a neighboring kibbutz, Messilot. As their car approached a bend in the road near Kibbutz Hammadiyed, about a mile west of the Jordan River, it was hit by automatic fire at pointblank range. The driver increased the speed and a grenade tossed by the raiders missed the car.

An investigation revealed that about eight gang members had crossed from the east bank of the Jordan and set up an ambush on the east side of the road. Russian-made Klatchnikov cartridges were found nearby. Security authorities believe the incident may mark the beginning of terrorist attacks on civilian cars. Most previous attacks have been on military vehicles which return the fire.

The commander of an El Fatah sabotage gang, arrest by Israeli security forces, revealed under questioning today that his mother is a Jewess married to a Christian Arab with whom she lives in Amman. According to Jewish law, this makes William Naguib Nasser a Jew although he claimed to have been converted to Christianity. Unconfirmed reports said that a second El Fatah leader, Kamal Nimri, who was captured with Nasser, also had a Jewish mother.

The interrogation of Nasser and Nimri led to the smashing Monday of the El Fatah gang believed responsible for Saturday's sabotage raid on the Mekorot water company's heavy equipment storage depot near Jerusalem where a Druze watchman was murdered. Naguib Nasser, a sabotage expert, is the man who strangled the watchman to death, security authorities said.

He disclosed under questioning that he was originally recruited by El Fatah in Germany where he spent a long time and that he subsequently trained other El Fatah recruits on German soil before they were sent to the Middle East. He himself received his training in Algeria and was later transferred to El Fatah headquarters in Damascus. Asked how, as the son of a Jewish mother, he could commit acts of violence against Jews, Naguib Nasser replied, "she was never a Zionist."

West Bank Exports to Jordan Since June Reached IL 40 Million

JERUSALEM, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reported in the Knesset (Parliament) today that exports from the occupied West Bank to Jordan totalled IL 40 million (about \$11.5 million) between last June's war and the end of January, 1968. He said this trade has provided a livelihood and employment for West Bank residents and has given them an opportunity to visit their families in Jordan. Of the total exports, IL 36 million (about \$10.3 million) worth was in agricultural produce.

Knesset Committee Seeks Answer Whether Western Wall Is Holy Place or Religious Site

JERUSALEM, Mar. 5 (JTA)--The internal affairs committee of the Knesset (Parliament) visited the West Wall in Old Jerusalem today. The visit was part of the committee's continuing deliberations on the future status of the site, a question over which the Municipality and archaeologists differ sharply with the Chief Rabbinate. The problem before the committee is to decide whether the West Wall is to be treated as primarily a holy place or an historical site.

Israelis Blast Nasser As 'Brazen Liar' For Look Magazine Interview

JERUSALEM, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry officials said today that the interview with President Nasser published in the current issue of Look Magazine proved the Egyptian leader to be a "brazen liar." They said he tried to accuse King Hussein of Jordan of fabricating the story that American warplanes had helped the Israelis in the June war although there was an authentic tape-record of a Nasser-Hussein telephone conversation in which the Egyptian raised the subject and talked Hussein into accepting the story.

Union of General Zionists for Continuation of Jewish Agency's American Section

A technical error in the JTA Daily News Bulletin of Friday, March 1 made it appear that the conference of the World Union of General Zionists in Tel Aviv had proposed the abolition of the American Section of the Jewish Agency Executive. The contrary was the fact. The report should have stated that the conference went on record in opposition to the proposed abolition and as strongly favored continuation of the American section.

Israeli News Briefs

JERUSALEM, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, returning from a month-long tour of the United States, the Far East and the Antipodes, said he had received assurances of increased income from Israel emergency fund and bond drives in 1968.

NEW YORK, Mar. 5 (JTA)--The Women's League for Israel announced plans to build a dormitory for 100 women students on the Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM, Mar. 5 (JTA)--A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Israel would not object to opening its border with Lebanon for a flow of tourists if the Lebanese Government agreed.

Sharp Exchanges Mark Continued Rights Commission Debate on Soviet Anti-Semitism

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 5 (JTA)--The Ukrainian member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission defended today the award of a high Soviet decoration to a Ukrainian writer whose book, "Judaism Without Embellishment," had received universal censure. Petr. E. Nedbailo said the award had been made to Kichko for the spreading of knowledge and for his studies on freedom of conscience and of religious and atheistic belief. It had nothing to do, he said, with the treatment of the Jews.

The Ukrainian spoke in reply to sharp attacks previously by the United States and Israeli members, both of whom had cited the Kichko book in their criticism of Soviet policies towards the Jews there. The Soviet Union and Lebanon members both joined today in supporting the Ukrainian and in attacking Israel and the United States.

Speaking for the Soviet Union, Evgeny N. Nasinovsky denied that the Kichko book had ever been published in Russian and accused the American member, Morris B. Abram, of attempting to equate statements against Israel with anti-Semitism. He denied that there was any anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and asserted that the Jews there had all rights and were free from discrimination. He accused the "Zionists" of seeking special privileges.

Yahya Mahmassani, the Lebanese member of the Commission, said that the Israelis and Zionists were afraid that anti-Semitism might disappear. The Israelis were using it, he asserted, to create an exodus to Israel and to "shake down Jews who do not go to Israel." He told the commission that Zionist leaders considered anti-Semitism "a necessary tool in the survival of the State of Israel."

Mr. Abram, in a brief reply, reminded the Lebanese delegate that anti-Semitism had antedated Zionism by about 2,000 years. He remarked that the Soviet speaker's protestations had left the commission in doubt as to whether Kichko had indeed been decorated by the Supreme Soviet.

A strong intervention in the discussion was made by Guiseppe Sperduti of Italy who stressed the need for attention to the problem of minorities. He expressed the belief that Jewish minorities everywhere in the world should be treated in conformity with their just aspirations.

Dr. Shabtai Rosenne of Israel took the floor to deny a Soviet allegation that Israel had committed aggression in June. He told the commission that the Soviet charge had been flatly rejected by the Security Council and General Assembly. He expressed concern again at the "significant increase" of violent anti-Semitic articles in the Government-controlled Soviet press last year and said the Soviet representative had not allayed fears that these might lead to "gross violations" of human rights.

Cleveland Council Issues 'Protest Seals' To Warn of Soviet Anti-Semitism

CLEVELAND, Mar. 5 (JTA)--The Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism has announced that it will distribute "protest seals" as a device to alert Americans to the repression of Jewish religious and cultural life in the Soviet Union. According to Dr. Abe Silverstein, chairman of the Council, the postage stamp-size seals are available in sheets of 50 to be used on personal and group mail.

Louis Fox, CJFWF Head Comes to Sao Paulo With Leaders of Brazilian Community

SAO PAULO, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Louis J. Fox, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, currently visiting Latin America on a fact-finding tour, conferred here today with leaders of the Confederation of Brazilian Jewish Communities and of the Jewish Federation of Sao Paulo. Among the subjects discussed was the organization of the Brazilian Jewish community and the nature of its tasks and problems.

Highschool Student Arrested in Desecration of Jewish Cemetery in Italy

ROME, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Police arrested one senior high school student and are looking for two others believed to be responsible for desecration and vandalism at the Viareggio Jewish cemetery several days ago. The youths are between the ages of 18 and 20. Jewish community leaders meanwhile made plans for a ceremony to mark the completion of repairs at the cemetery next Sunday. It will be conducted by Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome. Civil authorities and Catholic church officials will attend.

The young suspects were identified by police from fingerprints left on a liquor bottle found in the cemetery. They scrawled swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans on tombstones, opened graves and removed four skulls which they affixed to the cemetery wall and other places.

National Democratic Party Demands End to West German War Crimes Trials

BONN, Mar. 5 (JTA)--The neo-Nazi National Democratic Party repeated its demand today that all investigations of war crimes committed during the Nazi era be discontinued forthwith and that the Ludwigsburg war crimes investigation center be disbanded. The NPD's demand was the party's first foray in its campaign for votes in the Baden-Wurttemberg elections next month. Political observers expect the right-wing party that espouses Nazi ideas to win eight percent of the vote in the forthcoming election.

Two former Nazi judges went on trial for manslaughter in Nuremberg today. The charges against Karl Josef Ferber, 66, and Heinz Hugo Hoffman, 61, stem from the death sentence they imposed in 1942 on a Jewish businessman, Israel Katzenberger, who was accused of "rassenschande" (race shame) for allegedly having relations with an "Aryan" woman.

Civil Marriage, Sought By Jewish Leaders, May Be Legalized in Quebec

QUEBEC CITY, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Legislation to permit civil marriage in the Province of Quebec — something Jewish leaders along with civil rights groups and others have been urging for years — may be forthcoming in the near future, it was indicated here today. A speech from the Throne, read at the opening of the Quebec legislature, said that it will be "necessary to adapt certain of our civil administrative laws to the needs of the times, especially as regards civil marriages." At present, it is necessary for couples to be married by a Catholic priest, an ordained minister or a rabbi. "This situation has long been considered a breach of the civil rights of those who practice no religion or who do not want to get married in a church," the Canadian Press commented today. The introduction of civil marriages is also favored by the Board of Jewish Ministers of Greater Montreal and the religious affairs committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

B'nai B'rith Announces Republication of 57 Volumes of Haskalah Literature

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 5 (JTA)--Publication of the first 57 volumes of "Literaria Judaica," a 10-year B'nai B'rith "rescue project" to avert a total extinction of much Haskalah literature, was announced today by Dr. Harold Weisberg of Brandeis University, chairman of the organization's adult Jewish education commission. The project, begun last year, involves reproducing, through a low-cost offset printing process, limited editions in facsimile of novels, histories, dramas, periodicals and books of poetry that are Jewish classics of the "enlightenment" era published between 1784 and 1884. Only scattered copies of more than 1,000 historic volumes, most of them yellowed by time, their pages decaying and bindings torn, still exist in the original.

Mrs. Lily Edelman, B'nai B'rith director of adult Jewish studies, told the commission that a survey of the "Living Room Learning" program begun by B'nai B'rith seven years ago, has shown that many self-learners "who were troubled by unresolved relationships to their Jewish background, have been encouraged by the group discussions to ventilate frustrations and hostilities they have felt as Jews, and work out a receptive attitude toward their Jewishness." She said several thousand "Living Room Learning" groups are now functioning in more than 500 communities. They are generally self led, utilizing a wide variety of special texts — from contemporary fiction to the Bible and from current social problems to ancient history — provided by the B'nai B'rith adult study program.

The \$1,000 B'nai B'rith award for "excellence in Jewish literature" was presented to novelist Saul Bellow at a luncheon attended by 300. Maurice Samuel, who won the prize last year, made the presentation.

Queens Rabbi Opposes Housing Project as Threat to Integrated Community

NEW YORK, Mar. 5 (JTA)--A Queens rabbi who appealed to Mayor John V. Lindsay to drop plans to place a low income housing project in the Queens section where his synagogue is located said today he had done so because of fears that the project might destroy an already integrated and stable community. Rabbi Sholem B. Kowalsky, spiritual leader of Young Israel of Hillcrest, said he had told the Mayor in a letter that "as a religious leader of my people," he wanted to describe "how we feel about this project and what it will do to the existing community." He emphasized that "all decent people" supported the right of individuals to choose housing in accordance with their means and that this was why "we take pride in considering Hillcrest a well integrated community." He reported that the community was made up of about 60 percent whites, 38 percent Negro and two percent Chinese. Some 90 percent of the white residents are Jews. The religious leaders of the various groups, he said, meet frequently at local police precinct station "to discuss mutual problems".

He said that implementation of the low income housing project would lead to creation in the area of "another ghetto" and reduce a "decent neighborhood to shambles." He declared that such a project "in the heart of a middle class community" would inevitably "reduce the entire community to the level of the lower income element." He asserted some families had already started to move away.

In a telephone interview he said that the low income project would provide apartments for 5,000 families in a community of 20,000 and said this would impose severe new strains on present community facilities and city services. He added that there had been many community meetings, some in his synagogue, to protest the project and that community leaders were planning legal action to block it.

American Jewish Congress Welcomes Bishops' Statement on Passion Plays

NEW YORK, Mar. 5 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress today lauded a statement issued by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops that sternly warned the writers and producers of passion plays during the Lenten season not to allow them to become "a source of anti-Semitic reactions." In a statement signed by Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president and Rabbi Joachim Prinz, past president, the American Jewish Congress declared: "having had occasion in the past to express our concern and distaste for the caricature of the Jew and the vicious representation of the supposed Jewish role as presented in some passion plays, we are gratified that the Bishops have launched this effort to combat religious prejudice and bigotry. The vision of Pope John and the historic aggiornamento of the Roman Catholic Church must find their ultimate expression and enduring effect on parish level. The action by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops is a major step toward that mutual respect for the full spiritual dignity of the person of which the Vatican Council spoke in its historic schema on the Jews. The American Jewish Congress welcomes the Bishops' statement as consonant with the requirement of our faith that we seek to make the presence of God felt in interpersonal relationships."