

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israeli Anger Flares Over Terrorist Attack on School Bus; Jordan Fears Reprisals

JERUSALEM, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Anger boiled in Israel's capital today as news poured in on the mining of a schoolbus filled with youngsters in the Negev yesterday. The death toll of two may well have been greater and nine injured children are lying in a hospital. It was the kind of incident, observers noted, that rouses even the most cool-headed to call for action. What form that action might take was a matter of speculation here. Some said nothing short of total war would convince the Jordanian Government to check the terrorists and saboteurs using their territory as a base for incursions against Israel. They drew an analogy between the bus mining and other recent acts of terror against civilians with the situation in 1956 when Egyptian fedahen roamed Israeli roads at night attacking traffic and bombing homes. That situation, it was recalled, was ended by the Sinai campaign.

Attention was focussed on warnings issued only yesterday on the highest levels of Government and by the Israeli representative at the United Nations which held Jordan fully responsible for the stepped up campaign of terror in violation of last June's cease fire agreements. Prime Minister Eshkol voiced that warning in the Knesset. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Army Chief of Staff Chaim Bar Lev declared at a press conference that what exists now on the Israel-Jordan demarcation line is not a cease-fire and Israel will not accept it as such. The warnings by the Prime Minister and by the military chiefs were sounded before the bus mining.

(The Jordanian Government complained tonight to the United Nations Security Council that "Israeli authorities are contemplating a massed armed attack" against the Jordan-held east bank. It said "the gravity of the situation is obvious" and asserted that if the attack were not averted, it "will lead to renewed armed conflict of wider intensity."

(The Jordanian radio meanwhile broadcast a report from the semi-official Amman newspaper Al Destour justifying the terror raids against Israel. The paper, which is considered to echo the Government's viewpoint, said that even if it were in Jordan's power to halt saboteurs from crossing into Israel, "Jordan has no right to prevent Arab patriots from fighting against Israel by the means they think best." The paper called on other Arab states to rally in support of Jordan which has become "the forefront of the struggle against Israel."

(Reports that Jordanian villagers are fleeing from the border region reached Jerusalem today from the West Bank. The areas being deserted, the reports said, were mainly in northern sections of the Jordan Valley from where most infiltrators cross into Israel-occupied territories. Observers here attributed the exodus to fear of Israeli retaliation against Arab marauders in the wake of the school bus mining in the Negev yesterday when two were killed and 28 children were injured.)

Some observers wondered whether a system of barbed wire and electronic barriers could really be effective against infiltrators as long as the Jordan Government gives them shelter and covering fire. They pointed out that small border skirmishes can escalate into wars, especially where the safety of civilians is involved.

## Israel Tells Security Council It Holds Jordan Responsible For Murder Acts

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 19 (JTA)--Israel advised the Security Council last night that it holds the Jordanian Government fully responsible for "the organized acts of murder, terrorism and sabotage against defense forces and the civilian population, perpetrated by armed groups infiltrating across the cease-fire line" and intends to exercise "its right and duty" to take all necessary measures against them. Ambassador Yosef Tekoah referred to the mining of the schoolbus on a Negev road yesterday and said it climaxed a series of violations of the cease-fire and a campaign of terror emanating from Jordan.

"From all the evidence and information available to us," he said, "it is clear to my Government that the Government of Jordan is taking no effective step to curb these activities. On the contrary, the training, organization and despatch of these raids are openly carried out on Jordan territory. Moreover, Jordanian and Iraqi army units and positions in the vicinity of the cease-fire line increasingly assist the raids and provide covering fire for them. My Government cannot sufficiently stress the gravity of the situation that is being created, and the heavy strain it is imposing on the structure of the cease-fire. My Government must maintain its right and duty to take all necessary measures for the security of the territory and population under its jurisdiction."

### Two School Bus Passengers Killed in Incident, Nine Are Hospitalized

TEL AVIV, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Two victims of a terrorist's mine which exploded under a schoolbus loaded with children on a Negev road north of Eilat yesterday, will be buried here tomorrow. The victims were Dr. Pessach Meilin, a medical attendant travelling with the group and Hannan Kalev, a young volunteer counselor. Both were graduates of the Herzliah Gymnasium which was conducting its annual spring excursion for seventh and eighth-grade pupils when disaster struck. Nine of the pupils were in the hospital today, two of them in serious condition but said to be out of danger. Twenty-one other youngsters

with minor injuries were home with their parents after receiving emergency first aid at Eilat where they spent the night.

There were in all, 350 on the excursion, part of Herzliah's "know your land" program which takes youngsters on overnight bus trips and hikes to places of interest in Israel. Thirty of the group, which filled three chartered busses, were teachers, medical attendants, counsellors and a few accompanying parents. The bus struck the road mine shortly before dusk yesterday near Beer Orah, the scene of four other mine incidents during the previous 24 hours, all of them obviously aimed at civilian traffic. As on the other occasions, security patrols found several pairs of footprints leading toward the Jordanian border.

### Curfew Imposed on Ramallah Area After Shelling of Army Camp

TEL AVIV, Mar. 19 (JTA)--A curfew was imposed on Arab villages in the Ramallah area today following a bazooka attack early this morning on an army camp nearby, a military spokesman announced. No casualties or damage were reported. One bazooka shell was fired into the camp at about 3:00 a.m. local time, apparently by Arab raiders who fled immediately afterwards. A search turned up six unused bazooka shells.

The Haifa District Court today pronounced a three-year sentence on a 16-year-old Druze boy who was found guilty of spying for Syria and illegally crossing the border. The youngster was arrested after last June's Six-Day War when his name turned up in documents found in the captured Syrian Army headquarters at Kuneitra.

### 'Greater Israel' Delegation in Clash With Knesset Speaker

JERUSALEM, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Forty members of the "Greater Israel" movement stormed out of the Knesset (Parliament) last night after Speaker Kaddish Luz refused to seat all of them as a delegation and said he would permit entry of only 15. They had come to the parliamentary chamber to submit a petition demanding that the cease-fire demarcation lines created during last June's Six-Day War be made the permanent boundaries of Israel. The petition was not presented. The "Greater Israel" movement advocates the incorporation of all occupied Arab territories into Israel. Its membership, though not large, includes several national figures, including Mrs. Rachel Ben-Zvi, widow of Israel's second President, and Nobel Laureate S. Y. Agnon, the writer.

### Projected U.S.-Israel Joint Desalination Plant is Victim of Austerity Program

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19 (JTA)--The long-pending joint American-Israeli nuclear desalination program has fallen victim, temporarily at least, to America's balance of payments difficulties and the drive to cut expenditures not required by the Viet Nam war, high Government officials disclosed today. An authority who approved the feasibility study said that the Administration favored implementation of the plan to build a dual-purpose nuclear desalting plant in Israel but has decided to defer any further financial commitment because of the war in Viet Nam and economic considerations.

Hopes had been entertained by Israelis for an American loan that would permit work to start on the much-discussed program. The idea of a joint American-Israel nuclear desalination venture was first proposed by President Johnson in the Spring of 1964. The shelving of the undertaking is still not officially confirmed. Officials said that it would technically remain "under consideration." But actually, the President's new austerity program, announced yesterday, would rule out the loan of dollars to Israel or any large outlay to implement the construction of a nuclear desalination plant.

### Texan Completes Talks for \$10 Million Housing Development in Israel

TEL AVIV, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Negotiations for a \$10 million low-income housing project in Israel to be financed by American interests were completed here by an American Jewish philanthropist from Texas, Jim Novy, who is a personal friend of President Johnson. Mr. Novy left Israel yesterday but is expected back in two weeks. It was reported today that he may receive a low-interest loan from Cooley counterpart funds for surplus American foodstuffs, which the United States holds here. The project calls for 1,000 low rental housing units to be built in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. It has been approved by the U.S. and Israeli governments.

### Liberal Party Rejects Proposal to Merge With United Labor Party

TEL AVIV, Mar. 19 (JTA)--The independent Liberal Party today rejected a proposal by the Party whip in the Knesset (Parliament), Izhar Harari, that it join forces with the newly merged United Labor Party and stated its intention to remain independent of any parliamentary bloc in the next elections. The vote for independence by the Party's executive committee was an endorsement of the policy recommended by the Party's leader, Moshe Kol. Mr. Kol is Minister of Tourism in the coalition government.

### Leader of French Industrial Delegation Says French Majority Supports Israel

JERUSALEM, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Emil Roche, president of the French Parliamentary Economic and Social Committee, said here last night that a majority of the French people support Israel. Mr. Roche arrived here at the head of a 16-man French delegation which will discuss various industrial projects in Israel. The members are all industrialists and agricultural experts. They will be received by President Shazar.

## Communist Leader Proposes Deportation of 'Zionist' Elements to Israel

LONDON, Mar. 19 (JTA)--A member of the Warsaw Politburo called in effect yesterday for the deportation to Israel of "Zionists" in Poland who, he charged, were the instigators of the current student unrest and hostile to Poland and to Socialism. But Ignacy Loga-Sowinski, who is also president of the Trade Union Council, tried to draw a line between "Zionists" and "Polish citizens of Jewish origin, loyal to the Polish people and linked to the national culture who consider Poland to be their motherland."

The official declared in a speech published in the newspaper Glos Pracy, that Zionists were trying to win over Polish Jews. Those who side with them, he said, are themselves Zionists and consider Israel their motherland and "therefore, they should be given permission to leave Poland for Israel." He insisted that his suggestion had nothing to do with anti-Semitism. "Only Zionists in this country and abroad present our struggle (against Zionism) as anti-Semitism," he said. Jews loyal to Poland, he added, "should be considered our brothers."

Victor Zorza, wrote in the Guardian today that the Polish Government's apparent invitation to Polish Jews to emigrate might be a ruse to get Jews to apply for exit visas and thus put their names on a list of "disloyal elements." Mr. Zorza pointed out that Poland has banned emigration to Israel since the late fifties.

Mr. Zorza reported that a study of photographs of anti-Zionist posters that began to appear at officially organized meetings all over Poland after the student riots last week indicated that they may have been prepared long before the student demonstrations and that an anti-Zionist campaign was planned by Communist authorities well in advance, irrespective of any demonstrations. "It is also clear that they have all come from the Party's Agit-Prop department whose head is Leon Stasiak, a Jew," Mr. Zorza wrote. His brother is Stefan Ratzowski, former Warsaw party secretary, who is now under attack for allegedly promoting student riots.

Reports reaching here from Warsaw today said that demands for a purge of "Zionist elements" has spread to Poland's Foreign Trade Ministry, which employs many Jews and to the Foreign Ministry. Resolutions passed at party meetings in the "Dal," the State trading organization in Warsaw and published in the press, demanded that these "elements" and their collaborators must be dismissed from both ministries and from radio, press and television posts. The resolutions also demanded the exposure and punishment of people guilty of economic offenses in foreign trade and other branches of the economy.

## Members of Israel Parliament Denounce Polish Anti-Semitism, Urge Protest

JERUSALEM, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Knesset members of all factions, including the Communists, last night sharply assailed the Polish Government for its current campaign to make Poland's surviving Jews the scapegoats for student riots and unrest. Speakers voiced their shock and disgust at the revival of official anti-Semitism in Poland after Prime Minister Eshkol denounced Warsaw's drive against "Zionist and their sympathizers" and urged Polish Jews to immigrate to Israel.

M. Baram, of the United Labor Party, declared that the Jews have a long "blood reckoning" with Poland and called for the mobilization of world opinion against the Warsaw regime. H. Lundau, of Gahal, the Herut-Liberal Party alignment, said the anti-Semitic statements by Polish leaders were "a wave of mud." Gideon Hausner, of the Independent Liberal Party, who was the prosecutor in the Eichmann trial, said that "at long last the real face of Poland has been exposed."

The Communist MK, S. Mikunis, maintained that the Polish tactics was evidence of "a shaky ideological system" and said it was a sequel to Poland's one-sided support of the Arabs in the Six-Day War. Other speakers noted that the worst crimes perpetrated by the Nazis against the Jews were committed on Polish soil while the Polish population did nothing to prevent them.

Menachem Beigin, Minister without Portfolio in the coalition government declared that Poland's leaders should learn from history and renounce anti-Semitism. Mr. Beigin spoke on behalf of the Cabinet this afternoon in reply to three agenda motions concerning the anti-Jewish campaign in Poland. The matter was sent to committee for a study, the results of which will be announced after the Passover recess.

## American Jewish Committee Delegation Gets No Satisfaction at Polish Embassy

NEW YORK, Mar. 19 (JTA)--A delegation of the American Jewish Committee, which visited the Polish Embassy today expressed disappointment at failure to elicit any assurance from the Polish Government to suppress public manifestations of anti-Semitism. "While the embassy spokesman was courteous," the committeemen reported, "the issues remained unresolved and the answers to our inquiries were unsatisfactory. We are dismayed at the possibility of a general resurgence of anti-Semitism in the absence of firm action by the highest authorities."

The delegation members took the Polish position, as expressed by its spokesman, to be that if Jews were involved they were not being punished as Jews or Zionists. The Polish spokesman was quoted as saying that contrary reports in the foreign press were unfair. He reportedly denied that the Polish press has been participating in a campaign of vilification of the Jews, as has been charged.

## West German Foreign Minister Assails Neo-Nazism as Treason to Country

BONN, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Willy Brandt today publicly attacked the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party and declared that neo-Nazism is treason against the German people. Mr. Brandt, who is leader of the Social Democratic Party, said "we shall not wait long before asking the high court to investigate whether the NPD is unconstitutional." The Government has so far refrained from making such a request to the constitutional high court on the grounds there is insufficient evidence against the NPD to make the charge stick. Should the court turn it down, the Government would be embarrassed and the right wing party's stature would be enhanced, government spokesmen have said.

East German refugees in the Federal Republic were urged today to support the National Democratic Party. Dr. Limus Kather, a refugee leader and former member of the Bundestag, told a rally of 1,200 to vote for the NPD because it is "the only party defending the rights of the homeland."

## Bank Leumi Reports 20% Profit Increase and 32% Jump in Total Resources in 1967

TEL AVIV, Mar. 19 (JTA)--The Bank Leumi Le-Israel and its subsidiaries reported today that net profit in Israel pounds for 1967 rose 20 percent from IL 11,507,636 to IL 13,769,453 and that total resources at the end of 1967 were IL 4,488,507,696, a 32 percent increase over the resources of IL 3,409,533,660 reported for the previous year.

Dr. Y. Foerder, bank chairman, announced that the bank, in conjunction with American business leaders, had filed an application with the New York State banking department to establish the First Israel Bank and Trust Co. of New York, which will take over the operations of the present New York branch of Bank Leumi.

The bank reported also that total deposits of the Bank Leumi itself at the end of 1967 totalled IL 2,305,496,101, a 51 percent increase over deposits of IL 1,530,690,428 at the end of 1966. The increase compared with a 44 percent increase in total deposits for all Israel banks. Dr. Foerder, said that while the large gains in deposits partly reflected an increase in the Israel pound countervalue of foreign currency deposits resulting from adjustment of the exchange rate of the Israel pound to conform with that of the British pound, the increase mainly represented a real growth in deposits, both in Israel pounds and foreign currencies.

In American dollars, the profits were \$3,934,129; total resources were \$1,282,430,770 and deposits totalled \$820,682,092. Dr. Foerder also reported that at the end of 1967, the bank had 170 branches, compared with 160 at the end of 1966. He said the board of the bank proposed a final dividend of eight percent on its one-Israel-pound par value common stock, making the total for 1967 14 percent, the same as in 1966.

## Affidavits By Spectators Back Jewish Hockey Player's Anti-Semitism Charges

TORONTO, Mar. 19 (JTA)--Two spectators of the National League hockey game here in which Larry Zeidel, only Jewish player in the league, charged he was subject to anti-Semitic abuse from the Boston Bruins players' bench, gave affidavits to Clarence Campbell, president of the league, he said today. The affidavits were said to identify by name the Boston players who hurled anti-Jewish obscenities and taunts at the Jewish veteran. Mr. Campbell said that the documents were "the first evidence I have received to work on."

Zeidel was involved in a fight with a Boston player for which both were penalized by suspensions. Zeidel complained that he had been subject to a barrage of anti-Semitic abuse which he had tried to ignore but said he could not ignore references to the gas chambers. His grandparents, he said, had lost their lives in the Holocaust. The Canadian Jewish Congress commended the league president today for undertaking the investigation and urged that "the investigation be an exhaustive one so that all facts may be available before the public and every step taken to see to it that such occurrences will never again happen."

## Kansas City Club Drops Barriers Against Admission of Jewish Members

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Mar. 19 (JTA)--Following a decision by the Kansas City Club, the largest of the downtown business clubs, to accept Jewish members last fall, there are now at least five Jewish members in the club and "applications are apparently being processed in a routine manner," according to the Community Relations Bureau of the Jewish Federation and Council.

Disclosure that several of the city's major business clubs barred Jews was made by the National Catholic Reporter. One response was that of the Kansas City Club to end its anti-Jewish policy. Howard F. Sachs, chairman of the Community Relations Bureau, in a statement to the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, said that he hoped that "the major breakthrough" at the Kansas City Club had "set a new and more wholesome pattern" for the city and that it was also hoped "that more democratic practices will now be widely adopted in the immediate future."

He also reported that members of organizations interested in the problem "have volunteered to speak on social discrimination at Jewish and non-Jewish meetings to increase awareness and understanding of this problem." He also disclosed that many persons had adopted a practice of protesting the scheduling of meetings at clubs which discriminate. He cited the situation of a member of the Community Relations Bureau, an alumnus of Yale University, who objected this month to a Yale University meeting at the University Club which bars Jews. The member notified the Yale University Club that he would not attend any meetings of the club held under such circumstances.