

# 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, April 24, 1968

No. 79

## Israelis See Egypt's Stand as Biggest Obstacle to Middle East Settlement

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA)--Egyptian intransigence and adamant refusal to meet with Israel, even under the auspices of the United Nations' special envoy, Dr. Gunnar Jarring, is proving to be the greatest single obstacle in the way of a Middle East settlement, diplomatic quarters stated here tonight. The appraisal was given following a 90-minute meeting between Ambassador Jarring and Foreign Minister Eban. Dr. Jarring returned to his Cyprus headquarters but is expected here again next week after a further round of talks in Arab capitals.

Dr. Jarring met with Secretary General U Thant in Teheran yesterday. However, his talks with Mr. Eban today contained no reference to the new Middle East emissary whom the Secretary-General will appoint to investigate the condition of Jews in Arab countries and Arab civilians in Israel-occupied territories, it was learned here. Press reports that Dr. Jarring would draw up the new emissary's terms of reference were believed here to have been based on a misunderstanding.

Dr. Jarring apparently had nothing new to convey from Cairo in yesterday's meeting with Mr. Eban. But Egypt's intransigent policy is reflected in President Nasser's recent speeches which, if anything, sound a harder line than before. Egypt will not accept Dr. Jarring's proposals for bringing both sides together according to the terms of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. Cairo's contention that Israel will not implement the resolution is seen here as "falsification" and "a smokescreen" to put the blame on Israel should the Jarring mission end in failure.

Israel has accepted Dr. Jarring's proposal for meetings under his auspices, the diplomatic sources pointed out. But Egypt persists in its refusal to recognize or make peace with Israel, the main objectives laid down by the Nov. 22 resolution and is the source of intransigence on the part of the Jordan Government as well, they said. Egypt is also flouting other provisions of the resolution which calls for negotiating secure and permanent boundaries and free passage for the shipping of all nations in the Suez Canal and Gulf of Aqaba.

## Israel Says Arab States Conduct 'Active Warfare' By Terror, Sabotage Tactics

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 23 (JTA)--Israel charged today that the Arab States are conducting "active warfare" against the Jewish State and have chosen warfare by terror and sabotage as their primary military tactic to be employed at this stage. The accusations were formulated in a letter Tuesday from Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, head of the Israel delegation, to Yakov Malik, of the USSR, president of the Security Council.

The letter declared that the Arab states had admitted their "political and military operations against Israel and had committed themselves to the support, encouragement and continuation of these operations in violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.

"The Arab Governments have assigned units of their regular armies to participate in operations of terrorism and sabotage," Ambassador Tekoah reported. He said that "these units use the east bank of the Jordan River as their base." He further noted that "training camps continue to function in Egypt, Syria, and Algeria in addition to camps in Jordanian territory organized by the Jordanian and Iraqi military forces and by the UAR Embassy in Amman."

The Israeli envoy warned that "continuation of active warfare against Israel by the Arab states is the gravest problem in the Middle East conflict, particularly in view of the Arab Governments' avowed aim to bring about Israel's destruction." He said that it impeded efforts to achieve a peaceful and acceptable settlement. The letter did not ask for Security Council action but requested its distribution to all members.

## Documents Show Israel Pressed For UN Study of Plight of Jews in Arab Lands

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 23 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources noted today that the exchange of correspondence between Secretary-General U Thant and Israel and the Arab states, cited in his report yesterday on plans to send a new mission to the Middle East to study treatment of civilians and prisoners of war revealed an intensive effort by Israel to ensure United Nations examination of the treatment of the Jewish minorities in the Arab countries.

The resolutions adopted last year by the Security Council and the General Assembly on the humanitarian questions did not specifically mention the Jewish minorities and when the Secretary-General's special envoy, Nils-Goren Gussing, tried to make a first-hand study of their situation in Egypt and Syria, he was blocked by the authorities.

In a letter to the Secretary-General reaffirming Israel's willingness to cooperate with a new UN representative to study the situation of the civilian population in the areas occupied by Israel in the June war, Ambassador Yosef Tekoah pointed out that "the Government of Israel has taken note of the

Secretary-General's assurance that his representative will, inter alia, look into and report to the Secretary-General on the situation of the Jewish communities in the Arab countries situated in the area of conflict, who were affected in the wake of the June 1967 hostilities."

In his reply to this letter, Mr. Thant did not confirm this understanding in so many words but reiterated the original terms of reference of the new mission which made no reference to the Jewish minorities in the Arab lands and cited "the scrupulous respect of the humanitarian principles governing...the protection of civilian persons in time of war" as specified in the Geneva Conventions.

Diplomatic sources said that one effect of the announcement of the new mission might be to confine discussion on the Middle East in the forthcoming General Assembly session to the specific issues covered by this mission rather than range over the whole issue.

### Bill Introduced To Authorize Sale of Phantom Planes to Israel

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA)--Rep. Bertram L. Podell, New York Democrat, introduced a bill today supported by 24 co-sponsors of both parties, to authorize the sale of F-4 Phantom supersonic jet fighter-bombers to Israel. The Congressman said he realized that the President already had the authority to sell the planes but stressed that the intention of the new legislation was to indicate to the White House the desire in Congress for action.

Rep. Podell said the balance of power was affected by Soviet supply of jets to the Arabs, French sale of aircraft to Iraq, and American provision of fighters to Jordan. He said the sale of the Phantoms to Israel was essential to deter further Arab aggression.

### Jordanian Border Forces Suffering 'Severe Case of Nerves,' Israelis Report

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA)--Jordanians opened fire four times this afternoon on Israeli positions in the northern Beisan Valley. The fire was returned and there was no casualties, a military spokesman reported tonight. Late last night an Israeli Army jeep was attacked on the Araba road south of the Dead Sea. The occupants returned the fire and there were no casualties.

Allegations in Amman that Israeli troops were trying daily to infiltrate across the cease-fire demarcation line into Jordan were ridiculed in official Israeli circles today. They called the charges a "fantasy" and attributed it to a severe case of nerves on the part of the Jordanians. Jordanian spokesmen have claimed for several consecutive days that Israelis were trying to infiltrate their territory. They also claimed that the alleged invaders were met by Jordanian troops who inflicted severe casualties.

The Israeli circles noted that Jordanians manning border positions have become extremely nervous and trigger-happy in recent weeks. They fire their weapons blindly in all directions at no particular target. At night, they light up the border region by continuously shooting flares. Obviously, the Israelis say, they are in constant fear of an attack and are trying to bolster their confidence. The blind shooting has been most frequent in the border area facing the Israeli-Jordan Valley settlement of Gesher. That settlement has also come under frequent Jordanian mortar and artillery fire.

(The Baltimore Sun reported today from Tel Aviv that an electronic fence erected on the Jordan-Israel cease-fire line as a protection against infiltrators may be extended the entire distance between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee, about 45 miles, to protect the settlements in the Beisan Valley.)

### Arabs Must Realize Israel in Middle East To Stay, Eban Says in Book Foreword

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban said in the foreword to a new book on Israel published here today that "the task is to construct a new system of relations in the Middle East, marked by peace instead of hatred; cooperation instead of boycott; free commerce of goods and ideas instead of blockade and ostracism." He added that "our vision is of a Middle Eastern community of states, respectful of individual sovereignty while striving for a growing pattern of regional integration."

The book, entitled "Israel," is by Robert St. John, author and former correspondent, in association with the editors of Time-Life Books. It was published by Time-Life Books.

The Israeli foreign minister said that "if there is now more hope of peace, it is because all Middle Eastern people have empirical reason to despair of war." He pointed out that "the Arab mind has never grasped however reluctantly, the depth of and authenticity of Israel's roots in Middle East life. Israel cannot be excluded from the past glory, the present reality and the future destiny of this region. To present this fact to Arab and world opinion, in whatever form, is not only an intellectual exercise, it is also an urgent international necessity."

### Ben-Gurion Bows to Persuasion, Will Attend Independence Day Celebrations

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA)--Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion has changed his mind and will not boycott Israel's Independence Day Parade in Jerusalem on May 2, it was learned here today. But the 82-year-old leader will insist on sitting in the public area rather than in the seats reserved for VIPs. Mr. Ben-Gurion was also apparently persuaded by friends to accept an invitation to address a festive session of the Knesset (Parliament) marking Israel's 20th anniversary. He will be the only speaker on that occasion. Mr. Ben-Gurion said a week ago that he would not attend the parade or take part in the official Independence Day celebrations. He gave no reason. But he refused to accept a special Israel's Award that was to have been conferred on him on Independence Day in recognition of his life-long service to Israel.

### Soviet Embassy Says New Hebrew Prayerbook Has Been Published in Moscow

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 23 (JTA)--The Soviet Embassy's Information Department announced today that a new Hebrew prayer book has been published in Moscow where the first copies have been delivered to the Choral Synagogue. According to the report by Novosti, the official Soviet propaganda agency disseminating news abroad, the new prayer book was edited by Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, of Moscow and was "published in an edition of 10,000" copies.

The Novosti report, by Samuel Rozin, described the prayerbook as having been "printed on high quality paper by the best printing shop in Moscow" and said it would soon go on sale. The book contains about 300 pages in which "the Hebrew alphabet is given in printed and written letters at the beginning... followed by a section on early morning prayers to be recited on waking," the Novosti report said. "After this come morning prayers. There are also special prayers for Saturdays, big autumn holidays, Passover and other religious holidays."

The Novosti writer said he had asked Rabbi Levin to explain the differences between the new prayerbook and one issued several years ago. The rabbi was quoted as saying: "At the request of the community we have included a number of additional prayers... It is somewhat smaller than the former one, making it much more convenient to hold during prayers (and) our new prayer book is better put together. I am sure the people will be very pleased with it."

The attention given the new prayer book by the Soviet propaganda agency was apparently intended to refute reports over the years that Soviet Jews suffer from a severe shortage of religious supplies. Such reports have been brought back by American and other foreign visitors to Russian synagogues.

### Congress Adopts Resolution Honoring Ghetto Fighters Struggle for Freedom

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA)--The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously adopted a concurrent resolution today honoring the uprising by the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto 25 years ago. The resolution was offered by Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

It declares "that it is the sense of Congress to recognize and acknowledge the world significance of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising as a reaffirmation of the ineradicable determination to fight for freedom from oppression and that Congress joins in commemorating on April 25 the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Nazi occupation forces by the beleaguered and outnumbered Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto."

Rep. Celler later officially opened an exhibit commemorating the ghetto struggle at the international headquarters building of B'nai B'rith. He said at a ceremony there that it was "sadly ironic that Warsaw, the very city that saw so heroic a manifestation of man's indomitable spirit, is now once again the scene of anti-Semitic outrages perpetrated in the name of a different brand of totalitarianism." He presented the first copy of the newly-adopted Congressional resolution to B'nai B'rith for its archives.

Poland's anti-Jewish campaign was also condemned by Rabbi Jay Kaufman, executive vice-president of B'nai B'rith. The Rabbi accused the Polish Communist regime of "making a mockery" of the heroism of the ghetto fighters. He said Polish authorities have "indulged in shocking distortions of history with propaganda statements that few Jews were engaged in the epic struggle." He said that Polish distortions "juggle history with a tyrant's abandon and ignore the fact that the Jewish fighters' organization and the ghetto remnants of Polish Jewry in Cracow, Bialystok, Wilna, and other cities were denied arms or any meaningful assistance by leaders of the Polish underground or government in exile." The exhibit contains 150 photographs and documents compiled by Yivo Institute for Jewish Research.

### Says Poland Suppressed News That Agency Offered to Cover Costs for Emigrating Jews

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA)--The head of the Jewish Agency's Aliyah (immigration) department charged at a press conference here this afternoon that the Polish Government had suppressed an announcement by the Jewish Agency pledging full responsibility for the travelling arrangements, expenses and absorption of Polish Jews wishing to immigrate to Israel. According to S. Z. Shragal, the Polish authorities are trying to discourage Jewish emigration and Jews in Poland are afraid to apply for passports lest they will suffer reprisals. Polish Communist Party chief Wladyslaw Gomulka said in a speech earlier this month that his regime would permit those Jews who wanted to, to leave Poland.

### Hall of 1.5 Million Names of Nazi Victims Opened in Jerusalem's Yad Vashem

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA)--A hall containing the names of some 1.5 million victims of the Nazi holocaust was opened here last night in the Yad Vashem, the memorial archives, in the presence of members of the government and a large assembly. The names of the victims of Nazism had been submitted by their surviving relatives. Speaking on the occasion, Menahem Beigin, Minister without Portfolio, branded as falsehoods, assertions by the Polish Communists that the Poles had helped save the Jews from slaughter at the hands of the Nazis. "What was done to us will be remembered down to the last generation," he exclaimed.

### Left-Wing Groups in Argentine Hold Own Ghetto Anniversary Celebrations

Buenos Aires, April 23 (JTA)--Several left-wing Jewish organizations have broken away from the organized Jewish community program to observe the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and held their own meetings. In one such meeting in Buenos Aires, the first secretary of the Polish Embassy was among the speakers. In Mendoza City, the Polish consul attended.

### Pro-Communist Jews in Mexico Attend Memorial Sponsored by Polish Envoy

MEXICO CITY, April 23 (JTA)--Jews here were angered by the action of the Progressives, a Jewish pro-Communist group who took part in ceremonies honoring the freedom fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto under the sponsorship of the Polish Ambassador to Mexico.

Elsewhere in this city, various groups held commemoration ceremonies honoring the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The Bund, the Jewish Socialist Party, and the Society for Culture and Help held a memorial meeting while a rally was held for the general public at the Jewish Sport Center. Nidchai Israel, the Ashkenazi congregation, will hold a mass meeting this Thursday to honor the martyrs who died in the ghetto rebellion.

### Popular Mexican Magazine Charges That Jews Control Country's Finances

MEXICO CITY, April 23 (JTA)--Anti-Semitic allegations published in the popular magazine, "Contenido," have provoked strong protest among Jews here. The magazine, published by the daily newspaper, "Novedades," charged that "Jews control Mexico's finance and that Mexicans are enslaved to the Jews."

### Jewish Theological Seminary Establishes School for Military Chaplains

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA)--A school will be started in the fall in the Jewish Theological Seminary of America to provide military chaplains for the armed forces in a program to replace a prior system of compulsory military chaplaincy for Conservative rabbinic graduates which was suspended last month, it was announced here today.

The new school for chaplains will be part of the Seminary's rabbinical training program but a student who enrolls in the new school will do so under a requirement that he must enroll as a reserve officer in a branch of the armed forces, Seminary officials said at a press conference.

The new school for chaplains will have an accelerated program requiring candidates to take 90 credits of graduate work plus ordination in 27 calendar months. Candidates for the new school will be sought among present students but not among the beginning students. Students who choose to enter the new military chaplaincy school will be tested physically and psychologically to determine whether they are qualified, Rabbi David C. Kogan, administrative vice chancellor, said. He added there was no way of determining what the membership of the new school would be in the fall.

He said a significant element of the new chaplaincy program will be a requirement that all candidates for the Conservative rabbinate, who choose not to agree to military duty, must serve a minimum of two years as a civilian chaplain through assignment by a joint Seminary-Assembly community service commission.

### 'Eternal Light' Program Wins Peabody Award for Distinguished Achievement

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA)--The George Foster Peabody Award for "distinguished achievement by television and radio" was given today at the 28th annual Peabody Awards luncheon to the National Broadcasting Company for "The Eternal Light," which was cited for education. The "Eternal Light" presents Jewish themes and has gained distinction as the oldest religious dramatic show in broadcasting. It is produced by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

### Pittsburgh Jewish Agencies Engaged in Post-Riot Assistance to Victims

PITTSBURGH, April 23 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Relations Council of Pittsburgh, along with the United Jewish Federation, is one of the chief participants in inter-community efforts to extend aid and counsel to victims of the race riots that erupted here following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, the Negro civil rights leader. According to a JCRC report, activities to date include meetings with victimized merchants and the City Council on problems of re-building and aid, requests to synagogues which responded by making their facilities available as drop-off centers for clothing, food and furniture and a campaign to let organizations know of the programs designed to cope with problems cited in the Kerner Commission report on civil disorders.

Hillard Kretmer, chairman of the JCRC, said "we have been in continuous touch with the Council of Churches and the Catholic Diocese to coordinate aid activities." The United Jewish Federation, meanwhile, has counseled merchants hard hit by the riots and has guided them, in some cases to the Hebrew Free Loan Association for help. The JCRC is serving as an information center for the victims and has met in emergency session to plan long range goals.

### Cleveland Jewish Group Gives \$5,000 To King Fund for Inner City Projects

CLEVELAND, April 23 (JTA)--The Federation Advisory Council of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation has contributed \$5,000 to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Action Fund. The contribution is one of several by the Jewish community here to the King Fund created for inner city action projects following an appeal by Mayor Carl B. Stokes. The Federation Advisory Council is an informal association of private foundations. Its check was presented to Walter Beach, co-chairman of the King Fund, by Morton L. Mandel, chairman of the Council.