

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

Monday, May 20, 1968

No. 97

See Government Safe Despite Objections To Policy On Jarring Mission

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA)--Prime Minister Eshkol's broadly based coalition Government, created during the war crisis last May, is not likely to fall despite objections in certain political factions to the Government's declared policies toward United Nations Ambassador Gunnar Jarring's peace mission and the Nov. 22, 1967 Security Council resolution, informed political observers said here tonight. The principal objections stem from the Gahal, the Herut-Liberal Party alignment, which is part of the Government. Although several other Cabinet members, notably Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Minister of Transport Moshe Carmel have criticized Government policies at internal party meetings, they are expected to support the Government, according to informed observers.

Rumblings of dissent greeted Foreign Minister Abba Eban when he returned from his Scandinavian tour last night and were responsible, at least in part, for postponement of today's Cabinet meeting at which Mr. Eban was to report. The official announcement said the meeting was postponed because Mr. Eshkol is confined to bed with a cold. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that Eshkol and Eban have been in constant consultation with each other and with other Labor Party ministers since the Foreign Minister returned.

It is expected that a large majority of the Cabinet will approve the political stand and tactical moves made by Israel so far. The Cabinet is expected to reiterate tomorrow that Israel will adhere to the cease-fire lines until they are replaced by boundaries agreed to by both sides under the terms of a just and lasting peace. According to well-informed sources, there has been no deviation from the declarations by Mr. Eban and by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations, that Israel accepts the Nov. 22 Security Council resolution as a basis for peace.

Foreign Minister Eban told reporters, on his return from Denmark, that "nothing has been said or arranged with Ambassador Jarring except that we have agreed to transfer contact to New York." Instead of flying from one capital to another and then to Cyprus, "Dr. Jarring asked that we empower our UN Ambassador to maintain contact with him in New York so that he can concentrate his efforts," Mr. Eban said. The Foreign Minister was met at the airport by demonstrators representing the so-called movement for a "greater Israel." Some carried placards likening him to Neville Chamberlain and demanding that he resign.

Sources close to Eban said he believes the campaign against Israel's policies, which have been stated publicly on several occasions, is motivated by internal political considerations and is totally unwarranted.

Israel Foreign Ministry Says United States Had Urged Withdrawal From Tiran

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry confirmed tonight reports that the United States Embassy had asked Israel to withdraw its forces from Tiran Island, which commands the Gulf of Aqaba, and is claimed by Saudi Arabia. The request was made several months ago. It was rejected by Israel and the Americans have not raised the subject again, the Foreign Ministry said.

Earlier today, the newspaper, Maariv, reported that the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv notified Israeli authorities that Saudi Arabia was pressing for the return of Tiran which it had "loaned" to Egypt in the 1950s so that the latter could blockade the Israeli port of Eilat. According to Maariv, the Embassy here had word of the Arabian demand from the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. The paper reported that the Saudis were exerting pressure on the U.S. through American oil companies operating in Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Ministry said tonight that Israel informed the U.S. that Tiran had been captured from Egyptian forces during the Six-Day War and is vital to Israel's security as are other occupied Arab territories in the absence of a formal peace agreement. Egypt's closing of the Tiran Straits last May was the immediate cause of the Six-Day War.

Bourguiba Says Path To Peace Is Joint Arab-Israeli State or Separate States

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA)--President Habib Bourguiba said today that an acceptable compromise for the Middle East deadlock could be found in a joint Arab-Jewish state or in two separate states as envisaged in the United Nations partition plan of 1947.

Appearing on the NBC-TV program, Meet The Press, Bourguiba urged implementation of UN decisions on the Middle East and evacuation of Israeli troops from occupied territories as necessary steps in achieving peace. Bourguiba said the issue of Israel was one of "colonization of Palestine" by outsiders. He equated Zionist settlement with French colonialism in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

Bourguiba said that UN and Big Powers could oversee the sequence of events that could determine the timing of Israel's evacuation and Arab recognition of Israel leading to peace. He stressed that the big issue was not, as he saw it, one of Arab states' direct negotiations with Israel but the achievement of a "just compromise" between the Palestinian Arabs and the Jews.

The issue he depicted was one of "two communities and two nationalisms within the same territory." Bourguiba said a solution could only come through "a compromise suitable to both sides." Asked to comment on the Soviet Union's naval build-up in the Mediterranean, he replied that NATO did not seem greatly concerned and asked, "Why should I be more concerned that NATO?"

Jordanians Fire at Israeli Border Police; Fatah Quit Village on East Bank

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA)--An Israeli armored border police car was fired on from the Jordanian side of the demarcation line near Kfar Ruppin in the Beisan Valley this morning, a military spokesman reported. The fire was returned and the car continued on its patrol. There were no casualties. The incident was not considered serious inasmuch as Arab villagers were seen working their fields again today in an area in Jordan that they had previously evacuated. In general, military authorities believe that this section of the Israel-Jordan cease-fire line will be relatively quiet for the time being. Villagers began returning last week to Shuneh, a hamlet on the East Bank of the Jordan River facing the Beisan Valley, which the El Fatah took over several months ago as a base for operations against Israel. The El Fatah have since withdrawn and the villagers began to return to their homes and resumed cultivation of their fields. Last Friday night Israeli observers on the West Bank noted that Shuneh was illuminated for the first time in months.

(A Communist Party newspaper claim that Israel has designs on the territory of Lebanon was published in the Moscow Pravda, which accused Israel of attacking a Lebanese village last week after "a campaign of threats and intimidation" against the Beirut Government.

The allegation was contained in an article by Konstantin Vishnevetsky, quoted in the Review of the Soviet Press distributed at the United Nations by the Soviet Mission. According to the writer, "on a map of a 'future Israel' published by the Zionists as far back as 1919, the south of Lebanon was cut off and included in the 'Jewish state.' Perhaps Tel Aviv has now decided that the time has come to carry out this aggressive plan.")

Glubb Pasha's Son A Chip Off The Old Pro-Arabist

LONDON, May 19 (JTA)--The son of Sir John Baggot Clubb (Glubb Pasha), the British general who organized the Jordan Arab Legion and commanded it in the 1948 war against Israel, has become the most shrill Arab propagandist on the Amman radio, according to a report published here in News of the World. Young Faris Glubb was hired as a free lance correspondent by Amman radio and graduated to political programs, the paper said, and has become "more Arab than the Arabs."

Immigration To Israel Through Year Ending March 31 Set At 21,679

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA)--Immigrants arriving in Israel during the year that ended March 31, 1968, numbered 21,679 of whom 10,538 or 44 percent were from Western countries, it was announced today by Leon Dolzin, head of the Jewish Agency's Aliyah (immigration) department. Mr. Dolzin said that the figure included many professionals and 2,000 students already in Israel who decided to register as immigrants. He said the Jewish Agency expects 30,000 immigrants during the current year, from 12,000 to 14,000 of them from Western countries.

Dolzin also said that he favor a proposal whereby the Agency would retain responsibility for the absorption of new immigrants during their first year of adjustment here, after which absorption activities would be taken over by the Government. He said that the initial stages of absorption could not be separated from immigration and therefore must be retained under Jewish Agency authority.

Labor Zionists Back Proposal To Cut Jewish Agency Departments

The Labor Zionist movement has endorsed plans to reorganize the Jewish Agency including the reduction of its departments from 16 to nine. The Labor Zionist Bureau, at a meeting here last night, also decided to discuss the future of the Absorption Department which, it has been proposed, should be transferred to the Israel Government. The Bureau will nominate candidates to represent the Labor Zionist Organization on the Jewish Agency Executive. According to Itzhak Korn, world secretary of the LZO, the re-organized Jewish Agency would consist of a Finance, Immigration and Absorption, Youth and Halutz, Education, Religious Education, Organization and Information, Settlement, Youth Aliyah, and the Keren Hayesod departments. The latter is the fund-raising arm of the World Zionist Organization. Mr. Korn reported that he and other Zionist leaders favored asking Dr. Nahum Goldmann to reconsider his decision not to be a candidate for another term as president of the World Zionist Organization. A majority of the Bureau delegates rejected an approach to Dr. Goldmann, at least for the time being.

Brussels Police Searching For Racist Gang Who Fire-Bombed Youth Center

BRUSSELS, May 19 (JTA)--Police are searching for members of an anti-Semitic racist gang who hurled fire bombs and bricks into the Jewish youth center and students club here last night. The gang made its getaway in a car that police believe was stolen and later abandoned. Police have the license plate number but none of the culprits has been caught. The fire started in the building, was quickly put out and damage was slight. Police said the bombers left evidence indicating that they are members of the self-styled "Young Guards of the West," a Belgian Fascist organization known to be in contact with Fascist groups abroad. The group also champions the Arab cause against Israel and was held responsible for a recent fire bomb attack on an African youth center here.

British Express Concern About Fate of Jerzy Toeplitz, Polish Film Figure

LONDON, May 19 (JTA)--Officials of the International Federation of Film Archives have expressed anxiety over the absence of news about the group's president, the prominent Polish film director, Prof. Jerzy Toeplitz, who was a recent victim of the ongoing purge of Jews from top posts in the Government-controlled Polish film industry. According to the Sunday Observer here, Prof. Toeplitz was expected in London where he was due to chair the federation's annual congress which opens here next Thursday. Toeplitz was dismissed last month as rector of the Polish Film School in Lodz. The Polish Embassy here has declined to furnish any information about his whereabouts. It is assumed that the Warsaw authorities are preventing him from leaving Poland because they don't want to see him win any further esteem abroad, the Observer said. Prof. Toeplitz has been president of the federation for 20 years.

(Prof. Toeplitz and other prominent Jews purged from the Polish film industry were the subjects of a letter published in the New York Times over the weekend protesting the "current anti-Semitic actions in Poland." The letter was signed by 13 of America's leading film critics, all members of the National Society of Film Critics. They named Prof. Toeplitz, Aleksander Ford, Jan Rybkowski and Jerzy Bossak, among other leaders of Poland's film arts, who were purged because they are Jews.)

(The Times reported from Warsaw that the official Polish Press Agency, PAP, has renewed its charges that Jewish police and ghetto administrators collaborated with the Nazis in the extermination of Polish Jews during World War II. The charges were first published during the height of Poland's so-called "anti-Zionist" campaign when "Zionists" and "discredited Stalinists" were accused of fomenting student unrest. Today's PAP story however, said that the alleged collaborators "were in fact only a small fraction of the Jewish population, but did many irreparable wrongs." The Times' Warsaw correspondent Jonathan Randal reported that the Roman Catholic Church in Poland is highly sensitive to charges that the political crisis has produced anti-Semitism. "High church sources prefer to see the 'anti-Zionist' campaign, its attendant purge of some Jews and the repression of intellectuals less in terms of discrimination than as a settling of accounts among Communists," Mr. Randal wrote.)

Sen. Scott Urges U.S. Protest Against Polish Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)--Sen. Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania Republican, said today that "the United States Government should express its concern to the Polish Government" over the mounting wave of anti-Semitism in Poland. Addressing a dinner tendered by the Yeshiva University Graduate School of Science, Scott urged stronger protests to relieve the Jewish plight.

Sen. Scott noted that some Communist bloc nations were signaling their independence from Moscow by displaying a friendly attitude toward Israel or Jews. He cited Rumania's refusal to sever diplomatic relations with Israel and more recent developments in Czechoslovakia. Although Czechoslovakia severed relations with Israel during the Six-Day War, "its public attacks never have been especially virulent," he said. He noted that the Council of Jewish Communities in Prague has reported good relations with the Government and preparations for the celebration of 1,000 years of Jewish culture in that country are under way.

Deny Report That Polish Jews Are Free To Leave Country

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA)--Official sources said here today that there are no grounds for a report published in London that Polish Jews have been given freedom to emigrate and that a mass aliyah (immigration) has developed to Israel. According to Government circles, the Jewish Agency and the Association of Jewish Jews in Israel, there has been no aliyah whatsoever from Poland since last June's Six-Day War when Poland severed diplomatic relations with Israel. These sources said they had no information about facilities for Jews wishing to leave Poland. A survey of various European capitals by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency confirmed that there has been no movement of Jews out of Poland in recent months.

Rabin Tells AJCongress Peace Depends on Abandonment of Khartoum Policy

MIAMI, May 19 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, has voiced skepticism about the meaning of Egyptian agreement to continue peace talks in New York with Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations special peace envoy to the Middle East. In an address to the American Jewish Congress national biennial convention here, Rabin declared, "the question is not whether the Jarring mission will continue in the Middle East or in New York. The basic question is whether there has been a change in Egyptian policy, whether Egypt is prepared to recognize Israel and come to a peaceful settlement." Rabin called on Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser to abandon the Arab policy adopted at Khartoum last summer of "no peace, no recognition, no talks with Israel."

The AJC called today on the Johnson Administration to seek an agreement with Soviet Russia to end the Middle East arms race. The call came as the organization wound up its convention with the re-election of Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, of Cleveland, to a second two-year term as national president. The 500 delegates also adopted a series of resolutions among which were a condemnation of the continuing Soviet repression of Jewish cultural and religious life and a call to Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin to redeem his 1966 pledge that Soviet Jews would be allowed to emigrate in order to be reunited with their families in Israel and elsewhere. The convention expressed concern over the growing strength of the right-wing National Democratic Party in West Germany, which has been described as neo-Nazi, and went on record in support of Chancellor Kurt G. Kiesinger's call for electoral reforms that would reduce the possibility of the NPD securing seats in the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) in next year's elections.

Novosti Names Members of Russian Jewish Delegation Who Will Visit America

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA)--The Soviet Embassy this weekend issued a Novosti press agency release here providing details on the members of the Jewish religious delegation soon to visit the United States in fulfillment of a Soviet arrangement with an anti-Zionist organization, the American Council for Judaism. The release was written by Samuel Rozin, Novosti correspondent, and entitled "Visiting Co-Religionists." It included an interview with Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, 74, spiritual leader of the Moscow Choral Synagogue. Rozin quoted the rabbi as saying that he was previously invited abroad on a number of occasions "and not only to the United States. Unfortunately, the state of my health made it impossible to accept these kind invitations. Recently, I underwent an intricate operation...my health has improved and I have consented to accept this invitation of the American Council for Judaism." He said that "in his letter inviting me, Mr. Bill Gottlieb, American Council public relations director asked me to make a report on a number of questions concerning the situation of the Jewish religion in the Soviet Union."

The release sought to give the impression that Jews enjoy adequate religious facilities in the USSR. It stated that Rabbi Levin "simultaneously heads the Kol Yakov Yeshiva and many of his pupils are now working as rabbis and ritual slaughterers, in various cities of the Soviet Union." Reference was made to supplies of matzoh, prayerbooks, and other religious needs provided allegedly to Russian Jewry.

Another member of the delegation, Rabbi Israel Shvartsblat, 55, of Odessa, was identified as a native of Lithuania who completed yeshiva studies in 1935. Rabbi Israel Bronfman, of Derbent, Daghestan, was also identified as a delegation member. The fourth delegate is David Stiskin, cantor of the Leningrad Synagogue.

Catholics, Jews Consider Plans To Improve Understanding Between Faiths

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)--Plans to involve various Catholic seminaries and organizations in programs designed to improve Catholic-Jewish understanding were discussed at a series of meetings here between the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations and representative organizations of the Jewish community. The Secretariat is a division of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs which has its headquarters at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.

Participants in the sessions here were the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation and the Synagogue Council of America. Among the topics discussed were anti-Semitism in the United States and abroad, continuing tension in the Middle East, Catholic-Jewish dialogue on popular and academic levels, and the impact of inter-Christian dialogue and cooperation on the Jewish community generally and college campus life in particular.

American Jewish Historical Society Dedicates Headquarters at Brandeis

WALTHAM, Mass., May 19 (JTA)--The new library-headquarters of the American Jewish Historical Society, on the campus of Brandeis University, was dedicated here today. It contains the world's largest collection of manuscripts and printed material dealing with the history and achievement of Western Hemisphere Jews. The \$600,000 building, named for Lee M. Friedman, late Boston attorney whose bequest made it possible, will have a capacity for six million manuscripts and 100,000 volumes. The Society is not part of Brandeis but functions as an independent organization which collects, preserves, exhibits, publishes and popularizes material on the settlement, history and life of Jews on the American continent.

Speaking at dedication ceremonies, Prof. Moshe Davis of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, expressed gratitude for the translation into Hebrew of a number of scholarly work available until now only in English. He said the Historical Society was fulfilling a great need for exchange of historical information between Israeli and American students.

B'nai B'rith Unveils Replica of Memorial To Be Erected At Jerusalem

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith unveiled today a replica of the 25-foot-high bronze memorial to Jewish victims of the Nazi holocaust it will erect in its Martyrs' Forest overlooking the entrance to Jerusalem. Sculptor Nathan Rapoport of New York, designed it in the form of two scrolls. The six-foot model will be on display in the B'nai B'rith building through December.

Symbolic scenes in bas relief on the memorial depict chronologically the destruction of the European Jewish community and the rise of Israel. A specially commissioned poem by Nobel laureate Nelly Sachs will be inscribed on the monument's inside wall in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. Meyer Halperin, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Martyrs' Forest Committee, said a copy of the model has been shipped to the noted foundry in Pietrasanta, Italy -- used for works authorized by the Vatican -- where the complex job of enlarging and casting, expected to take more than 18 months, will be done.

The monument will be the focal point of a 500,000-tree section of the Martyrs' Forest and will serve as a landmark to travelers on the principal highway leading to Jerusalem.

JWB's Jewish Book Council of America Elects Dr. Judah Nadich President

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)--Dr. Judah Nadich, rabbi of the Park Avenue Synagogue here, has been elected president of the National Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Book Council of America, it was announced at the Council's 25th annual meeting today. He succeeds Hyman B. Bass. Dr. Nadich was previously a vice president. He is author of "Eisenhower and the Jews" and the editor and translator of "The Flowering of Modern Hebrew Literature" by Menachem Ribalow.