

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

Tuesday, May 21, 1968

No. 98

Bourguiba Urges Israeli Withdrawal; Urges UN Presence in Occupied Territories

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 20 (JTA)--President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia today called upon Israel to withdraw its armed forces from all territories that it occupied as a result of the Six-Day War "without any exception." Along with Israel's troop withdrawals, he said, "United Nations forces should take up positions in these zones."

Addressing a plenary session of the General Assembly, Mr. Bourguiba, who in the past had called outright for Arab-Israeli negotiations, took a stand squarely with the Arabs. Noting that neither the armistice agreement of 1948 nor the results of the Egypt-Israeli war of 1956 had brought about peace in the Middle East, Mr. Bourguiba endorsed what he called the Palestinians' "resistance" to Israel.

Mr. Bourguiba wondered whether the "Middle East crisis is today entering the stage of a long struggle which...has shown the leaders in Tel Aviv that, in launching a victorious Six-Day War, they have perhaps begun a war lasting 10 years or even longer, the outcome of which is far more uncertain." He said "there is no doubt that, so long as Israel refuses to accept unequivocally the Security Council's resolution of Nov. 22, 1967, the Arab peoples have no choice but to think in terms of fighting. For their part, the Arab governments have, on the whole, accepted this resolution and are prepared to accept the consequences and the responsibility of a solution."

"A plan could be worked out," he said, "which would have as a first phase the withdrawal by Israel of its armed forces from all the territories during the conflict it set off on June 5, 1967, without any exception. Simultaneously, and still in the first phase, UN forces would take up positions in these zones. During the second phase, Ambassador Jarring would open appropriate negotiations with the parties concerned to guarantee the implications and the terms of all the other provisions of the resolution. The third phase would consist of a Security Council decision based on a report by the Secretary-General U Thant and his special representatives declaring that the resolution had received sufficient application and ordering the withdrawal of UN troops so that the countries concerned could resume control of their respective territories."

According to Mr. Bourguiba, a number of powers, "such as France" have already expressed their readiness to participate in such an operation. He suggested that powers that could be approached for participation in the new UN force might be Sweden, India, Yugoslavia, Senegal, among others.

Cabinet Fails To Heal Split Over Policy on United Nations Resolution

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA)--The coalition Cabinet met this morning but failed to heal a split that developed over the Government's policy on the Nov. 22, 1967 Security Council resolution on the Middle East. The Gahal (Herut-Liberal) Party refused to go along with other members in an endorsement of the Government's acceptance of the resolution as the basis for a "just and lasting peace." But while the Gahal dissociated itself from the statements on the subject made by Foreign Minister Abba Eban and by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, chief of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, observers believed that it would not leave the Government, thereby precipitating a crisis at this time. After its morning meeting devoted to foreign policy, the Cabinet adjourned until nine o'clock tonight.

Israel's acceptance of the Nov. 22 resolution was stated at the UN earlier this month by Tekoah. Several ministers complained, not of the statement's substance but of the fact that Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Eban had authorized Mr. Tekoah to enunciate it without prior consultation with the Cabinet. Mr. Eshkol and Mr. Eban apparently succeeded in convincing most of them, in private consultations yesterday, that the Tekoah statement represented no deviation from previous policy decisions and, as a tactical move, did not require Cabinet approval. Israel's basic position, which the Cabinet is expected to reiterate, is that the cease-fire situation can be changed only by a formal peace settlement. The Cabinet is also expected to formally approve the policy and tactics employed by Eban and Tekoah in upholding that position at the UN and in the continuing talks with UN peace envoy, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring.

Some high officials of Eshkol's office believe that the transfer of the scene of those talks from the Middle East to UN headquarters in New York may lead to an actual meeting with Jordanian delegates. Should such a meeting materialize, the Cabinet will have to decide on the substance of the peace proposals that Israel will make to Jordan. The situation then would be a delicate one with the possibility arising of a Cabinet crisis, observers said. Gahal has demanded that the present cease-fire lines become the permanent boundaries of Israel. The official Government position, so far, is that there will be no return to the armistice lines that existed prior to last June's war but that everything else is "negotiable." However, should Jarring continue to meet with both sides separately in New York, as he has done these past months in the Middle East, nothing will have changed. As one official put it, there will be "talks about talks."

(Israel Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin left Washington today for consultations in Israel. He will remain in Israel for about ten days, an Embassy spokesman said.)

UN Peace Envoy Confers With Israel, Egypt Ambassadors

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 20 (JTA)--The Egyptian and Israeli Ambassadors here conferred separately today with Gunnar V. Jarring, the special United Nations Middle East peace envoy. As far as was known, today's conferences were the first to have taken place here since Mr. Jarring came to the UN headquarters last Wednesday to continue the mission which he had carried on through more than 40 separate visits to the capitals of Israel, Egypt and Jordan. None of the parties involved would make any statements about the substance of their talks. The UN Secretariat did not even announce the fact that the talks had been held.

Security Council Resolution Would 'Deplore' Israel Stand on Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 20 (JTA)--The Security Council was to meet this afternoon to consider a draft resolution co-sponsored by Pakistan and Senegal which would "deplore" Israel's failure to comply with the General Assembly's two resolutions regarding Jerusalem adopted last July and would "urgently" call upon Israel "to rescind all measures already taken and to desist forthwith from taking any action which would alter the status of Jerusalem." Unofficially, members of the Afro-Asian and Latin American groups which are reportedly backing this draft said they have lined up 12 votes in the Security Council in favor of the draft document. There are 15 members on the Security Council.

The draft resolution would note that since the Assembly's adoption of the July 4 and July 14 resolution on Jerusalem, "Israel has taken further measures and actions in contravention of these resolutions." It would declare that "the legislative and administrative measures and actions, including expropriation of land taken by Israel, are invalid and cannot affect the legal status of Jerusalem." It would request Secretary-General U Thant "to report to the Security Council on the measures taken by Israel in the implementation of the present resolution."

The draft does not mention the possibility of sanctions against Israel if Israel should refuse to abide by the new resolution. Ten days ago when the Council recessed this month's debate on the status of Jerusalem, Algeria had envisaged a much tougher anti-Israel resolution which would have threatened sharp sanctions, including military action against Israel.

Expect Knesset To Reject Bill Urging Plebiscite on Future of Territories

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA)--The Knesset (Parliament) was expected to reject a draft bill presented today proposing that a plebiscite be held in Israel over the future disposition of the occupied Arab territories. The draft was authored by Uri Avneri, a magazine editor, who comprises the one-man Haolam Hazeh faction. Referring to the West Bank, the plebiscite proposed to ask if the Israeli occupation should continue, if the territory should be returned to Jordan or if the Palestinian Arabs should be allowed to establish their own state there. Mr. Avneri is known to favor a separate Arab state but that solution has few supporters among Israelis or Arabs.

Government spokesmen in the past have criticized the idea of plebiscites saying they usually present complex issues in an over-simplified way and lend themselves to demagoguery.

West Bank Military Governor Extends Protection To Settlers in Hebron

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA)--The West Bank military government has extended its protection to a group of some 80 religious Jews who established themselves in the Arab town of Hebron last Pass-over and announced their intention of remaining there to reinstitute a Jewish community that has not existed since the 1930s. But the group, which includes about 20 children, had to move yesterday from the hotel they had rented to the Military Governor's headquarters. The move is expected to ease the tension that has developed between the would-be settlers and the local Arab population -- numbering some 20,000 -- whose spokesman, Mayor Mohammed Ali Jabari, has petitioned Prime Minister Levi Eshkol to get the Jews to leave.

It is also expected to ease, at least temporarily, the split that has developed within the Government over the Hebron settlers. Factions that advocate Israel's permanent retention of the West Bank, and Orthodox elements, have been pressuring the Government to give its official blessings to the Hebron settlers' plans. Others, however, see them as a source of embarrassment that could impede efforts toward a peace settlement with the Arabs. Jabari has argued that if the Jews are allowed to return to Hebron, Arab refugees should be allowed to return to Jaffa which, since Israel's independence in 1948, has been part of Tel Aviv.

It was reliably reported that the Government has authorized the military governor to "attend to the defense and housing needs" of the settlers. Yesterday's move would seem to confirm the report. Hebron is regarded by Orthodox Jews as a holy city. Arabs massacred the local Jewish community in 1929 and the last Jews left the town during the Arab riots and general strike of 1936. Hebron is the site of the Tomb of the Patriarchs, where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives Sarah, Rebecca and Leah are buried.

Israel Has Evidence That El Fatah Terrorists Had Planned Attack on Parade

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA)--Israeli authorities have obtained evidence that El Fatah terrorists had planned to attack the May 2 Independence Day parade in Jerusalem, it was reported here today. The capture of a gang near Ramallah last week disclosed that its members had instructions to attack the rear guard of the parade, which was witnessed by an estimated 600,000 persons. The attack was called off when the gang leader was arrested.

Czechoslovak Jews Demand Rights From New Prague Regime, Cite Past Repression

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA)--The Council of Jewish Religious Communities in Bohemia and Moravia has published a declaration of demands on the new Czechoslovak Government. They said the demands are "just" in view of the suffering of Czech Jewry under the Nazi occupation and the Communist repression of Jews during the 1950s and after last June's Arab-Israel war. The demands were contained in a declaration adopted at a meeting of the Council last month and published in the Council's journal, "Vestnik." They were just made public in translation by the World Jewish Congress here. A similar declaration was adopted by the Central Council of Jewish Communities of Slovakia whose president attended the meeting of the Bohemia-Moravia Jewish leaders.

The declaration, prepared against the background of the recent liberalization of the Prague regime, commenced with "a demand" that the Government publicly rehabilitate the reputations of Czech Jews who were accused or slandered during the political trials of the 1950s. It also asked that "future international political developments should not effect the position of the Jewish community and that no obstacle be placed in the way of contacts between the Council of Jewish Communities and fraternal organizations abroad, such contacts having always been in the interest of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic." The latter demand was an obvious reference to the restrictions placed on Jewish contacts with Israel following last June's war.

The declaration also asked the new regime to "permit immediate permanent and free access to the place on the River Ohre where the ashes of some 20,000 prisoners were thrown into the water." The Ministry for National Defense had refused to allow regular visits to this and other sites where Czech Jews were martyred. The declaration stated that "we wish to take this opportunity to declare that we shall never agree to the destruction of the State of Israel and to the murder of its population. It is in that country, the cradle of our religion, that the refugees found a haven...This attitude of ours is in full accord with our Czechoslovak patriotism."

The Bohemian and Moravian Jews demanded that "religious education of youth should not be hampered by administrative difficulties." A similar declaration adopted by the Jewish communities of Slovakia demanded the "elementary human right that everyone who wishes should be able to be reunited with his family." The reference was to the many Slovakian Jews who immigrated to Israel after World War II.

Czech Writer Will Attempt To Promote Better Relations With Israel

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA)--The liberal Czech writer, Ladislav Mnacko who has ended his 10-month self-imposed exile in Israel and returned to Prague where, he said, he will try to foster improved relations between Czechoslovakia and Israel. Mr. Mnacko left his native country following last June's Arab-Israel war when the Prague regime severed diplomatic relations with Israel. He has cabled friends here that he will return to Israel soon for a visit but that he will remain in Czechoslovakia because it is his home.

Abbey Wins CJCongress Presidency In Close Vote; Anti-Hate Bill Endorsed

TORONTO, May 20 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress ended its five-day national assembly here with the election of Monroe Abbey, a 63-year-old Montreal lawyer, as its president and endorsement of the group libel bill now before the Canadian Parliament. The election, hotly contested by Lavy Becker, of Montreal, was the closest in the CJCongress' 50 year history. Endorsement of the anti-hate bill also involved a close vote and came about through a compromise with delegates who feared that the legislation contains too many loopholes as it now stands.

There was a new element of Canadian Jewry present - French-speaking Jews from North Africa and the Middle East who, for the first time, participated as a body in the deliberations. A resolution called for the establishment of human rights commissions in the Canadian provinces. Rabbi Gunther Plaut, of Toronto, urged Canadian Zionists to take a more aggressive stand and demand that candidates for public office declare their position on Israel.

A protracted debate developed over the group libel bill which many delegates wished to see endorsed by the CJCongress' assembly. Other delegates, among them representatives of the Montreal-based Association of Survivors of Nazism, objected to the clauses in the bill citing "truth" and "public interest" as possible defenses in any actions filed under the law. A compromise resolution was adopted urging the CJCongress to promote the legislation with the proviso that it could ask for deletion of the defense clauses if they should render the law ineffective.

Judge Harold Lande defeated Albert Eaton, in a close vote, for the post of national treasurer. Other officers elected were Sol Kane, chairman of the national executive committee; Harry Steiner, national secretary; Moe Cohen, David Levin, Meyer Gasner and Leon Kronitz as national vice presidents; Dr. Roy Waldman, Abe Steinberg, Sydney M. Harris and Nathan Gaisin as chairman respectively of the Pacific, Western, Central and Eastern regions.

Canadian Columnists Denounce Police Protection Given To Nazi in Park

TORONTO, May 20 (JTA)--The authors of a column widely syndicated in the Canadian press have taken issue with the Toronto police for protecting a local Nazi agitator in a public park here. The columnists, Douglas Fisher and Harry Crowe, observed that the protection given the Nazi, John Beattie, by some 200 Toronto police officers, was tantamount to a "subsidy" for Nazism.

Gov. Rockefeller Vetoes Group Libel Measures, Doubts Constitutionality

ALBANY, N.Y., May 20 (JTA)--Gov. Nelson Rockefeller has vetoed a group libel bill that would have amended the State Penal Law to prohibit speeches and writings made with the intent to incite violence against racial, religious or ethnic groups. He stated that he disapproved the bill because of already existing provisions of the Penal Law covering offenses against public order and because it was of doubtful constitutionality.

Rockefeller's veto was recommended by various civil libertarian and Jewish organizations, among the latter the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress. The bill was sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

Leo Pfeffer, of the AJCongress, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that its recommendation against the legislation stemmed from two considerations -- that it would not be effective and that it was probably unconstitutional. However, David Sidman, executive director of the JWV, department of New York, informed JTA that the veterans' organization will continue to press for group libel legislation which, he said, is aimed specifically at such "racist" groups as the National Renaissance Party and the American Nazi Party which advocate the extermination of Jews and other minorities. Mr. Sidman said that this was the fourth such measure sponsored by the JWV and the third to be vetoed by the Governor.

Washington Council Executive Foresees Possible Disappearance of Russian Jews

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA)--Dr. Isaac Franck, executive vice-president of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, has returned to Washington from a visit to the Jewish community of the Soviet Union with a report that overt anti-Semitism has been added to "the government-directed program of suppressing and strangulating Jewish religion and cultural life." He said that "if this process continues for the next decade or two, there is a real danger that the three million Jews of the Soviet Union will be a disappearing people."

Dr. Franck reported "a feeling that most of the non-Jews in the Soviet Union don't know what is happening to the Jewish community and don't care, and the Jewish community itself is terrified by Communist informers right within its synagogues and doesn't dare speak out."

A paradox found by Dr. Franck was that the young generation of Jews, although brought up in ignorance of their heritage, today "somehow are seeking their way back to some kind of Jewish identification." Dr. Franck heard frequent accounts of how respected professors and government officials unexpectedly found themselves out of work once it was learned that they claimed to be Jewish. He said 95 percent of Jewish families were now frightened about having sons circumcised.

He said that the Kremlin is slowly changing history to let the Russians forget that one of the main evils of Nazism was the liquidation of Jews. Jews in Russia felt that protests against Soviet policies by Jews in the United States might help alleviate their plight. Dr. Franck visited Moscow, Leningrad and Vilna.

Americans Planning To Emigrate To Israel Take Steps on Jobs, Housing

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA)--Some 400 Americans planning to emigrate to Israel gathered here yesterday in an all-day aliyah (immigration) conference and moved to set up the mechanisms by which they could better secure jobs and housing in Israel. The meeting was the first annual conference of the five-month-old Association of Americans and Canadians for Aliyah (AACAA), an American-based aliyah organization established to assist Americans who plan to settle in Israel within three years in finding employment and other needs related to their absorption.

Conference participants recommended that an employment office in Israel be set up to help service the American membership of the AACAA. The office would make regular surveys of the job situation and publish a monthly help wanted list. Another proposal calls for a commission to study the housing situation in Israel.

Greetings were delivered by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, and Mrs. Rose Halprin, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency. The AACAA is affiliated with the latter two organizations. Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, president of Hadassah, who appeared at the conference, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Israeli authorities "should desist from making promises to prospective olim (immigrants), promises they cannot fulfill."

American Zionist Council Chairman Disputes Breslow's Zionist Views

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA)--The chairman of the American Zionist Council has taken issue with the position on Zionism enunciated by Israel Breslow, president of the Workmen's Circle, in an address before the organization's recent convention, and accused him of "distortions and misleading allegations" on the meaning of Zionism. Rabbi Israel Miller objected to Mr. Breslow's statement that "Zionists believe that Israel is the homeland of all Jews and that Jews elsewhere are living in the Galut -- in the diaspora." He said, "We in the Workmen's Circle say no. For us the United States...is our permanent homeland." The statement was part of an explanation by Mr. Breslow of the Workmen's Circle stand of whole-hearted support of Israel, while rejecting the Zionist philosophy. Rabbi Miller, in a letter to Mr. Breslow, said Zionism "stands for the creative survival of the Jewish people everywhere." He said that while Zionists were deeply concerned over Israel, "we are similarly concerned with the meaningful survival of the Jewish people -- as a people -- in all the lands wherein they dwell."