

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Meridian Synagogue Bombed; FBI Joins Local Police in Investigation

MERIDIAN, Miss., May 28 (JTA)--The Federal Bureau of Investigation joined today with local police authorities in a probe of the bombing last night of Temple Beth Israel, a Reform synagogue, which caused considerable damage to its religious school. The nearby sanctuary and assembly hall of the building complex, erected three years ago at a cost of \$400,000, escaped serious damage. FBI agents roped off the area as they began a search for clues to the bombers.

The FBI indicated that apparently several sticks of dynamite were combined in a home-made explosive which blew out one wall of the synagogue. The building was empty at the time, put at about 12:30 a.m. Windows in nearby homes were blown out and one girl was cut by flying glass. Meridian, a city of 54,000 about 90 miles east of Jackson, the state capital, has been the scene of five night rider incidents since last Jan. 11. It was recalled that Temple Beth Israel in Jackson was damaged last September by a bomb and that the home of its rabbi, Perry E. Nussbaum, also was blasted but there were no injuries. Damage to the Jackson synagogue was estimated at \$25,000.

A member of Temple Beth Israel here, who chose to remain anonymous, posted a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for the blast last night.

Rabbi Milton I. Schlager, the bombed synagogue's spiritual leader, is a member of a Committee of Conscience that was formed about a month ago to deal with the problem of the night bombings of houses of worship, which included five Negro churches. At services here last Friday night, a collection was taken up at Temple Beth Israel on behalf of the Negroes. In a statement today, Rabbi Schlager declared "This hasn't happened to me. It happened to the people of Meridian. It is not a Jewish matter, it is not my synagogue, it is one of the synagogues of Meridian."

## Churches In Meridian Offer Facilities To Bombed Synagogue

The rabbi, who lives about 10 minutes' drive from his synagogue, was home with his wife, when they both heard the blast. "That's the temple," he declared, and rushed off. Mrs. Schlager told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that churches in Meridian have offered Beth Israel the use of their buildings for any events that may have to be cancelled because of the damage. She said that "miraculously" a "beautiful" stained glass mosaic window called "The Window of God" near the school remained intact. Also undamaged was a marble monument to the six million Jews killed in the holocaust which was given last year by three members of local Baptist churches and which stands in a courtyard near the school.

A special meeting of the City Council was called this morning by Mayor Al Key to see what could be done to combat the night attacks. Police said there had been a previous effort to enter Beth Israel at night, but gave no other details.

Harold O. Chester, pastor of the Poplar Springs Baptist Church, chairman of the Committee of Conscience, told the Meridian Star, the local daily newspaper, that about 3 o'clock this morning he had received a telephone call. A voice said "Do you know what happened to the synagogue?" He said "yes." The soft-spoken voice told him, "You're next."

Rabbi Schlager told the JTA that ten classrooms and the synagogue library were damaged in the blast. He said that the bomb had been placed against the door of the school and that the concussion had left a hole a foot deep. He was told that persons five miles away had heard the blast.

Beth Israel, he said, has less than 100 families in its membership. He estimated that there are about 300 Jewish families in the city. "I still think that, despite this incident, Meridian is a fine, honest and dignified community in which to live," Rabbi Schlager said.

## Israel Pays Full \$3,323,500 Compensation For 'Liberty' Attack Victims

WASHINGTON, May 28 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey announced today that the Government of Israel had paid the full amount claimed by the U.S. Government on behalf of the families of the 34 Americans killed in the June 8, 1967 attack on the U.S.S. Liberty. The intelligence ship was accidentally attacked last June 8. The compensation paid to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv on May 27 totalled \$3,323,500.

The Department of State is preparing other categories of claims against Israel including claims on behalf of men injured in the incident. It was learned that the claims will also include a bill for damages to the ship. This bill is now being computed by the U.S. Government. Compensation for the injured will apply to 171 men wounded in the incident. Israel expressed regret last June and said it was "prepared to make amends for the tragic loss of life and material damage."

## Dayan Again Warns Arab Countries To Halt Terrorist Incursions

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned in a radio interview here last night that the continued support by the Arab states of terrorist incursions against Israel "is a matter of very serious political consequence to us and we cannot let them get away with it." Gen. Dayan's remarks were broadcast over the Armed Forces radio and published in the Army weekly magazine, "Bamachaneh" on the first anniversary of the Six-Day War.

Gen. Dayan said it was an intolerable situation that states which signed a cease-fire agreement with Israel should at the same time conduct hostile activities against Israel, either directly from their own territory, as Jordan is doing, or indirectly as Syria and Egypt do. "If Jordan and Egypt want war, they are welcome to it, but then there can be no cease-fire," he said. He added that if a new war broke out, he did not have the slightest doubt that "we shall not only defeat them but we shall smite hip and thigh, together or separately, every single country that wages a war of terror against us."

### Jordanians Fire Again on Israeli Positions On West Bank

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--Jordanian artillery opened fire on Israeli positions on the West Bank and in the Jordan Valley area three times today. Their guns were silenced by Israeli return fire and no casualties were suffered, a military spokesman reported.

The Jordanians first opened fire about ten miles north of the Damiya Bridge, precipitating an exchange with Israeli artillery that lasted 45 minutes. The Jordanians resumed firing in the same area two hours later, starting an artillery duel that lasted two hours. This afternoon, Jordanians fired on civilian workers in the fields of Kibbutz Maoz Chaim in the Jordan Valley. Again, Israeli return fire silenced the Jordanian guns.

### Gaza Women Again Try To Block Road But Town Generally Quiet

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--Several hundred Gaza women and young girls attempted to block the main Gaza Strip road this morning but dispersed without incident when an Israeli Army jeep approached, a military spokesman reported today. There were a few incidents of stone-throwing by hooligans at a girls' high school. But generally the town was quiet after a week-end of civilian disorders. High school girls were among the most unruly elements. Today, many parents escorted their daughters to school to protect them and to make sure that they went to classes and not to a stone-throwing spree as on previous days.

### Israel Approves Re-Opening of Two British-Owned Banks on West Bank

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA)--The Military Government announced today that it had permitted two British-owned banks on the West Bank of the Jordan to re-open. They are the British Middle Eastern Bank and the Ottoman Bank with deposits estimated at roughly ten million pounds sterling (\$24 million). The re-opening of the banks will permit their clients to claim their deposits or institute legal action if their claims are not satisfied. Jordanian-owned banks on the West Bank remain closed.

### Israel Foreign Ministry Silent on U.S. Request To Leave Tiran Islands

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry refused today to comment on press reports that the United States had asked Israel to vacate the island of Sanafir in the Straits of Tiran which, with the adjacent island of Tiran, commands the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba and Israel's port of Eilat.

Israel occupied the two islands in last June's Six-Day War which was precipitated by the Egyptian blockade of the Straits of Tiran. Israel rejected an earlier United Nations request to evacuate Tiran. The islands nominally belong to Saudi Arabia, but they were "loaned" to Egypt in the early 1950s as a base for blockading Israel. United Nations emergency forces occupied Tiran from 1957 until they were ordered out by Secretary General U Thant last May at the request of Egypt's President Nasser. The Egyptians built a fortress on the island.

### Eshkol Reports More Government Offices Being Transferred To Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, May 28 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol disclosed in the Knesset (Parliament) last night that the national police headquarters and several Government offices now located in Tel Aviv are preparing to move to East Jerusalem. He said, in a reply to a question, that the Government is considering the relocation in East Jerusalem of several units of the Ministries of Housing and Agriculture, the public works department and the engineering services of the Post Office.

In addition to police headquarters, the offices that will relocate in East Jerusalem are the philatelic service of the Post Office, the employment service of the Ministry of Labor and the State Prison Supervisory Commission.

### Herut Debates Future Participation In Israel's National Coalition Government

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--Israel's right-wing Herut Party, which is holding its national convention here, continued today to debate the question of its continued participation in the national coalition Government organized by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol during last May's war crisis. Herut, in parliamentary alignment with the Liberal Party, comprises the Gahal faction. It has differed sharply with the Government over the strategies employed to reach a peace settlement with the Arabs, and over the future status of the occupied territories. Its leader, Menachem Beigin, favors permanent sovereignty over them and large-scale settlement of them.

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Ben Eliezer, who is a Herut leader, urged today that the party stay in the coalition. He said that even if Herut won a majority in the next election, it would seek to lead a coalition of national unity. His view was opposed by Yohanan Bader, a Knesset member, who said Gahal should leave the coalition because the country now lacks an active opposition, which damages its democratic image.

**Gen. Eisenhower Proposes Plan For Nuclear-Powered Mid-East Desalting Plants**

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA)--Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower has proposed a plan for nuclear-powered water desalting plants in the Middle East which he says can help promote a lasting peace between Israel and the Arab states because the plan has advantages "so great that the hostile states of the Middle East simply cannot afford to withhold their cooperation." Gen. Eisenhower outlined his plan in an article published in the June Readers Digest. The Eisenhower plan calls for the construction of three nuclear-powered water desalination plants that would produce more than a billion gallons of fresh water daily from the sea to irrigate some 1,750 square miles of barren land. Two of the plants would be located on the Mediterranean coast and one on the Gulf of Aqaba. They would more than double the average daily flow of the three main tributaries of the Jordan River, Gen. Eisenhower said.

The proposed plants would produce the sweet water at a cost no greater than 15 cents per 1,000 gallons, about one-sixth the cost of desalting water in plants using conventional fuels. In addition to the water, the plants would produce great quantities of electric power which would bring the Middle East "vast new complexes of industry, just as it has to many other parts of the world," Gen. Eisenhower wrote. He proposed that the nuclear plants be paid for by selling stock to private and governmental investors. He would have the program administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations. The latter would allocate uranium for the atomic reactors and would make sure that none is ever used for military purposes, Gen. Eisenhower wrote.

**Israel Embassy In Bonn Concerned Over Reported German Compliance With Boycott**

BONN, May 28 (JTA)--The Israel Embassy here took a serious view today of reports, apparently true, that two West German industrial firms have given in to Arab pressure and have renounced future business deals with Israel. The firms are Thyssen and Mannesmann, both of which had sought and won contracts to supply Israel with steel pipes for the proposed Eilat to Ashdod pipeline. An Embassy spokesman said that the matter was not only a commercial but also a political issue. He said that the firms had approached Israel for the orders that could have gone to other companies. The deal involved 90,000 tons of pipe valued at \$12 million.

According to reports, the Thyssen and Mannesmann companies came under heavy Arab pressure when the contracts were signed. Both subsequently wrote to the Arab Boycott office in Beirut, Lebanon, agreeing to make no further deals with Israel. The Thyssen company has already delivered 50 percent of its order to Israel but it was uncertain whether it would fulfill the balance of the contract. Spokesmen of both firms declined to comment.

**West German Trade Union Leaders Demand Ban Of National Democratic Party**

BONN, May 28 (JTA)--New voices were raised here today in favor of outlawing the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party, described by many as neo-Nazi, which made surprising gains in the recent elections in Baden-Wurttemberg, ostensibly the most liberal of West German states. The leadership of the West German trade union movement (DGB), demanded that the party be banned because of recent terrorist acts by some of its members against the left-wing student center in Berlin. Herbert Wehner, Minister of German Affairs and deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party, said at a news conference today that his party would request the Allied powers to outlaw the NPD in Berlin. The three Western allies -- the United States, Britain and France -- continue to function as occupation powers in West Berlin. The Soviet Union, formerly the occupying power in East Berlin, ceded its rights to the East German Government in 1955, an action the three Western powers do not recognize. The Western powers agreed today to surrender vestigial occupation rights in West Germany as soon as West Germany's new emergency laws go into effect. But the status of Berlin will remain unchanged.

**Britain Plans No Further Representations To Moscow On Jews At This Time**

LONDON, May 28 (JTA)--The British Government will make no further representations to the Soviet Government at the present time concerning the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union, the House of Commons was informed today. The issue was raised by Dr. M.S. Miller, Labor MP, who asked what further steps had been taken or were envisaged by the Government, during the course of International Human Rights Year, to raise the problem of Soviet Jewry with the Soviet Government.

Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State in the Foreign Ministry, replied that Prime Minister Harold Wilson spoke informally about the problem to Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin during his visit to Moscow last January and indicated that he felt there would be no advantage in making further representations at that time. "There has been no change in the situation which would justify any further steps at present." Mr. Roberts said.

**Patriarch Of Greek Catholic Church Favors Internationalization Of Holy Places**

PARIS, May 28 (JTA)--Maximos V, Patriarch of the Greek Catholic Church, said on a visit here today that he favors internationalization of Holy Places in Jerusalem and that Pope Paul VI is considering the same idea.

**72 Congolese Army Cadets Being Trained As Paratroopers By Israel**

TEL AVIV, May 28 (JTA)--Seventy-two cadets of the Congolese Army are undergoing paratroop training in Israel under a special agreement signed between the two countries, it was reported here today.

## B'nai B'rith Hears Caution Against Job Preference On Racial Basis

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., May 28 (JTA)--Growing Negro demands should not result in "a tendency to appoint or select applicants regardless of seniority or qualification solely because of their race," Chief Judge Sidney Sugarman of the United States Southern District Court told the convention here of B'nai B'rith District 1. Judge Sugarman, an international vice-president of the order, is chairman of its committee on race relations. He told the 2,000 delegates that "we reject a separatist solution to the problem of race relations and are committed to an integrated democratic society."

It should be possible, he said, to increase employment of Negroes without creating a "justifiable sense of discrimination" among whites who believe they are being passed over for less qualified Negroes. This is especially true, he said, among Government employes and teachers. He expressed the belief that compensation for past discrimination against Negroes "can be found in the filling of new jobs and in enabling Negroes to meet the qualifications of existing jobs. Our role is to help individuals move away obstructions to opportunity by reason of discrimination without diminishing quality of performance."

The convention adopted a plan offered by Judge Sugarman involving a canvass of the district's 100,000 membership to see how many could hire young disadvantaged people now for summer jobs; how many employers among them could hire young Negroes to learn trades; and how many B'nai B'rith units could help Negroes establish small businesses and gain managerial skills.

## Detroit 'Inner City' Youth Offered Jewish-Sponsored Aid For College

DETROIT, May 28 (JTA)--High school graduates of Detroit's inner city seeking to enroll in Wayne State University will receive both financial help from an allocation of \$50,000 and counseling services from Detroit Jewish agencies to help assure successful college careers.

Dr. Samuel Krohn, immediate past president of the Jewish Community Council, in announcing the project, said that the program would start in the fall of this year with a grant of \$12,500 for 25 students from the Jewish Community Foundation of the United Jewish Charities. The program will be renewable annually for four years and will be carried out in cooperation with the Higher Education Opportunities Committee, headed by Federal Judge Wade McCree, Jr.

Dr. Krohn said the plan will aid minority group students for whom no scholarship help is otherwise available to complete their education for professions or careers. The student recipients will be chosen by the committee. In addition to scholarship grants, cultural, employment, health and referral assistance will be available to the students. Among the agencies which will provide such services will be the Shiffman Clinic of Sinai Hospital, the Jewish Vocational Service and Community Workshop, the Fresh Air Society, the Jewish Family and Children's Service and the Jewish Community Center. Educational counseling will be provided by the committee.

The scholarship plan was initiated by the Jewish Community Council's urban affairs committee of which Mrs. Julian Krolik is chairman. The Jewish Community Foundation, under the chairmanship of Max J. Zivian, reviewed the proposal and recommended the financing which was subsequently approved by the United Jewish Charities.

## Council For Judaism Denies Charge of Unconcern For Jews in Arab Nations

NEW YORK, May 28 (JTA)--George Bagrash, acting executive director of the American Council for Judaism, denied today a charge that the anti-Zionist organization was unconcerned with the plight of Jews in Arab countries. Replying to that charge, made yesterday by Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, recently resigned Council executive director, Bagrash said that his organization's invitation to Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow to visit the United States was "based on a deep concern" for Jews in Russia. As for Dr. Mezvinsky's charge that the American Council's Philanthropic Fund refused to aid beleaguered Jews in Arab nations after the Six-Day War, Mr. Bagrash said, "I don't know of any Fund policy that would preclude such aid."

He denied Dr. Mezvinsky's assertion that Rabbi Elmer Berger, executive vice president of the Council, had given speech writing aid to Arab envoys at the United Nations, "notably George Tomeh of Syria." That's "absolutely untrue," Mr. Bagrash said. "Mr. Tomeh doesn't need Rabbi Berger's help. He has a staff of writers." Dr. Mezvinsky had said also that Rabbi Berger had provided material on the workings and philosophy of Zionism to Mr. Tomeh. Mr. Bagrash said such information was in the public domain. He also disputed Dr. Mezvinsky's statement that the Council has 5,000 members. The actual figure, he said, was closer to 20,000.

Mr. Bagrash rejected Dr. Mezvinsky's assertion that the Council was "bigoted" against Negroes. The latter charged that he had been obliged to "disinvite" author Louis Lomax and Dr. James E. Cheek of Shaw University, Raleigh, N.C. to the Council's annual conference after the National Executive Committee refused to permit a Negro to attend it. Mr. Bagrash said that Rabbi Berger had addressed Shaw students and faculty and that there is "fine rapport" between Dr. Cheek and the rabbi. "If we are bigoted and oppose dialogue with Negroes, why would Rabbi Berger go to Shaw?" he asked.

In a related development, Gottfried Neuberger of New York denied that he was a Council member, as Dr. Mezvinsky had asserted, and denied that he sought to displace the Council as sponsor of Rabbi Levin's visit by writing Rabbi Levin that the organization was comprised of non-Sabbath observers. Mr. Neuberger and Mr. Bagrash told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the former had gone to Moscow to help arrange the visit, partly on behalf of the Council, which sought details about visit arrangements, and partly on behalf of the "Friends of Jerusalem," a New York-based organization. The latter is the U.S. representative of the ultra-Orthodox Neturei Karta sect of Jerusalem and Mr. Neuberger is a member of it. Mr. Neuberger said he was trying to act as coordinator with other Orthodox groups that wanted to meet with Rabbi Levin and three other Russian Jews coming to the U.S. with him next month.