

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Jordanian Arab Held In Shooting Of Kennedy; Active In Student Anti-Israel Agitation

LOS ANGELES, June 5 (JTA)--A 24-year-old Jerusalem-born Jordanian Arab student who was described as intensely interested in politics, has been identified and is being held as the assailant who shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Hotel Ambassador here early this morning. American and Israeli Jews, as well as Jews around the world, joined in the outpouring of grief and expressions of shock and disbelief over the shooting. Many organizations issued statements with these sentiments. There were prayers in many synagogues for Mr. Kennedy's recovery and hopes that he would be able to resume a normal, healthy life.

### Arrested Man Was Active In Arab Student Organizations

The suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was born in Jerusalem on March 18, 1944, while the city was under British Mandate rule. He came to the United States on a Jordanian passport and was admitted as a permanent resident at New York City on Jan. 12, 1957. Police established that Sirhan was a student at Pasadena State College and was active in anti-Israel agitation of the Organization of Arab Students there. The fact that he had in his possession four \$100 bills and a schedule of Mr. Kennedy's June speaking engagements gave rise to suspicion that the shooting might have been organized as an Arab conspiracy. But in Washington, Attorney General Ramsey Clark said that preliminary investigation had not turned up any evidence of the existence of a conspiracy.

Sirhan, who is being held in lieu of \$250,000 bail on six counts of assault with intent to murder, is one of five brothers. One of them named Adel, with whom he reportedly lived, was said to be so prejudiced against Jews that when he discovered last week that he was working for Jews, he quit his job.

(In Washington, members of Congress speculated that the first anniversary of the Six-Day War and Mr. Kennedy's long-standing pro-Israel views motivated the assassination attempt.) The Arab gunman may also have been motivated by the Israeli-Jordan battle yesterday as well as the first anniversary of the Six-Day War, it was indicated. A witness to the shooting, Marcus McBroom, was reported to have quoted Sirhan as stating immediately after firing the shots that "I did it for my country (apparently meaning the State of Jordan), I love my country."

A neighbor in Pasadena, Cal., where Sirhan lived, said that he hated Mr. Kennedy, contender for the Democratic Presidential nomination, because he is rich, and "is a collaborator with Jews."

### Arab Propagandist Says Act Reflects 'Political Frustration'

In New York, Dr. M.T. Mehdi, secretary of an Arab propaganda group, the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, told the press that Sirhan's act "reflects the frustrations of many Arabs with American politicians who have sold the Arabs of Palestine to the American Jewish voters." He said that Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by pro-Israel statements made in recent days by Mr. Kennedy. Last Saturday, in a television debate with Sen. Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota Democrat who is a Presidential nomination contender, Mr. Kennedy urged that the U.S. send 50 Phantom jet fighters to Israel.

Dr. Mehdi declared that "it is this disrespect for the human Arab person which brings about this violence." Speaking for the group he heads, Dr. Mehdi said, "We condemn the fact that Sen. Kennedy kowtowed to Zionist pressure to the detriment of American interests in the Middle East, as we condemn the act of Mr. Sirhan."

The Israel Embassy in Washington conveyed personal messages to Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, the New York Democrat's wife, from Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Eshkol said, "In the hours of anxiety and struggle for Sen. Robert Kennedy's life, my heartfelt prayers and wishes for his speedy recovery join those of countless others throughout the world. Only a few short months ago, I had the pleasure of meeting him and was greatly impressed by his intellectual alacrity and burning desire to serve his nation and mankind. May he soon be fully restored to his family."

A cable signed by Mr. Eban and his wife Suzy said "all our thoughts are with you in this hour of anguish." Maj. Gen. Itzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, wired Mrs. Kennedy: "I wish to extend to you and your family our sense of shock and our fervent prayers for the complete recovery" of the Senator.

Commenting on the shooting, Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee and president-designate of Brandeis University said: "As we join the world in praying for the recovery of Sen. Kennedy, we urge that all Americans confront themselves with the meanings of hatred and violence...We must dedicate ourselves more than ever to the proposition that peaceful expression of difference must be allowed to prevail. If we permit ourselves to allow hate to spread unchecked into violence, we endanger nothing less than our democracy and freedom."

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform), called for immediate legislation "which will not only severely limit sale of arms to private citizens, but which will go further and follow the British precedent by having American citizens turn in their arms." He said "America cannot pose as a society of peaceful intent when its citizenry acts as though it can gun its way through frustrations and disagreements."

## Beisan Valley Settlements Mourn Dead, Count Losses After Day Under Arab Gunfire

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA)--Beisan Valley settlements mourned their dead today and totaled up the damage resulting from yesterday's ferocious artillery barrage by Jordanian long range guns that were silenced only after Israeli Air Force jets went into action against them. The dead were identified as 32-year-old Ovadia Beracha, the mother of three small children, who was killed in the shelling of Kibbutz Neveh Ur; Chaim Trevis, a student from Jerusalem who was killed as he entered the bomb shelter at Ashdot Yaacov; and a 24-year-old member of Kibbutz Kinneret, whose name was not given. He was killed when shells struck the plywood factory at Sefen.

(The United Nations Security Council went into urgent session tonight at the request of Israel and Jordan made earlier in the day. The Jordanian letter to Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, Council president, asked for the meeting because of "the grave situation resulting from Israel's aggression against Jordan." The Israel request stressed "the grave and continued violations of the cease-fire by Jordan." A subsequent letter to Mr. Goldberg from Ambassador Yosef Tekoah listed 11 attacks by Jordan since May 25.)

(In Washington, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said the United States had admonished both Israel and Jordan for yesterday's clash and had urged them to "scrupulously abide" by the terms of the cease-fire agreements. The spokesman asserted that "these events emphasize again the need for the United Nations or other unbiased observers in the area.")

### Eshkol Promises That Israel Will Defend Every Town and Settlement

Speaking in Tel Aviv last night, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol pledged that Israel would use its full might to protect the safety of its citizens in every town and settlement. He told a convention of immigrants from North Africa that Israel wants peace and quiet along its borders but will meet every threat with force until peace comes. He said that peace cannot be maintained on one side of the border while the other side makes war. Mr. Eshkol said that the Air Force had been called into action yesterday because Jordanian guns were shelling peaceful citizens working in fields and factories in the Beisan and Jordan valleys.

The Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar Lev, visited Neveh Ur last night. Referring to the air strike against the Jordanian gun emplacements, he said he hoped the Amman regime had learned a lesson that Israeli villages cannot be attacked with impunity and that it would restrain itself in the future. According to eyewitness reports, Israeli gunners and pilots scored direct hits on the Jordanian positions. Fires were seen burning for hours, mainly around Jordanian artillery batteries.

But Israeli settlements suffered heavy damages, apart from the loss of lives. At least 250 shells struck Ashdot Yaacov, which is not a single settlement but two neighboring ones whose members belong to different political factions within the Israel Labor Party. In both, water pipes and electric lines were destroyed and dining rooms and cowsheds suffered direct hits. Kibbutz Geshur was hit by at least 50 shells which destroyed a barn and a fuel storage tank and blasted a fish-breeding pond. Several houses were damaged at Beth Joseph. The Sefen plywood factory was closed until the damage it sustained is repaired.

The Beisan Valley was quiet this morning, for the first time in four days. Settlers who spent most of yesterday in bomb shelters were working their fields today.

## Arabs Demonstrate In East Jerusalem, On West Bank On Anniversary Of War

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA)--Arab youths stoned Israeli police officers in East Jerusalem this morning. The fracas occurred outside the Old City walls when police sought to disperse an estimated 300 marching demonstrators who were blocking traffic. Three policemen, one of them a senior officer, were injured. A partial strike hit several West Bank towns today as Arabs marked the first anniversary of the start of last June's Six-Day War. But public services such as busses and taxis were running normally. Extra police and security forces patrolled the streets to maintain order and protect non-striking shopkeepers from hooligans. Almost all businesses were closed in Nablus. In Ramallah, some shops were opened in the morning. Most shops were closed in East Jerusalem but street vendors were selling bread and milk from improvised stands. Classes were suspended for the day in several West Bank schools.

The East Jerusalem clash developed when Arab youths, some carrying garlands, marched in the direction of the Moslem cemetery outside the city walls. Police asked the marchers to use the sidewalks instead of the road which they were blocking to traffic. They also insisted that only the garland bearers could continue the march to the cemetery. At that point, someone hurled a stone and the stoning quickly became general. Police brandishing batons dispersed the crowd. Two smaller demonstrations elsewhere in Jerusalem were also dispersed by police.

## Press, In Comments On Six-Day War Anniversary, Sees Little Progress Toward Peace

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA)--Leading newspapers here and abroad noted the first anniversary of the start of last June's Arab-Israeli war today and warned that peace in the Middle East seems further away than ever and the possibility of a new outbreak of war has increased.

The New York Times, in an editorial, called on the United States to "do more to discourage Israel from words and deeds that tend to thwart Ambassador Jarring's mission" and on the Soviet Union to adopt "a far more restrained and conciliatory" policy in the Middle East. The Times noted that both

the U.S. and the Soviet Union supported the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution on the Middle East. But while "the United States has cooperated fully with the United Nations peace effort...the Russians, in contrast, have directly promoted Arab intransigence by pumping excessive arms into the Arab states and-by encouraging unreasonable Arab demands."

(In London today, The Guardian warned that time is against Israel and the "immeasurably greater security" that Israel has gained by its new boundaries is offset by a "harvest of hate that far exceeds the bitterness before." The paper said that "with much of the exuberance of victory drained away, Israelis may well ask themselves, was it worth it? The forces they destroyed have been virtually re-built and Nasser for one has learned that military efficiency is more important than speeches.")

The Washington Post asserted in an editorial today that "so little has been done in the way of peace-making in the last 12 months that the slightest spark could bring them (Arabs and Israelis) back to war." Such a war, the Post warned, "might not be as easy a war for Israel to win or as easy a war for the United States and the Soviet Union to stay out."

New York Times correspondent Drew Middleton reported from Tripoli, Libya, today that in nine Arab countries he just visited from the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf, "the shock and humiliation that swept the Arab world after Israel's victory last June have been replaced by an almost desperate desire for strength, solidarity and, above all, revenge."

James Feron reported from Jerusalem in the New York Times today that "pressure from abroad for Israel to relent on the issue of direct talks with the Arabs has produced a corresponding determination at home to demand Arab recognition which many (Israelis) feel to be the basis for a lasting peace. Israeli leaders are saying, in effect, that there is no point in giving up military security for anything short of comparable political security. The basis for this stubborn attitude is the widely held view that another full scale clash with the Arabs is likely, if not inevitable," Mr. Feron wrote.

## Twenty-Five Diplomatic Missions To Attend World Zionist Congress Opening

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA)--Twenty-five diplomatic missions have announced that they will send representatives to observe the 27th World Zionist Congress which opens here Sunday. The observers will include representatives of the United States and Great Britain, but not of France. The Congress will be opened officially with an address by President Zalman Shazar at the convention hall Sunday night following the recitation of the Mincha prayer at the West Wall. Another feature will be a parade of Zionist flags, dating from the flag designed by Theodor Herzl — seven gold stars on a white field.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, will serve as president of the Congress. Dr. Goldmann, however, has declared that he will not stand for re-election to the WZO presidency. Congress plenary sessions will be addressed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Labor Minister Yigal Allon. Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion who was reported earlier to have requested an opportunity to address the Congress has not yet informed the preparatory committee if he actually intends to speak. Mr. Ben-Gurion announced that he would attend the Congress sessions and he will be given the floor if he wishes, according to Moshe Rivlin, director-general of the Jewish Agency.

The principal topics of discussion at the Congress will be the re-organization of the Jewish Agency and a plan to reduce the number of departments and, consequently, the number of members of its executive; the admission to WZO membership of groups that are not affiliated with Zionist parties and the establishment of national Zionist organizations in which individuals may enroll without party affiliation.

## 829 Exhibitors Display Wares At Tel Aviv International Trade Fair

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar opened Israel's International Trade Fair on the Tel Aviv fair grounds last night where 829 exhibitors from 33 countries will show off everything from farm machinery to kitchenware in an effort to woo Israeli customers. As in past years, the United States pavilion will be a major attraction. Forty-eight U.S. manufacturers are exhibiting. The American exhibit focuses on food-processing and packaging machinery worth nearly a million dollars. The Rumanian pavilion is also expected to draw large crowds by virtue of being the only Eastern European country participating in the fair, and the trade agreements recently signed between Israel and Rumania. The British pavilion will have a military band to entice viewers. The fair runs through June 22.

## Mekorot Wins Contract To Construct New Oil Pipeline From Eilat To Ashdod

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA)--The Mekorot Water Co. has won a contract to construct a 42-inch pipeline that will carry oil from Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba to Ashdod on the Mediterranean coast. Construction costs are estimated at about \$12 million apart from materials. The contract stipulates that the work must be completed within eight months and 10 days. It is expected to start in two weeks.

The pipeline will bypass the Suez Canal and will avoid the long tanker voyage around Africa. Israeli officials said in Jerusalem yesterday that the two West German steel firms that contracted to supply the pipe for the Eilat-Ashdod line — Thyssen and Mannesman — have failed so far to give a satisfactory reply concerning their alleged surrender to the Arab boycott of Israel. The two firms were reported last week to have advised the Arab boycott office in Beirut that they would make no future business deals with Israel. So far, about 25,000 tons of pipe have been delivered to Israel but it is uncertain whether the balance of the order will be filled.

## Moynihan Sees 'Whiff of Anti-Semitism' In Job, School Quotas For Disadvantaged

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA)--A leading authority on American ethnic problems, former Assistant Secretary of Labor Daniel P. Moynihan, warned last night against the trend to ethnic quotas in efforts to establish job and educational opportunities for disadvantaged minorities and charged that there was "a whiff of anti-Semitism" in many of the demands for quotas being made today.

Mr. Moynihan, speaking at the commencement exercises of the New School for Social Research here, warned that "if ethnic quotas are to be imposed on American universities and similarly quasi-public institutions, the Jews will almost certainly be driven out. They are not three percent of the population. This would be a misfortune to them, but a disaster to the nation. And I very much fear that there is a whiff of anti-Semitism in many of these demands."

He deplored the fact that in universities, "the cry has risen for racial quotas roughly representative of population proportions" and said he greatly feared that "if we begin to become formal about quotas for this or that group, we will very quickly come to realize that these are instantly translated into quotas against." He noted that employers were being given "quotas of the minority group employees they will hire" and said this contravened the anti-discrimination provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act.

## Synagogue Groups Call On Members To Support Poor People's Assembly On June 19

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA)--Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin, president of the Synagogue Council of America, called on synagogues throughout the nation today to support the National Mobilization in support of the Poor People's Campaign in Washington on June 19. The Synagogue Council is the central coordinating agency for the three branches of American Jewry. Rabbi Rudin urged rabbis and laymen to be in Washington in large numbers as "a demonstration of the will of people -- white and black -- to bring new light into the darkness and new hope to the hearts of the dispirited."

Albert Vorspan, director of social action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, disclosed that the Reform Jewish body is alerting all of its member temples to rally their congregants to support the June 19 assembly. The support would be in the form of financial and logistical arrangements, Mr. Vorspan said. He noted that the UAHC has endorsed the call by Bayard Rustin, civil rights leader, for white people to join Negroes in the June 19 assembly.

## Canadian Premier Reported Backing Controversial Group Libel Legislation

WINNIPEG, Man., June 5 (JTA)--Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau has pledged his support for the enactment of a Federal group libel law to eliminate the spread of racial and religious hate propaganda, the Winnipeg Tribune declared today. Mr. Trudeau, who had supported such legislation as Minister of Justice in the Pearson administration, said the Government planned to "make it a crime" for any group to "slander a person or group" with literature just as it is a crime for an individual to slander another person verbally. The proposed measure has aroused considerable controversy in Canada and was subject of major debate at the recent plenary session of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

## 30 Jewish Cadets Receive Commissions At 5 United States Service Academies

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA)--Thirty Jewish cadets received officer's commissions at five United States service academies holding graduation exercises yesterday and today. The National Jewish Welfare Board said that the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, had the largest number of Jewish graduates this year. It commissioned 12 as ensigns. The U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Col. and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, commissioned seven and six Jewish graduates respectively as second lieutenants. The Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn. graduated two Jewish ensigns while the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., commissioned three in the Naval Reserve.

## 145 Americans, Representing All Major Zionist Groups, Will Attend Israel Parley

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA)--An American contingent of 145 representatives of all the American Zionist parties will attend the 27th World Zionist Congress opening in Jerusalem next Sunday. In addition to the official voting delegates, there will be invited guests and observers representing major American non-Zionist organizations and Jewish youth movements.

The largest delegation will be 41 representing Hadassah, the American women's Zionist organization. The Zionist Organization of America will have 33 delegates; Labor Zionists, 31; Religious Zionists (Mizrachi) 19; United Zionist Revisionists, seven; Americans for Progressive Israel, five; American Jewish League for Israel, three; United Labor Zionist Party, three; and B'nai Zion, three.

## Justice Douglas Accepts Chairmanship of Histadrut Cultural Institute Here

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA)--Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court has accepted the national chairmanship of the American Histadrut Cultural Exchange Institute, it was announced here. In a statement on assuming the office, Justice Douglas said that Histadrut was "probably more responsible than any other group for the creation of Israel and its very existence... There is a great deal that developed nations can learn from Israel. Among these is the role of the labor movement..." Histadrut is Israel's labor federation.

## To Hold Memorial Services For Col. Mickey Marcus At West Point On Sunday

WEST POINT, N.Y., June 3 (JTA)--The United States Military Academy here has approved memorial services, to be held here on Sunday, for Col. David "Mickey" Marcus, who was killed in action on the road to Jerusalem during the Israel War of Independence. The Academy will furnish three drummers and a bugler to render taps at the ceremony.