

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

Wednesday, July 17, 1968

No. 136

United States, Israeli Officials Exchange Views; Both Sides Report Satisfaction

JERUSALEM, July 16 (JTA)--Ambassador George Ball and his party crossed the Allenby Bridge into Jordan today, and political observers here were trying to assess the two days of intensive talks between the American diplomats and the leaders of Israel -- Prime Minister Eshkol, Foreign Minister Eban, Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan.

Although few specifics could be gleaned from official communiques or from Mr. Ball's remarks at a press conference, there was evidence that the talks were "frank and open-hearted," the expression used by President Johnson in a letter to Mr. Eshkol that Mr. Ball delivered. The Ambassador stressed at his press conferences here and in other public statements that he and his party came to exchange views, to learn first-hand how Israel's leaders regard the Middle East situation, and to impart the U.S. viewpoint. The envoy, who is chief representative to the United Nations, also stated on several occasions that the U.S. firmly believed that a Middle East solution must come from the Governments and peoples of the region and had no intention of forcing any plan or solution on them. His party included Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco and Alfred Atherton, chief of the State Department's Arab-Israel desk.

On the Israeli side there was evident satisfaction that Government leaders succeeded in making their views clear, particularly their concern over the rapid rebuilding of the Arab war machine by Russia. The question of Israel's six-month-old request for 50 F-4 Phantoms, the American super-sonic jet fighter-bomber, to match the modern Soviet-built planes being supplied to the Egyptians and Syrian Air Forces is known to have been discussed. Whether the jets will be forthcoming is still a moot question, but at least Washington has been freshly informed of Israel's concern for its security, it was noted here.

It was also reported that the U.S. acknowledges that Egypt represents the main stumbling block in the way of Middle East settlement. Mr. Ball and his party reportedly agreed with Mr. Eshkol and Mr. Eban that Egyptian President Nasser's continued adherence to the Khartoum formula of no negotiations and no peace with Israel was a rigid stand. They hinted that Jordan might be less intransigent and also sought to persuade the Israelis to relax their demand for direct peace talks with the Arabs. The Americans were warned not to misinterpret the so-called Egyptian "peace offensive" of recent days which Mr. Eban called "misleading."

The question of Jerusalem was also known to have come up. It was stated that the U.S. Government does not see eye to eye with Israel on the administrative annexation of East Jerusalem. But some observers thought that the attitude of Mr. Ball and his associated might have been changed following a tour of the city with Mayor Teddy Kollek as guide.

Mr. Ball was apparently satisfied with the results of his visit. He told newsmen, "I want to make it quite clear that I did not come here with any plans for a settlement nor have we, in the course of any conversations on the American side, tried to concert a common policy with the Israeli Government. What we wanted to have was a complete exchange of views and this is what we had."

The talks were the subject of a statement issued by the Israel Foreign Ministry. It said that the "U.S. representatives summed up their position in accordance with the principles and policies outlined by President Johnson on June 19 last year." Mr. Eban, the statement said, "summed up the principles and aspirations which guide the Government of Israel in its struggle for a permanent peace, security and stability in the Middle East. Views were exchanged in the spirit of mutual understanding which characterizes the contacts between the two Governments." The statement added that "the deliberations expressed the desire of both Governments to establish a permanent peace in the Middle East and stressed that the main responsibility for the advancement of peace rests with the Governments of the region."

Report Ball And Bundy May Have Been Instructed To Urge Flexibility On Israel

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA)--Both Ambassador George Ball, U.S. envoy to the United Nations, and McGeorge Bundy, formerly President Johnson's closest personal adviser on international security, may have had instructions to informally urge Israel to be more flexible on the question of direct, face-to-face peace negotiations. This was learned today from high-level Administration sources.

Meanwhile, important Republican Congressmen charged that the Administration was deliberately deferring action on the sale of Phantom jets to Israel to maintain leverage to influence Israeli policies on negotiations.

State Department sources said that while Mr. Bundy was in Israel for the Ford Foundation they could not rule out the possibility that Mr. Johnson asked him to quietly ascertain how far Israel would go in talking to the Arabs through intermediaries. Mr. Bundy remains in close touch with the President.

(Mr. Bundy headed for talks with King Hussein in Amman, Jordan, today, and speculation increased in Israel that the object of his visit to Middle Eastern capitals was more than just "Ford Foundation business" as he insisted. He conferred with top Israeli officials after visiting Cairo and Beirut.)

Administration officials pointed out that Moscow is now stressing that if the U.S. hopes for a reduction of world tensions and results at the Paris peace talks, the "liquidation of Israeli aggression" must be regarded as being as dangerous as the Vietnam war. The two issues have been bracketed in recent public statements by Soviet leaders.

The State Department said that U.S. policy aims at "de-fusing" tensions in the Middle East to avoid a confrontation there with Russia. There is also a hope of normalizing relations with Arab states. U.S. feels that what it considers excessive Israeli rigidity is a roadblock to a workable East-West detent in the Middle East.

Administration officials maintain that Israel does not currently need Phantom jets and that the issue remains under study in the context of other factors. One point made is that Russia recently suggested arms control in the Middle East and apparently withheld new military commitments sought by Egyptian President Nasser in Moscow last week. In view of what appears to be fluidity in Moscow's stand on the Arab military build-up, officials have said, now is not the right time to introduce the U.S. Phantoms into the region. Israel's ultimate security will be found in accommodation through United Nations mediation along the lines of U.N. peace envoy Gunnar Jarring's efforts, or some other intermediary, important Executive Department authorities have told Congressmen. A warning is beginning to emerge from Israel's friends in Congress that the Administration may be seeking an accommodation with Russia and the Arabs at Israel's expense.

United States Delivers 54 Patton Tanks To Jordan, Plus Military Vehicles

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA)--United States today delivered 54 M-2 and M-4 Patton tanks to Jordan to replace tanks captured or destroyed by Israel. They were delivered by a Norwegian ship at the port of Aqaba. King Hussein was on hand as were U.S. diplomats when the ship was unloaded. The ship also brought 17 military transport vehicles and 4,000 tons of U.S. wheat.

Palestinian Guerrilla Leaders Agree To Coordinate Activities In Occupied Areas

LONDON, July 16 (JTA)--The London Times reported from Cairo today that Palestinian guerrilla leaders meeting there agreed to coordinate their operations in Israel-occupied territories. The group, numbering about 100 leaders of El Fatah and other Arab terrorist and sabotage groups, also decided to establish a "coordinating council" with military experts from each organization represented. The council will meet secretly to plan future armed operations in the occupied territories, the Times said.

Cairo has been the scene in recent days of meetings of the Palestine National Council, reportedly chosen by a committee of Palestine exile organizations which claim to represent more than two million Palestinian Arabs living inside and outside of Israel and the territories it controls. The delegates to the meetings represent businessmen in addition to professors and other elements of Arab society.

The Palestinians received a message from Peking's Afro-Asian Committee for Solidarity urging "armed struggle" against Israel "as the main form of their (Arab) liberation struggle." The message said that, "guided by chairman Mao's thought, the 700 million Chinese people consistently give unswerving support to the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples in their just struggle against U.S. -- Israeli aggression and resolutely support the Palestinian Arabs' just struggle to return to their homeland."

In a related development, three mortar shells exploded near the Yardenia settlement in the Beisan Valley today without causing damage or casualties, a military spokesman reported. The shells were fired from the East Bank of the Jordan River. Jordanian units fired on Israeli positions in the Umm Sidra pass north of the Damiyah Bridge yesterday and the fire was returned. There were no casualties but crops were damaged by fires touched off by the shells.

Allon Told 200,000 To 500,000 Mines Still Buried In Captured Golan Heights

TEL AVIV, July 16 (JTA)--Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon was told by an Army officer yesterday that there are between 200,000 and 500,000 mines still buried in the Golan Heights of Syria and that it would take years to dismantle all of them. Gen. Allon got the information during a visit to new Israeli settlements in the Golan region. He also visited Druze villages there and assured the inhabitants of Israeli protection. The Druze are non-Moslem Arabs whose villages lie in Israeli and Arab territories. Israeli Druze have always been loyal to Israel.

JTA Worldwide News Operations Described In Program On Israel's State Radio

TEL AVIV, July 16 (JTA)--The State of Israel was given a description of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's worldwide news-gathering and dissemination operations in a special broadcast today from the JTA's office here. Asher Schwartz, general manager of the Israeli News Agency, the JTA operating subsidiary in Israel, told listeners on Kol Yisroel, the State radio station, how JTA brings news from the world at large to Israel and vice versa.

He described the work of the JTA's main headquarters in New York under general manager Victor Bienstock and its European headquarters in London headed by S.J. Goldsmith. The program was part of a general program describing the role of communications in Israel.

JEWISH LIFE DECLINING IN WEST GERMANY AND INDIA, SYNAGOGUE PARLEY IS TOLD

LONDON, July 16 (JTA)--Reports of developing active interest in Jewish life in a score of countries were presented today to the biennial convention of the World Council of Synagogues here. But in two countries, the convention was told, Jewish life is on the decline and will inevitably disappear.

Dr. Bernard Farkas, rabbi of Aachen and Bonn, West Germany, told the session that more than half the 26,000 Jews living in West Germany today are over 50 years of age and that the death-rate exceeds the birth-rate in the German Jewish community. Although the Jewish community is a prosperous one as evidenced by the fact that its per capita donations to Israel causes last year were the highest in the world, the outlook for any kind of future, he said, was "very dim." Dr. Farkas noted that "many of our communities have no children at all and have nothing to look forward to but death."

Emanuel E. Moses, chairman of the board of directors of the United Synagogue of India, reported that there were only 15,000 Jews left in India compared with the 25,000 about 10 years ago. The decrease in numbers, he said, was due entirely to emigration to Israel. He predicted that another 10,000 Indian Jews would leave for Israel within the next few years.

There are still 20 synagogues and prayer centers open in India, he said, but plans were already being drafted to transfer them to the municipalities for use as schools and libraries once they were no longer required for religious purposes.

REORGANIZATION STEPS UNDERTAKEN AT GENEVA BY WORLD COUNCIL OF JEWISH EDUCATION

GENEVA, July 16 (JTA)---Agreement was reached here today on a reorganization of the World Council of Jewish Education which would link it with the Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO) and with the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture IF THIS SHOULD BE FEASIBLE. The decision was taken at a meeting of the COJO over which Dr. Nahum Goldmann presided. A committee was appointed to direct the reorganization and report back before the end of 1968. The committee will also redefine the tasks of the World Council and seek to clarify its relations with the Jewish Agency. Sixty-five delegates are attending the COJO meetings here as well as a delegation of observers representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations headed by Rabbi Herschel Schacter.

Representatives of three International Jewish organizations, the World Zionist Organization, the World Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith--are attending the conference together with representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Representative Council of French Jewry, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the Jewish Labor Committee.

An American Jewish author and educator warned here that the fact that most Jewish youngsters do not continue their Jewish education beyond elementary school level is "the number one problem of the Jewish world".

Dr. Azriel Eisenberg, one of the speakers at a meeting of the World Council, said that 717,260 children between the ages of three and seventeen attended Jewish schools out of an estimated Jewish school population outside of Israel of 1,523,361 --- slightly over 47 percent. "The fact that at least half of our diaspora children are attending some type of Jewish school at any given moment does not lend itself to the interpretation that Jewry outside of Israel is fast approaching total assimilation," he said. "On the other hand," he continued, "the fact that outside of Israel there are only 90,000 at the very most who continue their Jewish studies beyond the elementary school level is cause for serious concern, the number one problem of the Jewish world."

ISRAEL REPROACHES LIBYA FOR INTRODUCING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT INTO ECOSOC PARLEY

(GENEVA, July 16 (JTA)---Israel rebuked Libya today for introducing the Middle East conflict into deliberations of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on international economic and social policies. Wahbi l-Bouri, the Libyan representative, contended that economic progress had been jeopardized in several Arab countries by "Israeli aggression" which he said, not only caused material damage and created a refugee problem but forced the diversion of much needed funds into armaments.

Miss H. Hareli, of Israel, speaking as an observer and exercising the right of reply, said that the proper forums for discussing the Middle East problem were the General Assembly and the Security Council, not UNESCO. War always is bound to bring distress she said, adding that it was not Israel but the Arab countries that were the aggressors in the Middle East.

NPD CLAIMS SHARP INCREASE IN ITS MEMBERSHIP, BUT BONN INTERIOR MINISTRY DISAGREES

(BONN, July 16 (JTA) --- West Germany's radical right-wing National Democratic Party today claimed a sharp increase in membership this year, but analysts of the Interior Ministry said the number of new recruits was balanced by losses through expulsions and resignations of old members.

According to the NPD newsletter, however, the party now has 40,000 enrolled members of whom 5,000 reportedly joined during the first half of 1968. The NPD's membership notwithstanding, its increasing political power has given rise to concern. The party, which has been described as neo-Nazi, holds seats in seven of West Germany's 11 state governments and is given a good chance of winning seats in the Bundestag (lower house) in next year's national elections.

Israel Rejects Egyptian Charge That It Began Artillery Barrage At Port Suez

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 16 (JTA)--Israel today rejected an Egyptian charge here that it was responsible for initiating artillery fire in the Port Suez area of the Suez Canal July 8 and said that peace can be advanced only if Cairo rejects the Arab policy adopted last August at Khartoum. In a letter to Tewfik Bouattoura, the Algerian Ambassador to the United Nations who is this month's Security Council president, Israel's Ambassador Yosef Tekoah contended that a study of the UN truce observers' report places responsibility for the incident "and its escalation" on Egypt.

An Israeli soldier was killed by sniper fire early July 8 near Port Tewfik. Egyptian artillery opened up later, Israel said at the time, and Israel heavily shelled Port Suez in retaliation. Egypt contended that Israeli fire killed 46 and wounded 67 persons, as well as destroying a church, two mosques and a child welfare center, in addition to damaging other buildings including a hospital. In his letter to Mr. Bouattoura, Mr. Tekoah said Israel opened fire to silence attacking Egyptian artillery in Suez 40 minutes after the latter began a barrage.

Mr. Tekoah said Egyptian "aggression" has caused suffering and casualties to the area's civilian population in the past. He said Israel and the Red Cross have deplored the "Egyptian practice of opening fire from artillery positions established in residential areas, and in particular in the vicinity of public institutions such as hospitals and schools. This practice is directly responsible for the civilian casualties."

The Khartoum formula Mr. Tekoah cited was the Arab summit conference's decision to reject peace, negotiations and recognition of Israel. Israel asked that the document be circulated as a Security Council document.

Israel To Participate In UN Parley On Outer Space Slated For Geneva Next Month

UNITED NATIONS, July 16 (JTA)--Israel is one of 67 nations that have accepted invitations to participate in a United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space which will be held in Vienna from Aug. 14 to 27. The objectives of the conference are the examination of practical benefits to be derived from space research and exploration and of the opportunities available to non-space powers for international cooperation in space activities.

Tel Aviv Medical School and Hospital Chosen For Pilot Program For U.S. Students

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA)--United States medical students now have the opportunity to take three months of their advanced training in Israel. The Tel Aviv Medical School, in conjunction with the Tel Hashomer Hospital, was chosen for a pilot program sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service and administered by the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Designed to acquaint American students with foreign medical facilities and the problems they encounter, the program, according to Association co-ordinator, Francis Cholko, has already awarded 20 fellowships to students representing medical schools from all sections of the country. Ten are now in Israel.

The American agencies involved also hoped to initiate the same kind of "Israel" program in several other countries. According to Mr. Cholko, the availability of counterpart funds -- local currency used in payment to the U.S. Government -- governed the selection of possible countries where the program could be instituted. Israel was chosen from among them to head the pilot program because the similarity of its medical problems and facilities to those in the U.S. "insured that the program would begin with ease."

Rabin, Dayan Will Address National United Jewish Appeal Conference In December

NEW YORK, July 16 (JTA)--Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, will join Israel Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan in appearances at the annual conference of the National United Jewish Appeal at the New York Hilton, to be held Dec. 12-15. Both will address banquets. Mr. Rabin will speak Dec. 12 and Dayan on Dec. 14. The latter event had been erroneously reported last week as Dec. 4.

Department Of Commerce Magazine Lists 2 Upcoming Fairs In Israel

WASHINGTON, July 16 (JTA)--"International Commerce," a publication of the United States Department of Commerce includes in its listing of future international trade fairs and agricultural exhibitions two Israeli events set for 1969. Listed are the International and National Flower Show scheduled for March to May, 1969, in Haifa and Agrexpo, International Agriculture and Food Exhibition set for the month of June, 1969, in Tel Aviv.

Reform Jews Cooperate In Publication Of Guide To Improve Race Relations

NEW YORK, July 16 (JTA)--A guide to the improvement of race relations for use by Jewish and Christian denominations was published here today by organizations representing the major faiths in America. Titled "Crisis in America: Hope Through Action" it suggests lines of action for congregations and communities to change white racial attitudes and to achieve equal opportunities for minorities.

It was published jointly by the U.S. Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches, the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in America and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform). Its suggested actions include opening job opportunities for non-whites on staffs of religious organizations; investing funds of these organizations in enterprises where racial justice is practiced; opening summer camps for inter-racial living and helping to break down neighborhood barriers against open housing. The National Council of Churches has already distributed 200,000 copies of the first edition.