

# 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

Thursday, August 1, 1968

No. 147

## Trade Unionists Warn Algeria Of Boycott If Israeli Plane, Captives Are Not Released

BONN, July 31 (JTA)--The International Transport Labor Federation joined the Maritime Committee of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations in the United States today in threatening to boycott Algeria unless Algerian authorities releases the El Al Israeli plane and 12 Israeli citizens it has detained since the airliner was hijacked on July 23. The federation voted this action unanimously at its 29th congress in Wiesbaden as other labor groups moved to take similar action.

The West German Trade Union Congress issued a strong protest today against Algeria's continued detention of the plane and the captured Israelis.

In Basle, the Federation of Swiss Trade Unions cabled an appeal to the Algerian trade union organization to exert its influence with the Algerian Government to secure the release of the airliner and the Israeli detainees. The Swiss unionists stressed that trade unionists everywhere were vitally concerned that there be no interference with air traffic.

The German-Israel Society, with headquarters in Bonn, asked the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to suspend Air Algerie, the Algerian airline, from the IATA because of Algerian participation in "air piracy." The society also asked the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to take similar action.

In Buenos Aires, a group of outstanding Argentine intellectuals transmitted a plea to the Algerian Ambassador for the immediate release of the hijacked Israeli airliner and the detained Israeli citizens. The letter warned that the continued detention of the plane and the prisoners had shocked public opinion, was a violation of international law and agreements, and the attempt to depict innocent civilians as prisoners of war "endangers the peace and creates a dangerous precedent." Among the signatories to the protest were Cordova Iturburu, president of the Argentine Writers Association; Antonio Berni, famed Argentine painter; Abelardo Castillo, the writer; and Dr. Jose Bleger, a psychiatrist.

## No Progress Reported In Negotiations With Algiers Regime

No progress was revealed at the United Nations in the efforts directed by Secretary-General U Thant to persuade the Algerian authorities to release the plane and prisoners. Mr. Thant and his staff were reported in constant touch with Algiers but were without definitive word as to the Algerian regime's intentions.

In London, the International Association of Airline Pilots said that its two representatives, Capt. O. L. A. Forsberg and Capt. J. J. O'Grady, had not completed negotiations in Algiers for the release of the El Al airliner and the Israeli citizens. The two men, who had been scheduled to return to London today, will remain another day or two in the Algerian capital.

In New York, a group of 100 teenagers picketed the headquarters of the Algerian mission to the United Nations today with placards demanding the release of the jetliner and the Israeli captives. The demonstration was sponsored by the New York Jewish Youth Council. Jerry Epstein and Mark Saperstein, co-chairmen of the youth group, tried to present a protest directly to the Algerian Ambassador. A secretary took a protest note inside the mission and then returned to tell the youth leaders that the envoy had nothing to say to them. The demonstration lasted about an hour.

## Libyans Detain British Airliner For Alleged Violation of Arab Anti-Israel Boycott

LONDON, July 31 (JTA)--The British Overseas Airways Corp. had to post a 5,000 pound (\$12,000) bond with the Libyan customs authorities to secure the release of a VC-10 BOAC airliner impounded in Tripoli for an alleged violation of the Arab anti-Israeli boycott. The plane was impounded when customs inspectors found in its luggage compartment a case belonging to a British subject which had been put on the Tripoli plane instead of a Tel Aviv-bound craft. The bond will be forfeited if the customs directorate determines that the BOAC violated the law banning the carrying of goods for Israel.

## Israel Denies Jordanian Charge That Gaza Refugees Are Being Forced To Leave

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--The Israel Foreign Ministry emphatically denied today Jordanian charges that the Israeli authorities are forcing residents of the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip to leave Israel-held territory. The denial was made in response to queries from United Nations Secretary-General U Thant after Jordan had accused Israel of a "sinister plan" to ship 50,000 Arabs from the Gaza Strip to Jordan.

Israeli sources charged that the whole episode had been cooked up by the Jordanians as a pretext to deny admission to visitors from the Gaza Strip for fear that they would want to remain in Jordan and not return to the Israel-held territory. The Foreign Ministry said that the Israelis are not forcing any residents of the Gaza Strip to leave the area. It was reported yesterday that for two successive days Arab refugees from the Strip were turned back when they tried to emigrate to the East Bank of the Jordan River.

Thant's Reports 'Incomplete' On Alleged Refugee Policy

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 31 (JTA)--A spokesman for Secretary-General U Thant said today that Mr. Thant had "incomplete and unverified" reports about alleged Israeli attempts to induce refugees in the Gaza Strip to go to Jordan. At a press briefing, a spokesman was asked about the situation in light of a report in the New York Times today that the military government in Gaza was paying each Arab family agreeing to leave 50 Israel pounds, or \$14, to cover travel expenses to Amman.

The spokesman said that under present circumstances, the Secretary-General could not verify the situation of the refugees. He said that if there had been agreement among the parties involved on sending a special representative of Mr. Thant, who would go to the Middle East under the authority of humanitarian resolutions, the situation of civilians in the war zone could be investigated. Agreement had not been possible, he said, adding that the situation would have been much better if a special representative had been appointed.

**Israelis Surprised By Adviser's Statement That Suez' North End Would Be Opened**

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--Israeli sources expressed surprise today at reports from London quoting the legal adviser of the Suez Canal Authority as having declared that the north end of the waterway, leading into the Mediterranean, would be opened to permit the release of 15 ships stranded in the canal and the Great Bitter Lake since the Six-Day War. They pointed out that the canal cannot be opened without Israel's agreement and that Israel has only agreed to permit the clearance of the canal from the south end opening into the Red Sea.

Negotiations on release of the ships are being conducted in London by the Canal Authority's legal adviser with a representative of Lloyds, the underwriters.

The British are particularly concerned over a reopening of the canal because they are dependent for their oil supplies from the Middle East fields on the Persian Gulf. Since the closing of the canal in June, 1967, the British have had to pay greatly increased charter rates for tankers rounding the Cape of Good Hope.

A report published this week stressed the shift towards supertankers specifically designed for the Cape route. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris forecast that giant tankers now under construction will make the Suez Canal route obsolete for oil traffic, which would have serious consequences on the Egyptian economy. The report noted that of 294 ships on order at the end of last year, 115 were tankers of more than 200,000 tons capacity.

**Jewish National Fund Programs Receive High Praise From Prime Minister Eshkol**

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol said today that the Keren Kayemeth, the Jewish National Fund, had done yeoman service for Israel by its program of clearing land in border areas, fostering settlements that protected these borders and building roads. He expressed confidence that in the new era for Israel following the Six-Day War, the Keren Kayemeth would undertake the same functions in opening up the more remote areas of the country.

In a letter to former Ambassador Jacob Tsur, president of the Keren Kayemeth, the Prime Minister acknowledged receipt of a comprehensive report on the Jewish National Fund's activities since Israel achieved statehood. He said, "I regard the Keren Kayemeth activity both in Israel and the Diaspora as one of the foundation stones of Israel's development on the one hand and in fostering the Zionist movement and changing it into a fulfilling movement for aliyah (immigration) on the other."

In his report, Ambassador Tsur disclosed that in the 20 years since statehood, the Keren Kayemeth had reclaimed 333,000 dunam (83,200 acres) of land for settlement; had planted more than 80 million trees; and had built 1,900 kilometers (about 1,200 miles) of roads opening up new development areas and having security value.

Mr. Tsur told newsmen today that the Keren Kayemeth was undertaking a major reclamation work in the Golan Heights to develop areas for settlement there. It is also reclaiming land in the Upper Galilee and in the Judean Hills for expansion of existing hill settlements. More work is to be done by the Keren Kayemeth, he said, in the Korazim area north of Lake Tiberias and in the Araba area, south of the Dead Sea, where three more settlements are to be established along with the five already existing there. The JNF official also reported that work is already under way preparing areas for settlement in the Latrun and Etzion districts west and south of Jerusalem.

**Rabbi Charges That Young U.S. Jews Have Developed Antipathy To Israel Because Of War**

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--An American rabbi charged today that "the best young people of the American Jewish community" were developing an antipathy toward Israel as a result of the Six-Day War. Rabbi Richard L. Rubenstein, chaplain to Jewish students at the University of Pittsburgh and director of the Hillel Foundation there, participated in the "American-Israeli Dialogue" at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth, sponsored by the American Jewish Congress. He said that these young Jews, frequently pacifist in their beliefs, had been appalled by Israel's resort to military force. Indifferent to the Arab determination to annihilate Israel, he said, they have been shocked by the fact that Israel has had to observe the rule of naked power.

As a result, said Rabbi Rubenstein, Israel must face the possibility of an increasing alienation of the most sensitive element of the American Jewish community. This element was described

as the young men and women of the New Left, imbued with "messianic liberalism and alien to the realities of power. It was," he said, a generation that gives its "strength and passion to every man's cause save its own."

An Israeli writer, Shalom Ben-Horin, who took part in the American-Israeli exchange, told the visiting Americans that "if we in Israel are suffering from an overdose of nationalism, you in America are in danger of losing your Jewish consciousness altogether because you have failed sufficiently to emphasize the peoplehood aspect of what it is to be Jewish."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the AJCongress, opened the discussion with an admonition to both Israelis and Americans about their interdependence. "Without Israel to make us aware of our responsibilities and deepen our research for the meaning of our heritage," he said, "we American Jews might easily become a placid element in the stream of Jewish history. Without a vigorous Jewish community in the United States to support Israel and keep the state alive to its long-range objectives, Israel might degenerate into a militarized, levanitized state inviting destruction by failing to stand for its own future."

#### Author-Critic Delivers Sharp Attack On Nationalism

A sharp attack on nationalism in Israel was made at today's session by George Steiner, author and critic, who held the Albert Schweitzer chair of humanities at the City University of New York last year and is currently critic in residence at Churchill College, Cambridge University. "If one believes deeply that the nation-state is an obsolescent model for economic, political and moral association," he said, "then the State of Israel looks like a solution which, in part at least, is irrelevant or even inimical to the obligation of Judaic humanism."

The writer said he believed in supporting Israel financially and asserted that "my self-respect, my sense of spiritual identity could not endure if the State of Israel were to be destroyed. But at the same time," he added, "someone like myself must work toward the evolution of political concepts and habits of personal and social feelings which will subvert tribalism and the nationalist mystique — the nightmare of our age." He affirmed that "a man like myself must simultaneously labor for Israel and against it — or more exactly, against all those forms of power relations and nationalist sentiment which compel Israel to be an armed state and just another nation among nations."

Israeli nationalism was defended by Abraham Avihai of the Prime Minister's staff. He said it was a cultural, spiritual and religious force, not militaristic or extremist or one that glorified force and violence but rather the spirit of man. "There is nothing wrong in trying to defend oneself and to be concerned with being part of something greater than our individualism," he asserted. "But there is something terribly mistaken about throwing out the baby with the bath water."

An Israeli writer Matti Megged, told the session that "as an Israeli, I don't need any kind of apology for my Jewish existence. For me, Zionism is the only answer to Jewish existence." Shulamit Aloni, a member of the Israel Parliament, said the "tribal association dating from Biblical days," is not the Jew's only claim to the land of Israel. She said that the League of Nations and then the United Nations had recognized the fact that Jewish pioneers had come to work the land and had succeeded in making every "stone bear fruit."

#### **Religious Zionist Parties Reported Ready To Return To Zionist Executive**

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--Two religious Zionist parties which left the Zionist Executive in a dispute at the World Zionist Congress here in June will soon return to that body under an agreement reportedly worked out here and which will now be submitted to the ruling bodies in the Mizrahi and Hapoel Hamizrachi parties.

The two parties had refused to take part in the new Zionist Executive, asserting that they had been deprived of direction of the immigration department, which they had had for years, and that the one portfolio assigned to them in the new Executive was not adequate.

Under the reported agreement, the Religious Party will be given the Torah education department in the Executive and will participate in the immigration department, the portfolio of which is held by A. L. Pincus, the Executive's chairman.

#### **West Germany's Ambassador To Lisbon, Recalled On Nazi Probe, Returning To Post**

BONN, July 31 (JTA)--Ambassador Herbert Mueller-Roschach, who was recalled to Bonn in connection with an investigation of charges that he had been involved in war crimes, will return to his post in Lisbon and then will take his annual holiday, Foreign Ministry sources disclosed today. It was asserted that the investigation by the state prosecutor's office in Frankfurt has not been closed and that if further study of the Foreign Ministry records of the Nazi era establish that he signed any documents dealing with the persecution of Jews he will be recalled immediately as German Ambassador in Portugal.

Herr Mueller-Roschach served in the Foreign Ministry during the Nazi regime and was attached for part of the time to the department dealing with Jewish affairs. The state prosecutor's office here said today it had decided not to examine documents offered by the East German Government purporting to establish that President Heinrich Luebke of West Germany participated in the construction of concentration camps during the Nazi regime. The prosecutor's office said that the photo-copies of documents offered by East Germany were not evidence that Dr. Luebke had committed any punishable act.

## Report Republicans Consider Draft Plank Urging Sale Of Supersonic Jets To Israel

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., July 31 (JTA)--Members of the Republican national convention platform committee indicated today that a draft plank on the Middle East tentatively under consideration calls for the sale of supersonic jets to Israel and favors bringing the Arabs and Israel together for direct negotiations. A behind-the-scenes fight was reported yesterday to prevent adoption of a vague plank that would eliminate specific reference to the F-4 Phantom jets sought by Israel and even to the word "supersonic" as descriptive of the jets.

Harry Torczyner, chairman of the public affairs committee of the Zionist Organization of America, Wednesday told the subcommittee on foreign policy and national security of the Republican platform committee that Israel, by its very existence, strengthened the influence of the United States in all the Arab countries "that have not subordinated their policies to those of a foreign great power hostile to the U.S."

The ZOA leader told the committee that "it is a fact of international life that the peoples inhabiting the shores of the Persian Gulf — that the governments themselves of Morocco and Tunisia, of Libya, Saudi Arabia and of Lebanon, even of Jordan, not to mention Iran — can feel safer against the depredations of predatory neighbors because of the existence of the State of Israel." He said that Israel represents and "embodies all of the principles for which the U.S. stands," and noted that every President since the days of William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft have "supported the ideal now realized of the re-establishment of the Jewish Homeland."

David Nes, a former United States State Department official in its Embassy in Cairo, testifying for an organization called American Committee for Justice in the Middle East, urged that nothing be said about the Middle East in the platform that would cause a further deterioration of U.S. relations with the Arab world. He expressed the opinion that Israel be required to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a quid pro quo for any U.S. assistance.

Mr. Nes yielded a portion of his time before the platform committee to Frank C. Sakran, executive secretary of the pro-Arab American Council on the Middle East. Mr. Sakran denounced Israel for annexing East Jerusalem and its occupation of former Arab territories, and said that it made possible increased Russian influence in the Middle East. He urged that the Republican platform this year contain no reference at all to the Middle East and warned that the U.S. would lose further Arab friendship unless it led Israel rather than allowing the "tail" (presumably Israel) to wag the dog.

## Republican House Members Introduce Resolution To Define U.S. Middle East Policy

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA)--Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Reps. Paul Findley, of Illinois, and Robert Taft Jr., of Ohio, introduced a concurrent resolution in the House today to define American policy on the Middle East. It called on the Administration to use its power and influence to bring about lasting peace in the area. The resolution affirms that Israel is entitled to have all nations recognize her right to exist and that Israel and her Arab neighbors are entitled to international guarantees of their borders in return for pledges to renounce the use of force.

The resolution also would commit the United States, the maritime nations and the United Nations to recognize the Gulf of Aqaba as an open sea and the right of all nations to free and innocent passage through the Strait of Tiran and innocent passage through the Suez Canal. On the subject of Jerusalem, the resolution calls for control of the Holy Places by an international agency composed of Jewish, Christian and Moslem religious representatives, to assure access to the Holy Places to pilgrims of all faiths.

## United States Share Of Israel's Import Market On Rise, Commerce Department Reports

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA)--United States exports had 25.9 percent of the Israel import market in 1967 and the American share increased to 26.7 percent for the first three months of 1968, according to figures released by the Bureau of International Commerce of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The report said that United States exports to Israel in 1967 amounted to \$196 million out of that country's total imports of \$755 million. For the first three months of this year, the American share was \$56 million out of \$249 million total imports.

The Bureau reported that Israel was one of the countries indicating "strong interests" in American water treatment equipment and Israelis were expected to attend the exhibit of American desalting and water purification equipment to be held in Rome next February. All phases of the problems of water desalination and purification will be discussed in connection with the exhibit.

## Mizrachi Women Will Present Friendship Award Posthumously To Senator Kennedy

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--The late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been named to receive the America-Israel Friendship Award presented annually by the Mizrachi Women's Organization of America to "distinguished Americans, not of the Jewish faith, who have contributed significantly to understanding and friendship between the peoples of the United States and the State of Israel."

The award will be presented at the 43rd annual convention of the organization on Sept. 15. Sen. Jacob K. Javits of New York will accept the award in behalf of the slain Senator. The award is being made with the approval of the Kennedy family.