

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Senate Votes Foreign Aid Bill, Calls For Sale Of Supersonic Jets To Israel

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--A Foreign Aid Bill which made provision for the sale of supersonic jets to Israel passed the Senate today. The bill stated that: "The President should take such steps as may be necessary, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, to negotiate an agreement with the Government of Israel providing for the sale by the United States of such number of supersonic planes as may be necessary to provide Israel with an adequate deterrent force capable of preventing future Arab aggression by offsetting sophisticated weapons received by the Arab states and to replace losses suffered by Israel in the 1967 conflict."

The Foreign Aid Bill earlier passed by the House contained the wording that the President "shall sell...." The Senate bill, however, changed the wording to "should," leaving the sale of the supersonic jets finally up to the discretion of the President. Further action on the bill will be delayed until after the political convention recess when a Senate-House conference will discuss the changed wording.

Sen. Jacob Javits, New York Republican, on the floor of the Senate today stressed the importance to Israel of the Foreign Aid Bill provision for the sale of supersonic jet aircraft to Israel. "It would be a pure case of irresponsibility if we did not do so," he said. "If gaps or imbalances in Israel's defense posture are allowed to remain...the risk of war will be higher," the Senator said. "Specifically, that risk could assume its ugliest form -- a sneak air attack against the civilian population of Israel."

"Israel, while the victor in the Six-Day War, suffered aircraft losses which, since needed aircraft have not been received as replacements, place her in a vulnerable position to attack by her recovered and better armed Arab neighbors. It is not only the security of Israel which is at stake," Sen. Javits added, "it is now the security of the whole world, because the Soviet Union is now in the Middle East in a big way."

Sen. Frank J. Lausche, Ohio Democrat, pointed out that the bill "gives the President the discretionary power to make these sales if, in his opinion, it is necessary to offset the huge sales that have been made by the Soviet Union to the Arab nations." Speaking on behalf of the same bill, Sen. Wayne Morse, Oregon Democrat, declared that if an understanding exists "that the U.S. would come to Israel's defense if she were attacked," the question remains "whether there would be an Israel to come to the aid of, if they waited for our governmental procedures to operate by way of supplying military assistance."

## Presidents Conference Calls For Release Of Hijacked Plane, Israeli Nationals

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations urged in a statement today, the immediate release of the hijacked El Al airliner and of the 12 Israeli nationals still held in Algeria. In the statement, Rabbi Herschel Schachter, conference president, expressed "the deep concern of American Jewry over this barbaric threat to the political and economic security of Israel and its national civilian airline, as well as to the safety of all international air travel."

The \$6,000,000 jetliner was hijacked en route from Rome to Lydda Airport on July 23 by three Arab terrorists and forced to land at Algiers Airport. The Algerian Government released, in two actions, all non-Israeli passengers and five Israeli women and three children.

Rabbi Schachter deplored the fact that the Algerian Government had failed to respond to requests to free the detainees and plane from United Nations Secretary-General U Thant and the International Civil Aviation Organization and added that "Algeria dare not allow itself to continue to appear in the eyes of the world in partnership with this uncivilized act of air piracy."

In a related development, Trans-World Airlines rejected a proposal by the United Zionist Revisionists of America that the airline cease its weekly flights to Algeria "in view of the act of piracy committed against a civilian Israeli airplane with the collaboration of the Algerian Government." The New York office of Air France, responding to the same appeal, told the Revisionist organization that such matters were handled only in the airline firm's Paris office.

Charles C. Tillinghast, Jr., TWA president, condemned the hijacking in his reply, but added that TWA flights to Algeria were authorized by the United States Government as "a means of keeping channels of communications open and we feel no good purpose would be served in discontinuing these flights as long as they are permissible and authorized by our Government." Henri Marescot, general manager of the Air France New York office, said the Revisionist appeal had been forwarded to the Paris headquarters. He called the hijacking an act of piracy.

(In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Israelis were relieved to learn that the passengers and crew were being correctly treated during their detention. He said this had intensified Israel's hope that principles of international morality would be applied by Algerian authorities in solution of the problem by the immediate release of the plane and the remaining detained passengers and crew members.)

(In Rio de Janeiro, Jose Pinto, the Brazilian Foreign Minister, denounced the hijacking. He said, "I condemn the capture of the crew, passengers and airplane in Algeria," and he expressed the hope that the remaining Israelis would soon be released. The Brazilian press widely denounced the hijacking and demanded release of the plane and the Israelis.)

## Jordanians Close Bridges Over Jordan, Refuse Gaza Residents Entrance

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Jordanian authorities have closed two bridges over the Jordan River, the Allenby and Damiyah crossovers, to Gaza Strip residents who wish to enter Jordan, even for short visits with relatives there, Israeli authorities said today. This action was taken, Israel believes, in connection with Jordan's allegation that Israeli authorities are compelling refugees of the Jabalia refugee camp near the city of Gaza to leave the Strip and go to Jordan. This allegation has been emphatically denied by Israeli authorities in letters to United Nations Secretary-General U Thant and to Laurence Michelmore, chief of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).

Israel has made it possible for Gaza residents to visit relatives in Jordan or even move there, sources here pointed out, in the same way that similar privileges have been extended to residents of other occupied territories. One source said, "for 20 years the Egyptians, wishing to keep refugees impoverished and living in an under-developed condition for political reasons, prevented any movement of refugees from the Strip. Now many wish to go places and see relatives — or just visit. Israel is not evicting anybody or compelling anybody to leave."

## Israeli Security Officials Note Increased Incidents On Jordanian Cease-Fire Line

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Israeli security sources noted today that there had been an increasing number of incidents along the Israeli-Jordanian cease-fire line, pointing out that during the past week alone there had been 31 such incidents, in which three Israelis were killed and 15 injured. Ten saboteurs were killed and one captured in the clashes. Two Israelis were injured yesterday when their bulldozer hit a mine south of the Dead Sea near the Jordan border. Officials said this was the ninth such incident in the area during July.

A previously captured intruder told investigators today that Jordanians provide cooperation to saboteurs crossing into Israel. He said he had been taken with a group of seven guerrillas from Amman to Karameh, the largest sabotage base in Jordan. From there, he said, the group was taken to Umm Shurt, a much-used cross over point. However, by that time, the Jordanian officer in charge said it was too late to try to cross over and the group was housed in huts for the day. Shortly after midnight, the captive reported, the officer accompanied the seven saboteurs to the river, giving them a code number for use on their return. He also promised covering fire if the group encountered Israelis. However, all seven ran into an Israeli patrol the next day. He was the only survivor, he said.

## 'Dialogue in Israel' Hears Warning That U.S. Urban Unrest Threatens Jews

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--An American Jewish educator declared here today that the present urban unrest in the United States posed a great danger for American Jewry, particularly with respect to Negro extremism, because such situations often adversely affected Jews more than it did other groups. The warning was made by Dr. Judah Shapiro, speaking at a meeting of American Labor Zionist leaders which was being held at the same time as the annual "Dialogue in Israel" sponsored by the American Jewish Congress. Dr. Shapiro added that the American Negro civil rights movement and other Negro causes would "soon forget the aid which Jews extended to them in their hour of need" as has happened "in similar cases throughout Jewish history."

Mordechai Bar-On, head of the youth and hechalutz department of the Jewish Agency, told the American Labor Zionists that he felt his principal task was to bring younger Israeli Jews closer to the Jews in other countries. He also said that the number of Israelis practicing religion was growing. He cited as evidence the emotion which swept Israel after troops liberated the Wailing Wall in Old Jerusalem in the Six-Day War last year.

A totally different view on religion in Israel was presented at the AJCongress dialogue by Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz, a leading Israeli thinker whose strictures on Judaism in Israel so stunned the dialogue participants, particularly the Americans, that they asked for a few hours of recess to ponder and evaluate Prof. Leibowitz' comments. He flatly rejected the widespread description of Israel's 1967 victory as due to a miracle. He said "there was no: miracle." He said the June victory resulted from Israel's ability to create a modern fighting force, which the Arabs could not do.

Prof. Leibowitz also disputed the contention that the victory evoked a "religious eruption" among the Jews of Israel and those overseas. He said that what actually developed was a "patriotic emotion" which took on the image of religion. He noted that Gen. Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Defense Minister, had hurried to the Wailing Wall and inserted a request for lasting peace between stones in the Wall, but, he added, there was no religious significance to Gen. Dayan's act. He declared that Gen. Dayan's children never saw a synagogue from the inside. He called worshipping at the Wailing Wall "nothing but idolatry" and declared that religion in Israel was a divisive factor in that it barred an observant Jew from dining with a non-observant Jew because of the problems of the dietary laws.

## Foreign Ministry Will Ask BBC To Reverse Its Decision To Discontinue Hebrew Service

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry officials indicated today that Israel will ask the British Government to reverse a decision to cancel the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) Hebrew broadcasts to Israel. The decision, which was announced last week in the House of Commons just before a recess, touched off sharp criticism among Members of the British Parliament and Jewish organizations. The cancellation was scheduled to become effective in October.

The officials here said that no similar cancellation or even curtailment of BBC overseas broadcasts in Arabic were planned, a fact which cast doubts on the official explanation of budgetary difficulties as the reason for the action. It was indicated that Israel considered the cancellation as being of a political and no economic character and therefore having no justification.

## Eshkol Skeptical About Establishment Of Druze State On Golan Heights

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol expressed skepticism today over the idea of establishment of a Druze state in the occupied Golan Heights in Syria. In an interview with a Druze student on Kol Israel Radio, Mr. Eshkol said that a small people seeking a state of its own must create support for the idea. The Druze are an Islamic non-Arab sect whose 20,000 members in Israel have consistently supported the Jews. A Druze member has sat in the Knesset.

The Premier told the student that the question was whether those who proposed creation of such a state in the Golan Heights had considered the matter with care. Pointing out that the area was small and its population meager, Mr. Eshkol asked what resources such a state would have to live on.

## David's Tower Opened To Israeli Public For First Time Since 1948 War

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--David's Tower in Jerusalem, near the Jaffa Gate of the Old City Wall, was opened today to the public for the first time since the 1948 War of Liberation. Jerusalem municipality officials spent about \$80,000 to clear a Jordanian barracks structure inside the citadel which was built 2,000 years ago by Herod. It is the only part of ancient Jerusalem which was not destroyed by the Romans. During the years between 1948, when Jordan seized the Old City, and 1967, when Israeli forces liberated it, the citadel was a Jordanian Arab Legion fortress overlooking new Jerusalem.

## Thant Preparing Report On Issue Of Sending New 'Humanitarian' Emissary To Mideast

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 1 (JTA)--Secretary-General U Thant was preparing today to issue a report on the issue of sending a second special United Nations representative to probe the situation of civilians in the Middle East war zone, including Jews in Egypt, Syria and Iraq. And Israel's Ambassador Yosef Tekoah renewed today his insistence that the status of Jews in Arab lands be investigated by the UN. Mr. Thant announced several months ago that he planned to send a special representative to the Middle East to probe the situation of civilians under General Assembly and Security Council humanitarian resolutions. The UN legal division has reportedly provided Mr. Thant with an opinion that the Council and Assembly resolutions were not intended to cover Jewish communities in Arab lands.

On July 25, Syria's Ambassador here, George Tomeh submitted a lengthy complaint against Israel declaring among other things that "Syria welcomed (last year) the (first) representative (Nils Gussing) within the clear terms of the two humanitarian resolutions." He added at that time that, "As to the Jewish community in Syria, we maintain that Jews, Christians and Moslems are equal citizens of Syria and that no discrimination exists because of faith or any other basis." He criticized Israel for refusing to accept a second representative of Mr. Thant.

In his letter, Mr. Tomeh made other charges against Israel including one in which he declared that Israel had been "colonizing" occupied areas in Syria through establishment of a Nahal corps (a para-military unit that has military and agricultural functions). (In a letter on July 18 to Mr. Thant, the Jordanian Charge d'Affaires here, Anton A. Naber, alleged that Israel circulated a map at the World Zionist Congress in June depicting some 35 new Jewish settlements, "the majority of these paramilitary...settlements" in occupied territories. Mr. Tekoah replied July 29 that, of the 35 cited, "only 14 are in areas that have come under Israeli control since the cease-fire of June, 1967 and nearly all of them have been in existence for some time.)

In his letter today, Mr. Tekoah denied various charges made by Tomeh, including one alleging that Arab citizens of Israel are "living in concentration camps." Mr. Tekoah also declared, "In any event Syria's right to speak up for human rights is questionable. The continued oppression of Syrian Jews and the disabilities imposed on other minorities in Syria deprive the Government of Syria of any standing in such matters. The Syrian letter cannot draw the curtain on Syria's refusal to allow a representative of the Secretary-General to investigate the tragic situation of Jews in Syria..."

In a second letter to Mr. Thant today — this one made in reply to a previous Jordanian letter — Mr. Tekoah informed Mr. Thant that "with regard to the projected humanitarian mission by a representative of the Secretary-General, the delay in its execution is caused solely by Arab obstruction and refusal to allow him to look into the tragic plight of the Jewish communities in the Arab states. No humanitarian mission on behalf of the UN could acquiesce in the Arab refusal to investigate the discrimination and oppression of Jews in Arab states following last year's hostilities."

In his letter, the Israeli envoy also referred to the charges by the Jordanian mission here accusing Israel of failing to treat Arab refugees humanely. "The problem of persons displaced in the wake of the June, 1967 hostilities," the envoy said, "is a direct consequence of Arab aggression. Had there been peace between the Arab states and Israel, this problem would not have arisen." The envoy recalled details of various efforts made by Israel for the admission of Arabs from Jordan into the West Bank. He noted that Israel had offered and remained ready to implement a family reunion program for the Arabs. "This scheme is still under way, though its implementation and extent cannot but be affected by Jordan's pursuance of active warfare," he added.

## Report Mrs. Kaminska's Theater Will Not Function As Independent Jewish State Unit

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Jewish State Theater, headed by actress Ida Kaminska, will not exist as an independent Jewish state cultural institution during the 1968-'69 season, it was reported today from Warsaw by the Day-Jewish Journal, New York Yiddish newspaper. The decision on the future of the theater was taken by the cultural commission of the Polish Communist Party's central committee, it was reported.

## Poland's Government-Inspired Anti-Semitism Hit By U.S. Leaders In Many Fields

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Government-inspired anti-Semitism in Poland and discrimination against the remnants of Polish Jewry were condemned by 74 American leaders in religion, labor, education, literature and civil rights in a statement announced today by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The statement, released by Rabbi Herschel Schachter, Conference president, called on the United States Government to "protest, officially and unofficially, publicly and privately, this new expression of state sponsored anti-Semitism." The Polish Government was asked to "cease its anti-Jewish campaign which is a mockery of democratic ideals and a tragic denial of human rights." The statement also called the "anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist" campaign of the Wladyslaw Gomułka regime "a scapegoat for popular discontent by leaders who find anti-Semitism a useful lever for gaining political power."

The signers included I.W. Abel, president of the United Steelworkers of America; Matthew Ahmann, executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice; James Farmer, the Negro civil rights leader; John K. Galbraith, chairman of Americans for Democratic Action; Dr. Dana Greeley, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of North America; Senators Fred Harris of Oklahoma and Jacob Javits of New York; Paul O'Dwyer, Democratic candidate for Senator from New York; President Leo McLaughlin of Fordham University; Bayard Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute; Rex Stout, president of the Authors League of America; and Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

## Javits Declines To Attend Dirksen Party At Miami Beach Club That Bars Jews

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, said today he had declined an invitation to a party planned next Tuesday by Sen. Everett Dirksen, the Senate Minority leader, at the Bath Club in Miami Beach, which bars Jews and Negroes as members. The club also had been the site for a big party for Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York but the party sponsors cancelled the event when they learned of the club's policies.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith urged Sen. Dirksen yesterday to cancel his party for Republican notables coming to Miami Beach for the Republican national convention. Asked about the club's restrictive policies, Sen. Dirksen replied that Sen. Edward Brooke, a Negro, and Sen. Javits "will be at the party, so what has that to do with it?" Sen. Javits said here, "I am definitely not planning to attend any function at the Bath Club." He reportedly alerted the Rockefeller people about the club's policies. An aide to Sen. Brooke said in Washington that the Senator had been planning to attend the party, unaware of its ban on Negro members, and that he did not know whether Sen. Brooke would change his mind.

Arthur Teitelbaum, ADL Miami director, said the Bath Club waived its restrictions on Jews for special private events but that he did not know of any Negro who had ever been admitted to the club as a guest.

## Derwinski Calls For Platform Plank On Anti-Jewish Policies In Communist States

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Aug. 1 (JTA)--Rep. Edward J. Derwinski, Illinois Republican, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today urged the Republican platform committee to adopt a plank denouncing anti-Jewish policies in Russia and other Communist states.

He suggested language for the platform as follows: "The persecution of Jews within the Soviet Union and other Communist regimes, when related to the Soviet drive in the Middle East, discloses the atheistic philosophy of Communism against which we should lead an effective worldwide condemnation."

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, will attend the Republican national convention here sometime next week as an observer, convention officials disclosed today. Gen. Rabin and envoys of some other countries will be flown to the convention by the State Department.

## Jerusalem Examination Passed By 31 Americans, Emanuel Neumann Announces

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Thirty-one American students successfully passed the 1968 Jerusalem Examination, conducted in the United States and Canada by the Department of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency, it was announced by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section. "The successful candidates," Dr. Neumann said, "showed their mastery of the fundamentals of the Hebrew language and culture, as exemplified by a familiarity with a number of basic texts. Since 1948, when these examinations, patterned after the Cambridge University examinations in English, were launched almost 800 American participants have passed the examination."

Dr. Abraham P. Gannes, director of the Agency's Department of Education and Culture, announced that the Jerusalem Certificate will be awarded to the successful candidates at ceremonies in the fall. Holders of the Jerusalem Examination certificates are exempt from entrance examinations in Hebrew at the Hebrew University and other Israeli institutions of higher learning.

## Ludwig Lowenstein Dead At 70, Was Publisher Of 'Aufbau,' German-Language Newspaper

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Ludwig Lowenstein, president and publisher of Aufbau, Jewish-oriented German language weekly newspaper, died Monday at the age of 70 while vacationing in Baden-Baden, Germany, it was reported here today. He was in the plastics and leather business here. Mr. Lowenstein became president of the New World Club, which publishes the Aufbau, in 1952.