

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel Planes Blast New El Fatah Base In Jordan In Three-Hour Raid

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Units of the Israel Airforce carried out a punitive strike today against El Fatah sabotage bases and staging areas near the town of Salt, 15 miles west of the Jordanian capital of Amman. The bombing went on intermittently for more than three hours and all Israeli planes returned safely to their bases. Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev reported at a press conference this evening that he was positive that the El Fatah bases were destroyed but that he had no report as to the number of saboteurs who may have been killed. He said the strike was ordered as a result of a sharp increase in terrorist incursions into Israel-held territory during the month of July. He said the Israeli planes did not bomb the village of Salt or nearby Jordanian army installations despite anti-aircraft fire from the latter. He said that no Jordanian aircraft were encountered.

A military spokesman reported that Jordanians opened fire with tanks on Israeli forces near the Allenby Bridge just as the air strikes on the El Fatah bases were ending. Israeli units returned the fire, precipitating a two hour tank and small arms duel after which the Jordanians brought artillery into action. A Jordanian tank was hit and was seen to be afire, the spokesman said. The sabotage bases near Salt contained the new headquarters of El Fatah and arsenals of weapons and high explosives. Gen. Bar-Lev declared that the headquarters was moved there from the former base at Karameh which was severely damaged by an Israeli air and ground attack last March 21.

Gen. Bar-Lev would not say how many Israeli aircraft were involved in the action but said he could not describe it as the biggest strike since the 1967 Six-Day War. He indicated that its purposes were twofold - to destroy the El Fatah terrorist and sabotage potential and to discourage further raids by warning El Fatah members and potential recruits that they could not escape Israeli retaliation. Gen. Bar-Lev disclosed that the planes dropped thousands of pamphlets listing the names of El Fatah leaders and their commando groups caught on Israeli territory and wiped out by Israeli forces. The pamphlets noted that 44 El Fatah leaders and men were killed during July alone and that 1,200 were captured and were now in Israeli prisons. The pamphlets warned that raids against Israel would result in the saboteurs being killed, wounded or captured and sentenced to long prison terms. They exhorted El Fatah members and recruits not to believe the "empty boasts of your commanders which contain nothing but lies."

Gen. Bar-Lev said the air strike was planned after it was ascertained by intelligence and the interrogation of captured El Fatah members that the main bases and headquarters had been moved to Salt. After the March Karameh action, the incidence of sabotage declined while El Fatah re-organized. But it has since increased sharply. During July there were 98 incidents, Gen. Bar-Lev said. He added that the camps near Salt contained about 400 saboteurs in various stages of training.

(At the United Nations, Israel complained Friday that the Jordanian Government had continued its "systematic violations" of the cease-fire agreement and had been responsible for at least 103 such violations since June 23. In a letter to Secretary-General U Thant, Ambassador Yosef Tekoah also charged that the cease-fire violations were being committed both by regular Jordanian troops and by paramilitary units maintained "overtly" in Jordan with the "cooperation and encouragement" of Jordanian authorities. The Israeli envoy said that since his previous note on Jordanian armed activities, those activities had accelerated. He asked that his letter be circulated as a Security Council document.)

## Israel Mood Grim As Algeria Says Will Retain Hijacked Plane And Israelis

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The issue of the hijacked El Al airliner which has been held by Algeria with 12 of its Israeli passengers and crew members since July 23, will be the first item on the agenda of the Cabinet when it meets tomorrow. The Government was known to have taken a most serious view of the delaying tactics of the Algerian Government which decided Thursday not to release the plane and Israelis pending a further "investigation" of the hijacking.

The Cabinet meeting, usually held on Sunday, was postponed until tomorrow because of the Tisha B'av holiday but political sources here warned that Algerian inaction made Algeria "a partner to the act of piracy," imposing on it "a great and grave responsibility." The Boeing 707, was hijacked by Arab terrorists during a Rome-Lydda flight and forced to land at Algiers. Non-Israelis and Israeli women and children were released. The Algerian Government's statement was described here today as "blackmail tied with red tape." Government sources said that Israel had acted with utmost restraint, despite the anger engendered here and abroad by the plane seizure, but, they said, talk of more investigation was "a transparent ruse" that made the matter one with political elements.

Israeli newspapers warned Algeria today that it would get no ransom from Israel for the plane, its passengers and crew. The postponement tactics and the "war of nerves" conducted by Algeria will only further deteriorate a situation already saturated with tension, the papers said. The evening newspaper Maariv declared that Algeria might be waiting for a "gesture" on the part of Israel and added that "it must be made clear that such a wait is in vain. The only gesture possible is the immediate release of the plane and its passengers. Israel is not ready to pay or grant prizes for acts of piracy." A decision to release the plane had been expected from the Algerian Cabinet meeting. Diplomatic sources in Paris meanwhile said that Morocco and Tunisia had advised Algerian President Boumedienne to release the plane and the Israelis.

## Thant Accuses Israel Of Thwarting Humanitarian Mission; Israel Rejects Charge

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 4 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary-General U Thant has blamed Israel for thwarting his efforts to investigate the humanitarian problems arising from the June, 1967 Middle East war. Mr. Thant charged in a report issued here Friday that Israel's insistence that the inquiry cover the condition of Jews in the Arab countries as well as Arabs in the Israel-occupied territories made it impossible for him to dispatch a mission authorized by a resolution of the Security Council.

Mr. Thant's report was prefaced by a series of letters he exchanged with the nations involved in the Middle East conflict. They included a letter from Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban which denied that his Government was imposing "conditions" on the inquiry. "We ask only that the mission should have an equal opportunity to investigate the situation of Jewish communities cruelly persecuted in the Arab countries since the recent conflict," Mr. Eban wrote. "This is clearly within the scope of the relevant resolutions. I am at a loss to understand why this should cause any difficulty."

The Secretary-General contended that Israel was trying to broaden the mission beyond the scope of the Security Council resolution that called for an inquiry into conditions "in the area of conflict." The Arab interpretation of the resolution has been that it referred only to Arabs in the territories occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War.

Mr. Eban charged in his letter that it was the Arab governments which were imposing conditions and said Israel had never objected to having a UN emissary carry out his mission in Israel-held territories. He noted that Israel had cooperated with the similar inquiry begun last year by Nils-Goran Gussing of Sweden. Mr. Gussing was not permitted by the Arabs to investigate conditions of Jews in their territory.

## Humphrey Specifies He Supports Sale of Phantom Jets To Israel

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Vice President Hubert Humphrey reiterated today his advocacy of continued United States military aid to Israel and said that it should include the sale of "supersonic planes such as the Phantom jets" which Prime Minister Levi Eshkol requested of President Johnson seven months ago. The Vice President, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, voiced his support of Phantoms for Israel in response to a telegram sent to him by the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee here. The telegram asked Mr. Humphrey if he was in a position to amplify his statement of July 11 in which he said he favored continued military assistance to Israel, including jet planes. His statement at the time did not specify any type of jet planes. The United States has sold Israel Skyhawk jet fighters which are sub-sonic.

In his message today, Vice President Humphrey declared that "a stable peace in the Middle East is a must" and said that he favored "active diplomatic efforts to convince Israel's neighbors to pursue a general settlement." He warned that "the cause of peace will not be served by the pursuit of military preponderance by the Arab states through arms deliveries from the Soviet Union."

"Until permanent peace is achieved and the arms race ended," Mr. Humphrey said, "continued U.S. military assistance to Israel is justified. This assistance should include supersonic planes such as Phantom jets. But the real answer lies in agreed disarmament. It is in the interests of all the people of the Middle East to engage actively in negotiated agreements among the nations of the region."

## GOP Platform Plank Calls For Sale To Israel Of Supersonic Jets

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Aug. 4 (JTA)--The Republican Party, which opens its national convention here tomorrow, has adopted a 1968 platform plank on the Middle East favoring United States military aid to Israel "such as supersonic fighters" as are necessary to bolster its strength against the Arab states being re-armed by Soviet Russia. The G.O.P. platform also, for the first time, openly condemned "continuing anti-Semitic actions by the Soviet Union." The Middle East plank, which referred to that region as a "tinderbox," pledged the Republican Party to "pursue a stable peace through recognition by all nations of each other's right to assured boundaries, freedom of navigation through international waters, and independent existence free from the threat of aggression." The platform said further that Republicans would seek an end to the arms race "through international agreement and the stationing of peace-table talks among adversaries."

The platform called "the Soviet's persistence in building an imbalance of military forces" in the Middle East "a growing menace to Israel," and said that "her forces must be kept at a commensurate strength both for her protection and to help keep the peace of the area. The United States, therefore, will provide countervailing help to Israel, such as supersonic fighters, as necessary for these purposes." The reference to Soviet anti-Semitic actions was contained in a foreign policy plank that said the United States would not condone aggression or so-called wars of national liberation. The plank also condemned Soviet efforts to eradicate all religions and its oppression of minorities generally.

## Final Action On Bill Requesting Sale Of Phantom Jets To Israel Postponed

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Final action on a 1969 foreign aid bill that would request the President to sell supersonic F-4 Phantom jets to Israel has been postponed until after the two national political conventions. But a joint Senate-House committee decided Friday to accept the language of the Senate's version of the legislation which said that the President "should" sell the sophisticated warplanes to Israel to offset the growing strength of the Arab airforces. The original House draft bill contained the wording that the President "shall sell" the Phantoms to Israel which would have made their sale mandatory if the bill were enacted.

## 120,000 Jews Flock To Wailing Wall For Tisha B'av Services

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--More than 120,000 Jews flocked into the square before the Western Wall last night and this morning to mark Tisha B'av by saying prayers and reciting Lamentations. Israel took on a reverent atmosphere as the nation commemorated the day when the Temple was destroyed. Nightclubs and restaurants throughout Israel closed at sunset last night.

The multitude sat on the ground before the Western Wall with each group of people reciting their prayers in their traditional chant. Huge naval floodlights lit the area on orders from Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Jews from Israel and other countries first started massing in the square early yesterday afternoon and the crowds continued to come until well after midnight today.

Jerusalem, which was tense on Friday following the explosion of a bomb in the Cafe Orient in East Jerusalem and clashes between Jews and Arabs, was quiet throughout Saturday and today. Police increased their patrols in Jerusalem following the bombing. They detained 15 East Jerusalem Arabs who were in the cafe for interrogation and for protection against attacks from infuriated Jewish youths. A number of scattered incidents also occurred in East Jerusalem between young Jews and Arabs and the police detained a number of the Jews.

One person was hurt in the explosion which destroyed the cafe's storeroom, entrance ceiling and windows. There were about 50 people in the restaurant at the time of the bombing.

## U.S. Jews Struggling To Find Jewish Patterns Of Life, Dialogue Told

REHOVOT, Aug. 4 (JTA)--An American Orthodox scholar told the closing session of the sixth annual American-Israel Dialogue here that while synagogues in America were largely a failure, there was a "profound struggle" among American Jews to discover a genuinely Jewish pattern of community life. Prof. Marvin Fox of Ohio State University also told the American Jewish Congress-sponsored event that most American Jews and Israelis, while embarrassed by religion, carried within themselves a spiritual yearning they could neither identify nor express. He expressed the view that in Israel too, the same Jews who proclaimed irreligion as a principal and program nevertheless lived their lives with remarkable moral sensitivity. He added that the Jews of Israel had built a society that glorified God by showing what man could do.

Another American panelist, Prof. Percival Goodman of Columbia University said that if Israel had any mission, it must be in the words of Micah -- "to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God." Rabbi Richard Rubenstein, Hillel Foundation director at Pittsburgh University, told the session that "our motto should be 'Masada shall not fall again,'" which he explained meant that defending Israel was essential because otherwise there would be another holocaust.

An American Reform rabbi told the North American Labor Zionist conference at Beth Berl that American Jews felt less secure psychologically than they did a year ago. Rabbi Richard Hirsch, director of the religious action center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Washington, also said that living in Israel provided a sense of psychological security and a framework for social idealism to a degree which led him to believe that "Israel will become more of a magnet for idealistic American Jewish youth."

## Students Stage Sackcloth And Chains Protest At UN Polish Mission

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Four hundred students staged a sackcloth and chains demonstration at the Polish United Nations mission here today to memorialize the Nazi destruction of Polish Jewry and to focus attention on the continuing imprisonment of Jewish professors and students for their role in the March demonstrations against the Polish Government.

Jacob Birnbaum, coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, sponsor of the demonstration, said a list of names of the professors and students would be sent to the Polish mission and the UN Commission on Human Rights with a request for an investigation. The group said it was concerned about reports that the imprisoned Polish Jews would be prosecuted at a "show trial" to be staged by Gen. Mieczyslaw Moczar, the Polish Interior Minister believed to be the leader of the anti-Jewish campaign in Poland. Many demonstration participants wore sackcloth and chains and sat on low chairs. A special prayer was recited for the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis. Portions were read from diaries of Holocaust victims and survivors. Paul O'Dwyer, the Democratic candidate for Senator, told the gathering that the Polish Government was "foolish" to blame a few Jews for the anti-Government demonstrations. Rep. Leonard Farbstein, N.Y. Democrat, said the Polish "injustice" should not go unanswered.

## Saphir Elected Secretary General Of Labor Party, Succeeding Mrs. Meir

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Former Finance Minister Pinhas Saphir was elected Secretary General of the Israel Labor Party here last night, succeeding Mrs. Golda Meir who resigned last month. He said that his main task in office would be to eliminate the "last vestiges of separate identity" among the Mapai, Achdut Avodah and Rafi factions which merged earlier this year to form Israel's largest political party.

Mr. Saphir resigned from his ministry post today but will remain in the coalition Cabinet as a minister without portfolio. He will, however, remain active in recruiting foreign capital and investments for Israel. Only one vote was cast in opposition to his election and there were two abstentions. Mrs. Meir, who had been secretary general of the Labor Party since its formation, said that she would continue to give aid and advice in all party matters.

## JDC Reports Aided 374,000 Jews In 1967; June War Vastly Increased Relief Needs

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The 1967 Arab-Israel war placed heavy and unexpected demands on the Joint Distribution Committee and had widespread repercussions that "will be felt in Jewish communities throughout the world," according to the JDC's annual report issued today by Samuel L. Haber, executive vice chairman of the agency. Mr. Haber noted that the hostilities touched off a new wave of emigration of Jews from Arab countries which placed additional burdens on Jewish welfare agencies trying to find them jobs and housing. Mass immigration from North Africa during the summer months that followed the war involved approximately 20,000 Jews of whom 3,000 were from Libya, 1,000 from Egypt and Lebanon and the rest from Morocco and Tunisia, Mr. Haber reported. They fled to France, Italy and other countries with little or no funds and few belongings and crowded into neighborhoods already dense with refugees, the JDC report said.

Mr. Haber said the JDC in 1967 aided approximately 374,000 needy Jews in more than 25 countries around the world. They included 91,000 in Israel, 149,000 in Europe, 58,000 in Arab and Moslem countries, 5,000 in other areas such as Australia and India and an estimated 71,000 who were assisted in programs cutting across national boundaries. JDC's health, medical and welfare and rehabilitation programs entailed expenditures of \$22,470,430 and resulted in a deficit for the year of over \$850,000, Mr. Haber reported. "While many of the migrants are potentially self sufficient," Mr. Haber noted, "their immediate welfare needs plus the long term rehabilitation of others presents a serious challenge to JDC." Mr. Haber said that this was "particularly true in light of current high unemployment in France for unskilled and semi-skilled categories to which most of the newcomers belong."

He declared also that still remaining in various Arab countries were many Jews with little hope of escape who are "generally beyond even JDC's assistance." He reported that "mere subsistence" had become a severe hardship on the families of several hundred Jews jailed in Syria and Iraq.

He reported that a major development in 1967 was resumption of JDC welfare operations in Rumania after a 20-year suspension. During Passover, JDC helped to serve 1,100 Rumanian Jews at public seders and more than 2,200 food packages were distributed for home observance by 3,300 Jews. He said the JDC welfare program would "help bring hope to the many destitute among the 100,000 Jews left in Rumania."

## Major Parties Urged To Include Mandatory Gun Registration In Platform

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The Republican and Democratic parties were urged today to commit themselves to legislation that would make mandatory the registration of "every single firearm in this country." The plea was made by Morris B. Abram, president-elect of Brandeis University, before a gathering of State Trial Judges at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association here. In calling for such commitments to be incorporated into the political platforms of both major parties, Mr. Abram declared that "we, as a nation, cannot sustain the casual or premeditated slaughter invited by the unregulated presence of guns everywhere."

Mr. Abram, a New York attorney and co-author of the monograph "How to Stop Violence in Your Community," cited the use of guns in assassinations and homicide. He noted that since President Lincoln was assassinated, "seven out of 20 presidents have been attacked and four have been mortally wounded. In the same period, no chief of state of any other Western democracy has died at the hands of an assassin." He referred to studies at Brandeis University's Lemberg Center for the Study of Violence that showed America's homicide rate to be the highest of any Western nation. "Last year in Great Britain there were 12 murders by gunshot. In the United States there were 5,000," Mr. Abram said.

## Major Presidential Candidates Urged To Publicly Reject Biased Clubs

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee appealed today to the five major Presidential candidates to publicly announce their "disaffiliation" from social clubs that practice discrimination, to resign from any such clubs of which they might be members and to disapprove the holding of functions at such clubs during the political conventions.

The request was made in identical telegrams sent by Morris B. Abram, president of the AJCommittee to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York and Gov. Ronald Reagan, of California. The telegram said that "Americans would welcome the knowledge that you affirm the moral and social responsibility to withhold sanction of discriminatory barriers implied by membership in such clubs" and organizations "which discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color or national origin."

## Jewish Council Warns Against 'Black Only' Rebuilding Of Washington Ghettoes

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--A report urging speedy rebuilding of riot-torn areas in Washington and affirming the right of merchants to return to those areas pending long-range renewal decisions has been submitted by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington to a special meeting attended by Mayor Walter Washington and city officials.

Dr. Isaac Franck, Council executive vice-president who acted as spokesman, stressed the Council's opposition to a program of black-only enterprises in the affected areas. At the same time, he emphasized the need to encourage black entrepreneurs, saying that ghetto residents must be involved in such planning in which white businessmen could help. The report warned that "both Negro and white racists have been trying to institute an apartheid system in our community," declaring that such a move would be "immoral" and wreck the city's economic stability.