

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israeli Political Observers Welcome Nomination Of Nixon As Republican Candidate

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Political observers here welcomed the nomination of Richard M. Nixon as the Republican Presidential candidate. The first reaction to the news from Miami Beach was to stress Mr. Nixon's "positive attitude" toward Israel as exemplified by several statements he made during his pre-nomination campaign. However, commentators here said that there was little likelihood of any change in American policy toward Israel no matter who is elected to the White House.

It was noted today, among other things, that Mr. Nixon has advocated U.S. arms shipments to Israel to maintain the balance of military power in the Middle East. Some observers said that as Vice President during the Eisenhower Administration, Mr. Nixon showed an understanding of Israel's problems.

### GOP Leader Visited Israel In 1967; Agnew's Popularity With Jews Dwindles

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Aug. 8 (JTA)--Richard M. Nixon stands committed to a policy of friendship with Israel, writes JTA's Washington correspondent Milton Friedman. Mr. Nixon was the first important United States political personality to visit Israel after the Six-Day War. He commended Israeli leaders on Israel's triumph and brought words of cheer to wounded Israeli soldiers in military hospitals. The former Vice-President met with Israel's current Ambassador to the U.S., Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, then Chief of Staff, and other high officials at that time.

Gov. Spiro T. Agnew, of Maryland, Richard M. Nixon's Vice Presidential choice, drew most of his electoral support from Baltimore Jews and other minority groups when he ran for Governor two years ago. But his popularity with those groups has since declined owing to his staunchly conservative stand on civil rights and welfare programs, observers here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

During the Sinai War in 1956, when Mr. Nixon was Vice President under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, he developed a personal relationship with Abba Eban, now Israel's Foreign Minister, who was then Ambassador to Washington.

More recently, Mr. Nixon privately met with Ambassador Rabin on the subject of the current situation in the Middle East. He asked Gen. Rabin many questions about the Middle East deadlock, Arab attitudes, Soviet involvement in the area and Israel's defense requirements.

He will campaign on the new Republican platform, including a plank that he personally advocated, urging the provision of supersonic jet fighter planes to Israel and "peace table talks among the adversaries." The platform also specifically condemns Soviet anti-Semitism for the first time in the history of any U.S. national political platform. It warned against an American-Soviet detente at the expense of other nations, such as Israel. Mr. Nixon may soon have an opportunity to intervene on behalf of Soviet Jewry and to seek an easing of the Middle East crisis if he makes the trip to Moscow that he announced during the recent campaign.

During the 1966 gubernatorial campaign, Gov. Agnew was preferred by minority groups over his Democratic opponent, George P. Mahoney, a segregationist. But Mr. Agnew's ties are closer to the white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant communities of rural Maryland than to Baltimore County with its more than 100,000 Jews, the largest Jewish community in the state. The Governor's relations with Maryland Jews have been cordial if not particularly far ranging or deep. This year he named a Jew, Saul Liss, to the Supreme Bench of the City of Baltimore, the fifth Jew on the bench. Last year he named another Jew, Robert Hammerman, to the same bench.

Last October he was named "Man of the Year" of the Golden Eagle Square and Compass Club, the Jewish branch of the Masonic order in Baltimore. In April, 1967, he was named honorary chairman of the Maryland State Committee for Israel Bonds. A formal dinner was held at the State House in Annapolis in celebration of the occasion.

Maryland Jews recalled today that one of Gov. Agnew's Republican predecessors, former Gov. Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, was an ardent supporter of Israel and Jewish causes throughout his two terms as governor and his later terms as Mayor of Baltimore.

### Maintains Balance Of Power In Middle East Must Be Kept

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon takes a very serious view of the Soviet re-armament of the Arab states and believes that "the first urgency is for America not to allow the balance of power to shift in favor of the militant Arab states bent on a new war." Mr. Nixon's detailed views on the Middle East were made available in a statement to the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, published in its periodical, Near East Report, in May.

Mr. Nixon expressed grave concern over the growth of Soviet naval and military power in the Mediterranean and what he contended was the lack of an effective American response. He said that the

U.S. "must see to it that Israel's military strength is never at a level vis-a-vis the Arab militants that will invite a war of revenge, the consequences of which we could not possibly foresee and which at all costs we must avoid." He believed that the U.S. must deal directly with the Soviets "and impress upon them both the urgency of keeping their client states in check, and the dangers inherent to the peace in any renewal of the kind of wholesale Soviet irresponsibility evident just prior to the recent conflict."

The Presidential nominee urged the U.S. to take the diplomatic lead in forging a Middle East peace settlement that should include recognition of Israel's sovereignty and a guarantee that the Arab territories currently occupied by Israel "will never again be used as bases for aggression or sanctuaries for terrorism." He said it was "not realistic to expect Israel to surrender these vital bargaining counters in the absence of a genuine peace and effective guarantees." He cautioned, however "that for Israel to take formal and final possession of these occupied areas would be a grave mistake."

### **Soviet Delegation In Damascus Reaffirms Support Of Arab Guerrilla Action**

LONDON, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Soviet support for Arab guerrilla action against Israel has been reaffirmed in Damascus, the Daily Telegraph reported today in a dispatch from Beirut. The report said that a statement issued in the Syrian capital on talks going on between a Russian delegation and leaders of the ruling Baathist party declared that the "Arab resistance movement in the occupied areas is legitimate."

The Telegraph reported that Iraq has offered to strengthen its Army contingent in Jordan but King Hussein so far has not agreed, although he said in a speech yesterday that he would seek closer coordination with other Arab states to strengthen the front against Israel. An Iraqi Army brigade of about 8,000 men has been stationed in Jordan since the eve of the June, 1967 war. While it is not directly engaged in guerrilla activities against Israel, it provides Arab commando groups with supplies, weapons, transport and training facilities, obviously with official approval, according to the paper.

### Travellers From Jordan Report Demonstrations Urging Retaliation Against Israel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)--East Jerusalemites returning from Amman today reported street demonstrations by angry Jordanians demanding retaliation for Israel's air attack on terrorist bases near Salt last Sunday and denouncing the Jordanian Air Force and Army for failing to protect the country. The travellers said that thousands of people roamed the streets shouting slogans against the Army and against Saudi Arabia and Iraq who have troops in Jordan but have never intervened against Israeli attacks. One visitor said there was an atmosphere of near revolution in the Jordanian capital but that there was nobody around to lead a revolt against the Hashemite regime. Jordanian police did not interfere with the demonstrators.

Jordanian units opened fire with small arms on Israeli forces near Gesher in the northern Beisan Valley today. Israelis returned the fire in an exchange that lasted nearly an hour. There were no Israeli casualties, a military spokesman said.

Residents of the West Bank returning from Jordan reported that one of the casualties in Sunday's air raid on the El Fatah bases was Maj. Mahmoud Hamdan, acting commander of the bases. Maj. Hamdan was a former officer in the Jordanian Army who joined El Fatah about a year ago and was in charge of training recruits near Damascus. Later he commanded El Fatah units in the Eilat area and was in charge of recent sabotage forays. Maj. Hamdan's connections with Jordanian officers helped him get equipment and ammunition and won the cooperation of Jordanian Army units along the border. Maj. Hamdan was deputizing for the regular Fatah base commander in the Salt area when he was reportedly killed.

Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan told West Bank Arab leaders today that Israel would pay compensation to the owners of buildings demolished as terrorists hideouts and bases if it turned out that the owners themselves were not members of terrorist organizations. But, Gen. Dayan said, Israel will not change its policy of destroying any building used by terrorists. His promise was reportedly made at a meeting with West Bank notables in Ramallah. The meeting was attended by Brig. Gen. Rafael Vardi, military governor of the West Bank.

### **See No Change In Middle East Deadlock Resulting From Jarring Return To Mideast**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources said here today that Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring's return to the Middle East is not likely to mark any change in the stalemate that persists in the Arab-Israel conflict. The United Nations' special peace envoy to the Middle East shifted the base of his mission from Nicosia to UN headquarters in New York several weeks ago but is due back in Cyprus after Aug. 13 and is expected to resume his round of visits to Middle Eastern capitals. Foreign Minister Abba Eban will meet with Dr. Jarring at the latter's initiative in London this week but diplomatic sources said today that they did not know what the subject of their talks would be.

(Jon Kimche, writing in the London Evening Standard today, said that according to reports, Dr. Jarring intends to present something like an ultimatum to Israel that he is not prepared to continue his mission unless he receives a firm undertaking that there will be a halt to all major military operations by Israeli forces against the neighboring countries. The UN envoy has addressed similar stiff messages to the governments of Egypt, Jordan and Syria warning them that unless further terrorist infiltration into Israel from their territory and other infringements of the cease-fire are halted forthwith, he will not be able to proceed with his mission, Mr. Kimche wrote.)

Dr. Jarring's mission stems from the UN Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution calling for a "just and lasting peace" in the Middle East. According to the point of view of Arabs and their supporters, the resolution calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from occupied Arab territories before peace negotiations can begin. Israel insists that withdrawal can be discussed only in the framework of direct peace talks which, it says, was the main prerequisite of the resolution.

Diplomatic sources here said that "all illusions have been dispelled" about the genuineness of Egypt's so-called "peace offensive" conducted mainly by Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad in May and June. President Nasser's bellicose speeches in succeeding weeks left no doubt that Egypt's intention was not peace but continued deadlock and a new round of war against Israel when it feels it is ready, they said, noting also Nasser's frequent expressions of support for the terrorists waging guerrilla warfare against Israel.

Sources here said that as long as Jordan is unable to halt terrorist infiltration into Israel from its territory, Israel cannot discontinue its policy of reprisals. This, however, they say, does not preclude some sort of peace talks with Jordan which, Israeli leaders still believe, would be willing to talk but is bound by Arab solidarity and an Egyptian veto. The sources here cited the U.S.-North Vietnam talks in Paris as an example of negotiations proceeding despite continued fighting.

### Israeli Ambassadors Will Seek To Cultivate Goodwill In Black African States

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Observers here attach considerable diplomatic significance to Foreign Minister Abba Eban's trip next week to Africa where he will preside at a conference of Israeli envoys to 17 African states in Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast. The Israeli Foreign Minister will also visit Liberia where he will be received by President William V. S. Tubman and plans to visit Senegal as well for talks with Foreign Minister Kaain Guye. In Abidjan he will be the guest of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast.

Mr. Eban and the assembled Israeli ambassadors will be discussing political and economic ties between their country and the nations of West and Central Africa. Those ties are increasingly important to Israel, diplomatic sources pointed out here, considering that the African and Latin American nations form the two largest blocs in the United Nations General Assembly. The importance of pressing home in Africa Israel's position on the Middle East dispute is recognized in Jerusalem, they said. Following the Abidjan meeting, a group of senior officials of the Foreign Ministry will tour the African countries to present Israel's case directly to their leaders.

Israel maintains very friendly relations and trade ties with a number of black African nations such as Ghana, Malawi and Lesoto. In addition, Ethiopia, Gabon and other countries have supported Israel at the UN. On the other hand, African countries leaning toward the Soviet bloc and many of those in the French-speaking group have been influenced by anti-Israel or pro-Arab policies. Israel, it was pointed out here, does not rely on diplomatic representations alone to create goodwill among the African nations but has rendered important technical aid to many of them. Israeli experts are dispersed throughout the continent and many Africans study and get technical training in Israel.

The head of a Histadrut goodwill mission to black Africa reported here that Israel has a favorable image in the African states. Yeruham Meshel told the Histadrut central committee that a number of agreements were signed between local trade unions and Histadrut during the visit of his three-man delegation. The agreements cover mutual aid programs and cooperation in various fields.

### WJC Congress Urges Thant To Reconsider Position On Humanitarian Emissary To Mideast

GENEVA, Aug. 8 (JTA)--The World Jewish Congress today urged United Nations Secretary-General U Thant to reconsider his position that it is not possible to send an emissary to investigate the conditions of Jews in the Arab countries. Mr. Thant contended last week that Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for an humanitarian inquiry into the condition of refugees in the aftermath of the June, 1967 Six-Day War applied only to Arabs in the territories occupied by Israel. He accused Israel of blocking the investigation by insisting that the UN also examine the situation of Jews in the Arab states.

Dr. Maurice L. Perls, director of the WJC's international affairs department, said the organization was deeply distressed by Mr. Thant's statement. He noted that scores of innocent and defenseless people were imprisoned in the Arab countries, often under barbarous conditions, or were deprived of their means of livelihood only because they were Jews. But, he said, the Arab states have refused to permit representatives of the Red Cross or the UN to investigate their condition. The WJC Congress asked Mr. Thant to seek facilities for the emigration of those Jews who want to leave the Arab countries.

### French Jewish Leader Sees Change Ahead In Paris' Attitude Toward Israel

PARIS, Aug. 8 (JTA)--A French-Jewish leader predicted here today that a great change will take place very shortly in French policy toward Israel. Salomon Friedrich, president of the France-Israel Committee, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the men responsible for French foreign policy are concerned about developments in the Arab world and said that the recent bellicose statements by President Nasser of Egypt and President Boumedienne of Algeria have made them "take notice." Mr. Friedrich had just been received by Prime Minister Maurice Couve de Murville and three other French ministers, Rene Capitant, Philippe Decharie and Roger Frey.

He said that the issue of the 50 Mirage jets sold to Israel that France has embargoed is coming to a head and that "friendship between France and Israel will be saved" despite French support of the Arabs in the recent United Nations Security Council debates.

## Tekoah Expresses Optimism On Issue Of Hijacked Plane, Israelis Held In Algeria

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 8 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, told newsmen today that he is more optimistic today than earlier in the week about the release of the El Al Boeing 707 and 12 Israeli crewmen and passengers held in Algeria since July 23. He spoke to newsmen after conferring with Secretary-General U Thant, at Mr. Thant's request, a half hour on the subject of the airplane hijacking.

Mr. Thant informed Mr. Tekoah that he had received a message from Algerian President Houari Boumedienne dealing with the plane issue. Mr. Tekoah told reporters that his "increase in optimism" is a result of the contents of the message. "I am still hopeful" that the issue "will be settled in accord with international law and morality -- to use an Algerian phrase," the Israeli envoy said.

Mr. Tekoah said that according to information he had received, the Israelis are well taken care of in Algeria and there was nothing to warrant concern about their physical state.

An informed source said here that the two pilots representing the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations were on their way back to Algeria today to resume negotiations for release of the plane and Israelis. The pilots, Capt. J. J. O'Grady and Capt. O. L. A. Forsberg, were invited Aug. 6 to return in a telephone call from the Algerian Foreign Office. They had gone back to Britain earlier in the week after consultations with Algerian officials.

## Warsaw Publication Reports Assistance Given To Jews During World War II

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA)--"The heroism with which Poles rallied round the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution" during World War II at the risk of their own lives was hailed in an article published in the official Warsaw English-language magazine Polish Perspectives, copies of which were just received here. The article, based on a series of spring newspaper interviews with Poles who had "tried to help the doomed Jews," quoted Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, an historian and former underground organizer, who said that the entire Polish underground "with the exception of a few small groups of Fascists and riff-raff helped the Jews." However, according to Mr. Bartoszewski, "there was no hope of saving from extermination the mass of Jews confined in the ghettos and camps, just as it was impossible to rescue the hundreds of thousands of Poles imprisoned and done to death on Polish soil."

The article stressed that "Poland was the only country where any assistance to Jews...was punished by death." In spite of this, it said, the Jewish resistance organization received military assistance from the Polish underground "in the shape of arms, ammunition and training." The article quoted Zbigniew Lewandowski, a lecturer at the Warsaw Polytechnic, who said that in the fall of 1942 his unit of the Home Army arranged special courses for the Jewish ghetto fighters "to equip them for the armed revolt they had planned." The article stated that aid to Jews "involved delivering money and forged papers, escorting fugitives, often women and children or making regular deliveries of food to Jewish hideouts."

## Conservative, Reform Jews Urged To Help Alleviate Suffering Of Biafrans

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Conservative and Reform Jews throughout the nation were urged by their leaders today to contribute material and financial support to alleviate the suffering of the people of Biafra, the break-away eastern province of Nigeria which is ravaged by starvation and disease.

Henry N. Rapaport, of Scarsdale, president of the United Synagogue of America, called on the members of its 825 affiliated Conservative congregations to join with others of all faiths to aid the Biafran victims. "As a religious organization we are not concerned with any political factors but entirely for humanitarian considerations we cannot remain silent and neutral," he said.

Rabbi Levi A. Olan, of Dallas, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical group, urged Reform rabbis in the U.S. and Canada to mobilize their congregations for immediate funds "to be used to buy relief for the stricken refugees" of Biafra. "We join all humanitarians whose conscience has been aroused by the desperate situation in Biafra," he said.

## Technion President Says Institution Plans 40 Percent Increase In Student Body

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Plans to expand the Haifa Technion -- Israel Institute of Technology -- the only technical university in the Middle East, were announced here today by Alexander Goldberg, president of the Technion. He said that the institute would increase its student body by 40 percent in the next four years and would expand its departments of aeronautical, chemical, electrical and industrial engineering.

Mr. Goldberg predicted that when peace finally comes to the Middle East, the skills provided at the Technion could be a factor in the improvement of living conditions in all countries of the region. He noted that the Technion has been graduating scientists and engineers for more than 40 years and for much of that time has been aiding developing countries. "Not only do we have students from the emerging nations of Africa and Asia, but we send our own graduates to those countries to instruct them in the skills necessary to build a nation," Mr. Goldberg said.