

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

Wednesday, September 4, 1968

No. 170

Israel Will Free 16 Infiltrators As 'Gesture' For Italy's Hijacking Negotiations

TEL AVIV, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Israel informed the International Red Cross today that 16 detained Arab infiltrators will be released as a "humanitarian gesture" in connection with the release Saturday of the hijacked El Al airliner and its 12 passengers and crewmen held in Algeria since July 23. The Israeli spokesman said the gesture was being made to the Italian Government in recognition of its efforts to bring about the release of the plane and the Israeli nationals.

Italy was singled out by Foreign Minister Abba Eban Sunday for having played the most effective role among the many governments and non-governmental bodies that had been trying to effect the release of the hijacked airliner. The plane was pirated by Palestinian Arab terrorists over Italian territory while on a flight from Rome to Tel Aviv. Italy volunteered to serve as an intermediary in the prolonged negotiations that followed. The Italians reportedly suggested that Israel offer a "humanitarian gesture" to which Israel eventually agreed on condition that the plane and its passengers and crew members would first be returned safely to Israeli hands.

While Israelis were relieved by the safe return of the detainees and the \$7.5 million Boeing aircraft, considerable criticism was voiced over the "gesture" to which the Government had agreed. In some quarters it was regarded as payment of "blackmail" or "ransom." Capt. Baruch Pressman of the Israel Aircrew Association expressed the misgivings of many fliers when he said yesterday that Israel's "gesture" might only encourage future hijackings.

Israel Opens Gates To Czechs; Allon Explains New Immigration Functions

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Israel's gates, which have always been open to Jewish refugees will be opened wider to admit refugees from Soviet-occupied Czechoslovakia, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, it was announced here today. Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon, who heads the new Ministry of Absorption, said that mixed couples and families from Czechoslovakia who wish to settle in Israel would be granted the same rights and privileges accorded all new immigrants. Maj. Gen. Uzzi Narkiss, director general of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department, announced that some 50 Czech students who were in Israel at the time of the Russian take-over have been admitted to an Ulpan for Hebrew studies in Haifa and will be permitted to continue their education in Israel. He said that other "special arrangements" had been made for the Czechs but did not give details.

Gen. Allon, at his first press conference as Minister of Absorption, outlined the division of functions between the new Ministry and the Jewish Agency, which previously had full responsibility for immigrant absorption. He stressed that policies in this area will be laid down jointly by a coordinating body made up of Cabinet members and members of the Jewish Agency Executive. He also noted that as Deputy Prime Minister he has the authority to ask any Government department to coordinate its activities with his directives. The new Ministry began functioning today.

Gen. Allon said that much of the absorption and economic integration of new immigrants will be left in the hands of the Jewish Agency. The three main functions of his ministry will be the promotion of absorption possibilities, actual absorption when the processes are not dealt with by other departments or bodies, and the coordination of absorption functions by Government and Jewish Agency bodies. He said that his ministry will also be responsible for the 6,000 students and youths now in Israel.

The absorption processes will be streamlined by housing all pertinent bureaus and offices under a single roof, Gen. Allon said. The ministry and Jewish Agency departments will be subdivided by geographical origin of the immigrants and by professions or skills. The Investment Authority will also have offices under the same roof to deal with people who have brought capital with them, and the same building will house the labor exchanges which place immigrants in professions or jobs. All ports of entry by sea and air will be staffed jointly by Ministry and Jewish Agency personnel, he said, but the promotion of immigration abroad will remain the sole function of the Jewish Agency. The latter will continue its education for aliyah (immigration) and will pay immigrants' fares to Israel when necessary.

Gen. Allon said that Israel's immigration laws apply equally to wealthy and to poor newcomers alike. Fund-raising organs abroad, he said, will continue to have a say in how the monies are spent. The joint Government-Jewish Agency coordinating body will be headed by Gen. Allon and Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, who will serve as its co-chairmen. The body will have a directorate composed of Gen. Allon; his deputy minister Arye Aliaiv, and Maj. Gen. Yosef Geva, director-general of the Absorption Ministry, all representing the Government; and Mr. Pincus, his deputy Rabbi Mordechai Kirshblum, and Maj. Gen. Uzzi Narkiss, all representing the Jewish Agency. Gen. Allon announced that he is going abroad Thursday to visit several countries including the United States, Great Britain, Denmark and Austria.

See Czech Crisis Strengthening Gomulka Against Moczar, Who Led Anti-Semitic Drive

LONDON, Sept. 3 (JTA)--The occupation of Czechoslovakia has strengthened the position of Prime Minister Wladislaw Gomulka as opposed to Mieczyslaw Moczar, former Minister of Interior and secret police chief whose anti-Jewish policies were more intense than those of Mr. Gomulka during the "anti-Zionist" campaign this year, it was reported here today. The Russian action in Czechoslovakia

was seen by observers as a personal victory for Mr. Gomulka. Mr. Moczar is believed to have been one of the main forces behind the purge campaign last spring, following student demonstrations, which ousted Jews, intellectuals, liberals and others from party ranks and Government jobs. Mr. Gomulka's alignment with the hard-line of the Soviet Union against the Czech reforms has strengthened his political stance in Poland, but it remains to be seen how Poland's remaining Jewish population will be affected in the power struggle between the two Polish leaders, sources said.

Warsaw newspapers published a report from Pap, the official Polish news agency, stating that "Zionist forces are the most important string-pullers of the counter-revolution in Czechoslovakia." They named several Jewish and non-Jewish writers. Among the former were Dr. Eduard Goldstuecker, president of the Czech Writers Union, now a refugee in Vienna.

Israel Promises 'Tough' Policy Before UN Council On Complaint Against Egypt

TEL AVIV, Sept. 3 (JTA)--A "tough as ever" policy by Israel before the United Nations Security Council was promised by Israel's chief delegate to the UN, Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, when he left for New York today to press Israel's complaint against Egypt's alleged violation of the cease-fire in the Suez Canal zone last week. Israel yesterday called for an urgent meeting of the 15-nation body to consider the ambush killing of two Israeli soldiers by Egyptian commandos and the kidnapping of a third soldier. The Council meets Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Mr. Tekoah, who cut short his consultations here to return to UN headquarters, said there was no reason why Israel should change the attitude on cease-fire violations it has adopted until now. Israel considers the Suez incident a "deliberate and planned military attack" that flagrantly violated the June, 1967 cease-fire. So far, Egyptian authorities have disclaimed any knowledge of the incident in which, according to Israeli estimates, at least 30 commandos participated. No Arab guerrilla organizations have claimed responsibility for it.

Israel announced yesterday that three Egyptian soldiers had defected to its side during the past two months. Three persons identified as the deserters were interviewed on Kol Israel radio and urged other Egyptian soldiers to defect. They were identified as Saleh Muhammed Suleyman, Abd el-Munif Abd el-Aziz and Abd el-Latif el-Rahman Kamel. They reportedly deserted separately and said their motivation had been cruel treatment by their superior officers. They also said they objected to the growing Communist influence in Egypt. An Israeli Army unit was attacked by Jordanians near the Umm Tutz pass south of the Beisan Valley early today precipitating an exchange of fire that lasted 30 minutes, a military spokesman reported. Israeli return fire silenced the Jordanian gunners. There were no Israeli casualties. Saboteurs wrecked a telephone pole north of Eilat Monday night but the wires were promptly repaired and there was no interruption of telephone service, a military spokesman reported. El Fatah terrorist leaflets were found in the vicinity.

'Guardian' Reports Rift In Ranks Of Arab Guerrillas Based In Jordan

LONDON, Sept. 3 (JTA)--A rift was reported today in the ranks of Arab guerrillas based in Jordan. The differences are mainly psychological according to the Guardian's correspondent, David Hurst, who contrasted the "professionalism" of Jordanian Army officers enlisted in the so-called Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the "romanticism" of El Fatah members who "grossly exaggerate their exploits and are vulnerable to political manipulation."

Writing from Beirut, Mr. Hurst said "some of Jordan's best Army officers, victims of countless purges, are playing an increasingly important role in the Palestine guerrilla movement and may eventually give it the professional fibre it lacks in large measure." But, Mr. Hurst went on, "the guerrilla movement is fraught with internal conflicts. There is a fundamental antagonism between those who insist on adhering to authentic guerrilla action and those who are willing to stray from it by armed struggle. The officers stand for orthodoxy and are strongest in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Front is hard-headed and canny whereas El Fatah is apt to be naive and romantic. Vulnerability to Israeli attacks may tempt El Fatah to acquire anti-aircraft guns of its own and the ex-army officers of the Popular Front consider this an aberration," Mr. Hurst wrote. He said "politicians are also partly responsible for the most insidious threat of all -- the corrupting effect of propaganda. The guerrillas often grossly exaggerate their exploits...One of their leaders said he was anxious to curb this bad habit because it could eventually deflate Palestinian morale."

Plan To Establish Mount Of Olives Cemetery, In East Jerusalem, As National Shrine

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA)--The Cabinet has decided to designate the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives a national shrine belonging to the people of Israel. The burial ground, which dates back to Biblical times, was desecrated and severely damaged during the 19 years of Jordanian occupation of East Jerusalem. It will be fully repaired and its new status will be established in a law to be presented in the Knesset (Parliament), it was announced. The question of resuming burials in the cemetery has not come up so far. Since its liberation by Israeli forces in the June, 1967 Six-Day War, only a few burials have taken place there, each by special permission of the Chief Rabbinate.

Michael Arnon, former Consul General of Israel in New York, has been named secretary of the Israel Cabinet. His appointment was approved by the Cabinet and will take effect on Sept. 15. He will serve as spokesman for the Government. Mr. Arnon will succeed Mrs. Yael Uzey who has held the post since June, 1962 and who is retiring upon completion of 30 years' service to the Government and the Jewish Agency.

South African Jews Angered By Police-Interior Minister's Admonition To Parents

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 3 (JTA)--South Africa's Jewish community, strongly supported by many non-Jews, is up in arms over remarks by Police and Interior Minister S. L. Muller who reportedly singled out Jewish parents in a warning to keep their offspring from participating in student protests against Government policies. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies rebuffed an appeal from Mr. Muller that it act to restrain Jewish youth. The South African Government meanwhile said it was all a misunderstanding and accused the opposition leaders of trying to create a false impression that the Nationalist Party was anti-Semitic.

That charge was leveled against opposition leaders by Prime Minister Balthazar J. Vorster who said that Mr. Muller's speech and subsequent clarifications spoke for themselves and that he believed responsible members of the Jewish community would take them in the spirit intended. Mr. Muller said his remarks were misunderstood and wrongly interpreted. His appeal, he insisted, was directed to all groups. "I deplore the part played by Afrikaan students in university disturbances as much as Jewish students," said Mr. Muller, who is an Afrikaaner. He reaffirmed what he said was his high regard for the Jewish community.

But non-Jewish and Jewish students donned yellow stars at Witwatersrand University to protest Mr. Muller's speech. Editorials in leading newspapers criticized it and it was deplored by Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper for injecting a Jewish element into the issue of student protests. Reform Rabbi Arthur Super joined with an Anglican chaplain, Father John Davies, in denouncing the minister at a campus meeting. Rabbi Super added that "as a rabbi it is my duty to affirm the right of conscientious protest." The statement of the South African Board of Jewish Deputies declared that "to fasten responsibility on the Jewish community for actions of individual members inevitably furthers anti-Semitism, even if unwittingly." The statement added that "neither the Jewish community nor any other section can be held responsible for any action which individuals take in political fields."

Bonn Denies Egyptian Charge Linking Visit To Israel With Nuclear Cooperation

BONN, Sept. 3 (JTA)--An Egyptian newspaper report linking the forthcoming visit to Israel by West Germany's Minister of Interior Ernst Benda to cooperation between German and Israeli nuclear scientists was denied by a spokesman for the German Ministry today. Mr. Benda will visit Israel from Sept. 9 to 14 and will meet with Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Minister of Interior Moshe Shapiro. He will make the visit in his capacity as president of the German-Israel Friendship Association, according to an announcement here yesterday.

The Cairo newspaper Al-Gomhuria alleged that Mr. Benda would be accompanied by 12 nuclear scientists assigned to cooperate with Israeli nuclear experts and that they were planning nuclear tests. The ministry spokesman said Mr. Benda would be accompanied by only one person, a theologian studying the Old Testament. The travelling companion was identified yesterday, however, as Heinz Westphal, a Social Democratic member of the Bundestag (lower house) who is a vice president of the German-Israel Friendship Association.

In addition to Mr. Benda, Transport Minister Georg Lever will visit Israel on Nov. 1 on the inaugural flight by Lufthansa, the West German airline, between Frankfurt and Tel Aviv. On Nov. 5, Justice Minister Gustav Heinemann will go to Israel for a five-day visit.

Egypt too will have its first official West German visitor since it broke off diplomatic relations with Bonn three years ago following the latter's recognition of Israel. He is Hans Jurgen Wishnewski, Minister for Economic Aid, who will be in Egypt from Sept. 18 to 23. Officially he is going there at the invitation of Dr. Sarwet Okasha, Egyptian Minister of Culture, in connection with the moving of the Temple of Abu Simbel.

CDU Lower Saxony Branch To Probe Electoral Agreement With National Democrats

BONN, Sept. 3 (JTA)--The Lower Saxony branch of the Christian Democratic Union, the party of West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, will launch an investigation of certain members who entered into an electoral agreement with the extreme rightwing National Democratic Party in that north German state. The agreement applies only to a single municipal election but has caused considerable embarrassment to national party leaders because of the NPD's reputation as a neo-Nazi party. Richard Langeheime, parliamentary chairman of the CDU in Lower Saxony, said at a press conference in Hannover that he hoped the investigation would lead to action against those in the party who engineered the agreement. Another party, the Free Democrats, was also involved in the "deal" with the NPD in Lower Saxony. The Union of Metal Workers which opened its congress in Munich yesterday demanded that the NPD be outlawed because its philosophy runs counter to the West German Constitution. Otto Brenner, chairman of the trade union, said in an article in the union paper that the NPD may call itself democratic but its known aims are not in accord with democratic principles.

British Trade Unionists Reaffirm Support For Israel's Demands For Direct Talks

BLACKPOOL, England, Sept. 3 (JTA)--The British Trade Union Congress, marking its centenary year, today reaffirmed its support of Israel's demands for direct peace negotiations with its Arab neighbors leading to mutual recognition and lasting peace. The statement of support was made by TUC leaders to Aharon Becker, secretary-general of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. The British labor officials said their stand remained unchanged after a TUC fact-finding delegation visited Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan. Mr. Becker addressed a session of the TUC yesterday. He invited the organization to send a delegation to Israel to witness the planting of a Trade Union Congress forest in the hills near Jerusalem. He said the forest will represent a tribute to the TUC on the occasion of its centenary.

Hirschmann Charges UNRWA Supporting 'Nonexistent' Refugees With U.S. Tax Dollars

NEW YORK, Sept. 3 (JTA)--A specialist on refugee affairs charged in an article published in Look magazine today that a United Nations agency is supporting as many as 500,000 "nonexistent ghost" refugees with American tax dollars. Ira Hirschmann, who was authorized by the State Department to investigate the Arab refugee problem, said that UNRWA (United Nations Relief And Works Agency for Palestinian Arab Refugees) has been duped out of millions of U.S. tax dollars by Arab families and UNRWA officials who contributed to highly inflated refugee population figures by failing to report deaths in the refugee camps, false registrations and black market ration cards.

Mr. Hirschmann's article noted that, over the past 20 years, UNRWA funds have been supplied largely by the United States Congress which has authorized \$400 million for the agency, nearly two-thirds of its budget. But UNRWA has "failed almost completely" in its original assignment of rehabilitating refugees, Mr. Hirschmann said. "Its bureaucracy of 12,000 employees is merely perpetuating itself in Jordan, Gaza, Lebanon and Syria, and the suffering of the Arab refugees is perpetuated so that the Arab countries can continue to raise the refugee issue." Mr. Hirschmann recalled that the refugee scandal was revealed after the June, 1967 Six-Day War when Israeli census takers were able to make an accurate count of refugees now in camps inside Israel-occupied territory. The census revealed that "somewhere between 200,000 and 500,000 refugees of the total of 1.3 million are non-existent ghosts, many of whom still receive UNRWA aid."

Found Guilty Of Anti-Semitism In Seeking To Bar Sale Of House To Jews

NEWARK, N.J., Sept. 3 (JTA)--The attorney for a New Jersey businessman found guilty of anti-Semitic bias in the first case of its kind in the state plans to appeal the decision. John C. McDonough of Essex Fells was found guilty by the State Division on Civil Rights of violating the state's law against discrimination after a hearing on charges that he had used anti-Semitic pressures to prevent sale of a house next door to his to a Jewish family. The case was the first in which a person not directly involved in the sale of a house was so charged in New Jersey. The ruling, issued by George Pfau, the division director, on Aug. 18, ordered the defendant to "cease and desist" from conduct "amounting to such unlawful discrimination." Mr. McDonough was accused by a Newark attorney, Myron S. Lehman, of acting to prevent sale to the Lehman family of a house owned by Christian Heidt.

Mr. McDonough said at the hearing that he did not know the meaning of anti-Semitism and that two key executives in his business, several of his buyers and "many of my friends" were Jewish. He admitted telephoning Mrs. Heidt but only to ask whether the Lehmans had young children. Myron Levin, housing supervisor for the division, said no effort had been made to fine Mr. McDonough because a case was still pending to determine whether the division had that power. Thomas Durkin, Mr. McDonough's attorney, said he would appeal on grounds that the Civil Rights Division has no enforcement powers. He said he also was critical of the handling of the case by Mr. Pfau, who has since resigned to take a Federal Government post.

Torah Umesorah Predicts Over 70,000 Will Be Enrolled In All-Day Schools

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 (JTA)--The Torah Umesorah, the national society for Hebrew day schools, predicted today that more than 70,000 pupils will be enrolled in the 387 all-day Hebrew schools in the United States and Canada when they open their doors for the fall term. According to a report issued by Samuel C. Feuerstein, president, and Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, national director of the society, at least 10 of the schools are new ones. Of the 10, the report said, seven are on the high school level and four are for girls exclusively.

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College To Open With 17 Students, 8 On Faculty

NEW YORK, Sept. 3 (JTA)--The newly established Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia will open its first academic year in October with a roster of 17 students and a faculty of eight rabbis and scholars, it was announced today by Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, president of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation, sponsor of the college. Rabbi Arthur Gilbert, of New York, assistant to Rabbi Eisenstein, has been appointed dean of the new college.

DePaul University, A Catholic Institution, Opens Full Department of Jewish Studies

CHICAGO, Sept. 3 (JTA)--DePaul University here has become the first Catholic educational institution in the United States to open a complete department of Jewish studies, it was announced today. The department will be inaugurated at the beginning of the 1968-69 academic year under a reciprocal agreement with the College of Jewish Studies which will offer a program of Judaic studies to students enrolled at DePaul. The College of Jewish Studies is an undergraduate institution specializing in four year degree programs of Judaic and Hebraic subjects.

McGill University Introducing New Program With Aid From Montreal Jewry

MONTREAL, Sept. 3 (JTA)--Recognition of Jewish contributions to Western culture is one of the aims of the new program of Jewish studies inaugurated at McGill University with financial assistance from the Montreal Jewish community, the chairman of the program said today. According to Dr. Harry Bracken, professor of philosophy, Jewish contributions "have yet to receive their due and they have not had proper attention in our universities." Dr. Bracken said that although isolated courses in Jewish studies are offered at other Canadian universities, it appears that McGill is the first to offer a comprehensive course. It will cover such areas as literature, history and philosophy. It is estimated that 100 students will enroll this year.