

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Thursday, October 10, 1968

No. 193

## Johnson Instructs Rusk To Begin Sale Of 'Supersonic' Aircraft To Israel

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (JTA)--President Johnson instructed Secretary of State Dean Rusk today to start negotiations on the sale of supersonic jet fighter-bombers to Israel, a military item long sought by Israel. Mr. Johnson made his decision known while signing the Foreign Aid Authorization Bill. He referred to a section of it — the Halpern-Wolff amendment — that urged him to provide Israel with the "supersonic" military aircraft.

Mr. Johnson did not specify whether he meant the F-4 Phantom jets long sought by Israel or some other supersonic plane in the United States arsenal. Among such planes is the F-104 Starfighter, which the U.S. has sold to Jordan and West Germany. The Israel Embassy here said, however, that it was convinced that the President had the Phantom in mind.

President Johnson said "I have taken note of (the amendment) concerning the sale of planes to Israel. I am asking the Secretary of State to initiate negotiations with the Government of Israel and report back to me." The Israel Embassy here was notified today that negotiations for the jets will begin immediately, a spokesman said.

Mr. Johnson did not indicate specifically that he had made a final decision to sell the planes to Israel. Mr. Johnson is leaving all the negotiation details to Mr. Rusk, it was understood.

The President's action followed many months of pleading by political parties, leading trade unions, veterans organizations, and virtually every major Jewish organization for Phantoms for Israel. Presidential candidates Hubert H. Humphrey, Richard M. Nixon and George Wallace are all on record favoring such a transaction.

Mr. Johnson declared that his decision was based on a joint resolution of Congress last August calling for the sale of "supersonic" jets to Israel. When that bill passed the Senate, it stated: "It is the sense of Congress that the President should take such steps as may be necessary, as soon as practicable...to negotiate an agreement with the Government of Israel providing for the sale by the U.S. 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."

Israel has maintained that it needs 50 F-4 Phantoms, a principal plane in the U.S. Air Force arsenal in Vietnam, to counterbalance the flow of Soviet planes to Egypt. French-made Mirage jets have been a mainstay of the Israeli Air Force, but 50 Mirages bought and paid for by the Israel Government in France have been held up since the de Gaulle Government imposed an embargo on Middle East arms shipments after the Six-Day War.

Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin termed the White House announcement "a contribution to peace and stability." He said he hoped it would indicate to the enemies of Israel that there was no point in the arms race. He said the acquisition of supersonic jets would help Israel show her determination to avert war by preparations that would deter aggression. Mr. Rabin said he had confidence in the U.S. Government and that this confidence had been justified by today's development.

The Soviet Union has promised Egypt new and more advanced missiles and jets, according to recent reports. These reportedly include MIG-23s, Russia's latest strike jet aircraft, and offensive rocket launchers. Cairo was reported to be pressing Moscow for SU-7 all-weather supersonic fighter-bombers. More supplies of modern Soviet arms are also reportedly going to Syria and Yemen.

## Recall Communique Issued After January Meeting

Following a meeting between Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and President Johnson at the LBJ Ranch in Texas on Jan. 8, a joint communique said that "the President agrees to keep Israel's military defense capability under active and sympathetic examination and review, in the light of all relevant factors, including the shipment of military equipment by others to the area." The communique also stated that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Eshkol "considered the implications of the pace of rearmament in the Middle East and the ways and means of coping with the situation."

A White House spokesman later refused to confirm that the President's statement pertained to the Phantom jets. He said he would not go beyond the President's wording referring to "supersonic" aircraft. This did not exclude the Phantom but neither did it confirm that it was the plane under consideration.

Officials of the Douglas-McDonnell Co. told JTA that they had reports of the White House announcement but nothing to confirm that it was the Phantom that the U.S. Government might sell to Israel. It was explained that the company does not sell directly to foreign governments. Sales are made to U.S. Navy Air System Procurement Command. It is the U.S. Government that actually transfers the planes to foreign ownership. The Phantom has been delivered to the United Kingdom and is now used by the Royal Air Force. Over 3,000 Phantoms have been delivered to the U.S. Navy. Rear Admiral R. L. Townsend, commander of the Navy Air Systems Command, called the Phantom "the greatest plane in military service today." The 50 Phantoms sought by Israel would cost approximately \$200 million.

### Airplanes Could Be Delivered Before 1970

The Phantom delivery dates, if the sale is consummated, would depend solely upon the U.S. Government. The Douglas-McDonnell Co. said its manufacturing schedule was up to date. The company indicated that it was untrue, as some Congressmen have said, that it would take until 1970 to produce and deliver the planes. Timing would be in the hands of the Navy procurement officers. Earlier delivery than 1970 would be possible.

The Phantom is rated as a Mach 2-plus jet fighter-bomber — capable of flying at twice the speed of sound. It holds 15 world speed and altitude records. The plane has achieved a top speed of 1,606 miles per hour. Its maximum altitude is 98,557 feet. The Phantom can ascend from the end of the runway to 12,000 meters in 77.15 seconds. It is a twin engine, all-weather aircraft, and requires a two-man crew. The range of the Phantom is rated at 900 miles for air-to-air interception, 1,000 miles for bombing missions, and 2,000 miles for ferrying. A versatile plane, the Phantom can carry up to eight tons of armaments. This could include bombs, napalm, mines, rockets, or missiles. Air Force Phantoms in Vietnam are armed with four Sparrow missiles and infra-red heat-seeking Sidewinder missiles. The Sparrow is radar-guided. It is not known whether the U.S. would agree to sell these weapons systems to Israel with the basic aircraft. Israeli pilots and mechanics could be trained at either the Douglas-McDonnell factory or at U.S. military bases.

### **Rene Cassin, Alliance Israelite Universelle President, Wins Nobel Peace Prize**

PARIS, Oct. 9 (JTA)--The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded today to 81-year-old Prof. Rene Cassin, president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle in Paris and a well-known figure in world Jewish affairs. News of the award came from Oslo where the prize was conferred on Prof. Cassin by the Norwegian Parliament. The occasion for the grant was not specified but it is believed to be in recognition of Prof. Cassin's long career as a champion of peace and human rights.

The recipient is a law graduate from the University of Aix and was one of the first Frenchmen to join Gen. Charles de Gaulle when he established his Free French Government in London on June 20, 1940. Immediately after the war, Prof. Cassin represented France on the War Crimes Commission and was later one of the main sponsors of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. In recent years he has been active in international law and in human rights causes in Europe and Africa. Prof. Cassin is chairman of the European Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg and a former chairman of the UN Commission on Human Rights. He is honorary president of the French Council of State, which is comparable to the United States Supreme Court.

### **Hand Grenade Hurlled By Arab Terrorists, Explodes At Tomb, Injuring 39 Israelis**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 9 (JTA)--A hand grenade hurled by Arab terrorists exploded on steps leading to the Patriarchs' Tomb in Hebron today injuring 39 Jews who were praying at the site. Five were seriously hurt and were rushed to the Hadassah and Shaarey Zedek hospitals in Jerusalem. The other injured were reported out of danger. A live grenade found nearby was dismantled.

The explosion occurred at 4:15 p.m. local time, when the tomb and the Ibrahim Mosque that stands above it are open to Jewish visitors and worshippers. There were no Moslem prayers going on in the mosque at the time. Civilians and soldiers on the square below the mosque helped evacuate the wounded and lifted them into ambulances. The most seriously hurt were flown by helicopter to Jerusalem for hospitalization.

The square is a shopping center, mainly for tourists. Within minutes after the explosion, Arab shopkeepers closed their shutters as bands of angered Israeli youths began to roam the streets in search of reprisal victims. Several young Arabs were beaten before police and military personnel restored order. The mosque area was sealed off tonight as police began a house-to-house search through the old market quarter of Hebron.

The grenade attack was the third terrorist assault on civilians in less than two months. Early last month, time bombs went off in the heart of downtown Jerusalem, injuring a dozen persons. Two weeks later, grenades exploded in the Tel Aviv central bus station, killing one man and injuring several civilians.

Ill feelings were generated in Hebron recently in a controversy over the rights of Jews to hold prayer services at the Patriarchs' Tomb. Israel's Defense Minister, Gen. Moshe Dayan, intervened personally and arranged with Moslem elders to permit Jews to hold Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at the site.

### **Yadin Tells Of Finding Tefilin Box In Qumran Caves Near Dead Sea Scrolls Site**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Prof. Yigael Yadin, former Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces and one of the country's leading archeologists, today described a new find in the Qumran caves near the Dead Sea not far from where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered more than 20 years ago. Gen. Yadin spoke at a meeting which dealt with military and archeological aspects of southern Israel and the Sinai. Prof. Yadin said a tefilin (phylacteries) box was found in one of the caves. Ceremonial blessings were inscribed on animal hide in the style used now by the Rashi tefilin. He shared the platform with Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon, who described Israel's three penetrations of the Sinai — in 1948, 1956 and 1967. He recalled the drive he led in the first war which captured Abu Ageila and the El Arish airport. But Israeli troops were ordered pulled back under international pressure. If there had been no retreat in 1948 there may have been no wars in 1956 and 1967, he said.

## West Berlin Mayor Defends Appeal To Allies To Bar National Democratic Party

BONN, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Mayor Klaus Schutz of West Berlin today defended his city's appeal to the post-war Allied occupying powers to bar the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party from establishing a branch there. In an interview published in the magazine, Die Welt, Mayor Schutz said "we cannot wait for a decision by the Federal Government. We had to ask the Allies to take a decision on the NPD."

The appeal to ban the reputedly neo-Nazi party from West Berlin was contained in a letter from Mayor Schutz to the commandants of the United States, British and French occupation forces. The letter was sent with the approval of the Berlin Senate (city government) but it aroused criticism in Bonn political circles which maintained that any action against the NPD should be uniform throughout West Germany, not piecemeal. The Federal Government has proposed a ban on the party but must first argue its case before the Constitutional High Court in Karlsruhe.

## Resistance-Deportees Movement Demands Abolition Of Statute Of Limitations

BONN, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Complete abolition of the statute of limitations on German war crimes prosecutions was demanded today by the International Federation of Resistance Movement and Deportees. Candido Rosapi, of Italy, president of the organization, said he discussed the statute and matters relating to neo-Nazi manifestations in West Germany at a meeting today with Minister of Interior Ernst Benda and Dr. Kurt Ehmke, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

According to Mr. Rosapi, Dr. Benda and Dr. Ehmke both agreed that the statute should be abolished and the Minister of Interior promised to submit proposals to that effect to the Bonn Government at the end of this month. Mr. Rosapi said his group opposed a mere extension of the period before the statute goes into effect. It is scheduled to become effective at the end of 1969 after which the prosecution of Nazi war criminals charged with murder will be barred. Mr. Rosapi said that if the statute stands, it would be impossible to examine all of the evidence already in hand, let alone the new evidence just turned over to West Germany by the Russians and East Germans. He said that he and the five members of his organization's actions committee also discussed the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party and the pro-Nazi newspaper, Deutsche National und Soldaten Zeitung, with the ministry officials. They also criticized what they considered to be mild sentences meted out to convicted war criminals by German courts.

## Murder Trial Of Franz Paul Stangl, Extradited From Brazil To Start Soon

BONN, Oct. 9 (JTA)--The trial of Franz Paul Stangl, a Nazi accused of mass murder in the Sobibor concentration camp during World War II, is expected to open here shortly, it was reported today. Stangl, who had been hiding out in Brazil, was extradited to West Germany in April, 1967.

## United States Considers Eban Speech 'Important' And Terms It 'Constructive'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 9 (JTA)--The United States considers Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban's nine-point peace program, presented to the General Assembly yesterday, an "important" one, a U.S. spokesman said here today. The speech was under study, he said.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said the U.S. "considers it highly important that the parties (to the Middle East conflict) make every effort to advance to a successful conclusion the discussions being held under Ambassador (Gunnar V.) Jarring's auspices." He said that the U.S. "notes Mr. Eban's assurance that Israel will cooperate in this task."

A central point in Mr. Eban's peace program was a declaration of readiness to replace cease-fire lines by permanent, secure and recognized boundaries and to carry out disposition of forces in full accord with boundaries agreed under a final peace.

In Washington, the State Department, commenting on Mr. Eban's speech, said that it was "constructive" and that there was satisfaction that he promised cooperation with UN peace envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring and moved away to some extent from insistence on direct peace talks. The Eban address was regarded as basically a restatement with some amplification of previous Israeli positions. U.S. authorities noted what they considered progressive proposals on the Arab refugee issue and ideas that provided a wedge for reopening the Jerusalem issue.

## Jerusalem Political Observers Say One Objective Was To Give Jarring More Time

JERUSALEM, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Political observers said here today that one of the major objectives of Foreign Minister Eban's speech was to give Dr. Jarring an additional breathing spell for new attempts to bring the Arabs and Israelis together for peace talks. They pointed out that the only new point in Mr. Eban's address was his disclosure that Israel is prepared to speed up the family reunion program under which Palestinian refugees in Jordan may rejoin their families on the West Bank. Israel will also grant West Bank entry permits to Arabs who did not submit questionnaires under the original "operation refugee" program last summer. At that time, Israel issued 21,000 permits but only 9,000 Arabs returned to their original homes.

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 9 (JTA)--The Cairo semi-official newspaper Al Ahram reported here today that Secretary-General U Thant's personal Middle East peace representative, Dr. Jarring, has asked Mr. Thant to relieve him of his duties as of Nov. 8. A UN spokesman said there

is no thrust to the report that Dr. Jarring has resigned or requested to resign. Diplomatic observers here, however, commented that if Dr. Jarring has indeed so acted, his move was a tactic to pressure the Israelis and Arabs to demonstrate to him that there is some movement toward peace.

There was an implication in comments made yesterday to the press by the new United States Ambassador to the UN, J. R. Wiggins, that Dr. Jarring may be contemplating the end of his mission. Mr. Wiggins said that Dr. Jarring, whom he saw for the first time yesterday morning, was "justifiably anxious" to see some "movement." Mr. Wiggins said that Dr. Jarring "has separated himself from his family and from his official post (Sweden's envoy to Russia), and it would seem to me that it would be inevitable that he would not wish to protract such an exercise interminably and indefinitely in the absence of concrete and definite signs of progress."

### Friends And Admirers Pay Tribute To Ben-Gurion On Birthday, Hear Biblical Lecture

SDE BOKER, Israel, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Scores of friends and admirers flocked to this tiny desert town today to pay tribute to David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, who celebrated his 82nd birthday by lecturing on Biblical subjects at the Sde Boker school.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, a widower now and at least officially out of politics, spent the day among close friends of the Bible Circle which used to meet in the Ben-Gurions' Tel Aviv home or in the Jerusalem home of the late Itzhak Ben-Zvi when the latter was Israel's President. Later, speaking in the school which overlooks the grave of his wife, Paula, Mr. Ben-Gurion discoursed on Moses, David and Elijah. Moses was right, he declared, when he said that the Jews are a genuine and unique nation. Then, applying the Biblical lesson in an oblique criticism of the Government of his political foe, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Mr. Ben-Gurion said: "Israel has all the characteristics of a unique nation. We have a unique army. What we need is a special and extraordinary Government. Without such a Government we shall not survive."

### President Shazar Holds Succot Open House For 10,000, Greets Moslems, Christians

JERUSALEM, Oct. 9 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar of Israel held open house yesterday and was visited by more than 10,000 people -- Jews, Moslems and Christians -- from all over Israel. It was a holiday tradition, coinciding with the Succot pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

The President was greeted by new immigrants from villages around Jerusalem, by Arabs and Jews from Hebron, by East Jerusalemites and Druze tribesmen from the Golan Heights, and by representatives of the various Christian minorities. Israelis came by the thousands, on pilgrimages organized by the Israel Information Service and Histadrut, the labor federation. The latter brought 135 busloads of pilgrims to the capital. Shiekh Jaber Muadi, an Arab member of the Knesset (Parliament), addressed the President on behalf of Israeli Arabs.

### La Prensa Says It Is Probable That Extremists Set Fire To Israeli, U.S. Exhibits

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Latin America's largest newspaper, La Prensa, declared in an editorial today that there are more than sufficient grounds to believe that anti-Jewish and anti-American extremist organizations are responsible for the fires that destroyed Israeli and United States exhibits in Buenos Aires in recent weeks.

The newspaper referred to the destruction of Israel's \$2 million industrial exhibit on the Buenos Aires fair grounds two weeks ago and the earlier destruction of an American "Atoms for Peace" exhibit on the campus of Cordoba University here. The paper attributed both fires to incendiary bombs and said the case for sabotage was strong even though none of the perpetrators has been identified yet.

La Prensa's editorial in effect contradicted a statement by Argentine Minister of Interior Guillermo Borda who said a week ago that there was insufficient evidence to link the fire at the Israeli pavilion to a criminal act. The DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, has taken issue with Dr. Borda's conclusions.

### Dayan Says Sinai And Golan Heights Are Vital To Maintenance Of Israeli Security

TEL AVIV, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan said yesterday that the Sinai Peninsula is as vital to Israel's security as the Golan Heights of Syria. Until its capture by Israeli forces in the June, 1967 war, the Golan Heights provided a stronghold from which Syrian gunners could fire at will on Israeli settlements and farmlands in the valley below. "Any child can understand how vitally important Golan is for Israel," Gen. Dayan said at the annual meeting of the Israel Exploration Society in Ashkelon. "But most people do not understand that the Sinai and especially the Straits of Tiran are equally important to our strategic security," he said.

### Ben-Gurion, Allon At Palmach Unveiling

BEERSHEVA, Oct. 9 (JTA)--Several hundred former members of Palmach, the commando arm of Israel's defense forces during the 1948 war for independence, joined former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon here today for the unveiling of a monument in honor of the Palmach units that fought in the Negev.