

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

Monday, October 14, 1968

No. 195

West Bank Arabs Will Send Delegation To Amman To Seek Halt Of Terrorism

JERUSALEM, Oct. 13 (JTA)--A group of West Bank Arab leaders decided yesterday to send a five-man delegation to Amman to meet with terrorist leaders to halt their activities on the West Bank. The decision was taken at a meeting of some 200 elders of Hebron and surrounding villages, chaired by Hebron's mayor, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Jaabari. The meeting was called in the aftermath of last week's grenade explosion at the Patriarchs' Tomb which injured 47 Jewish visitors and worshippers. Israeli soldiers have blown up seven buildings in Hebron used by terrorists believed to be implicated in the grenade incident. The Arab leaders said in a resolution adopted at their meeting that they were caught "between hammer and anvil" and feared that further acts of terrorism and Israeli reprisals would make it impossible for peaceful Arabs to live on the West Bank. Schools at Nablus, a West Bank town north of Hebron, went on strike yesterday in protest against the demolition of the buildings in Hebron.

The Hebron meeting was attended by Moslem religious and civic leaders, among them former Jordanian senators and members of Parliament. Only three present opposed the idea of an appeal to the terrorist leaders but many others doubted that it would have any effect. The assembly condemned the grenade attack on civilians and the reprisals taken by Israel. They also voiced disapproval of the new security measures instituted by Israeli authorities around the Patriarchs' Tomb which is located inside the compound of the Ibrahim Mosque. These call for opening a separate entrance for Jewish worshippers on the east side of the Mosque where there is more open space than on the west side. The stairway on the west side, used by both Moslems and Jews, was the scene of the grenade blast. In order to clear the east entrance, Israeli authorities have ordered several home owners nearby to leave. They were promised housing in buildings abandoned by Hebronites who fled to Jordan.

Meanwhile, 11 more Arabs were detained in Hebron and one in East Jerusalem in the continuing investigation into terrorist tactics which have led to planting of explosives in major Israeli cities. Police announced the arrest of the last of the four Arabs who took part in a bombing of the Tel Aviv central bus depot last month. Police said that the 17-year-old Hebron high school youth arrested in the tomb blast, Addin Rashid Geit, told them he had been employed as a saboteur for 20 Jordanian dinars (\$60) a month plus 50 additional dinars (\$150) for each act of sabotage.

Expect Rusk-Rabin Jet Talks This Week; Military Authority Sees 'Stalling Play'

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman said Friday that Secretary of State Dean Rusk will probably meet with Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin this week to discuss arrangements for the negotiations that President Johnson directed Mr. Rusk to open with Israel for the sale of American supersonic military aircraft to that country. But a Washington columnist considered an authority on U.S. military affairs charged that the Johnson directive was a "stalling play" prompted by election-year politics and expressed doubt that Israel would receive the jet planes from this Administration.

According to Robert J. McCloskey, the Department spokesman, the Rusk-Rabin meeting would probably deal with such details as when and where to begin actual negotiations and at what level the talks should be conducted. Other Department officials have explained that detailed deliberations were necessary to establish Israel's needs with respect to the number and type of jets and terms and conditions of sale. Israel has requested 50 F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers, considered to be the best fully operational aircraft of its type in the American arsenal. President Johnson's announcement directing negotiations did not specify what type of plane was involved but observers here are virtually certain that he had the Phantoms in mind.

Col. Robert S. Allen, a syndicated columnist who is known to have access to the highest U.S. military circles, claimed that the Johnson announcement was "largely window dressing" and actually means very little. Col. Allen, who has long advocated the supply of Phantoms to Israel, noted that there was nothing in the President's announcement that "commits him to approve the sale...He did not even put a time limit on the duration of the so-called negotiations." The columnist pointed out that "as the President has only three more months in office, it would not be too difficult for the State Department to prolong negotiations beyond that time. The election is one month off and on the basis of Johnson's record on this issue, the odds are against his authorizing a sale." Col. Allen said the President's announcement was made under political pressure for some sort of gesture. The sale of Phantom jets to Israel has been urged by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Richard M. Nixon, the Democratic and Republican Presidential nominees, and by leading Senators and Representatives of both parties. Col. Allen wrote, "there is virtually nothing to negotiate...All that stands in the way of a sales agreement is the President's authorizing of an export license for the planes."

(In Haifa, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon said he expected negotiations for the projected sale of Phantom jet planes to Israel to begin soon and that the talks would deal with such specifics as payments and delivery details.)

UN Committee OKs Amended Text Of Convention Barring Time Limit On War Trials

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 13 (JTA)--The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) of the United Nations General Assembly has approved an amended text of a 10-article draft convention that would bar any time limit being set on the prosecution and punishment of

war criminals and others committing crimes against humanity. The article was adopted by a roll-call vote of 59 to 10 with 27 abstentions.

It was declared that no statutory limit shall apply to the following crimes, regardless of when committed: War crimes as defined in the charter of the Nuremberg International Tribunal of Aug. 8, 1945 and crimes against humanity whether committed during war or peace as defined in that charter, including eviction by armed attack or occupation and inhuman acts resulting from apartheid or genocide "even if such acts do not constitute a violation of the domestic law of the country in which committed."

Adoption of the article by the Assembly, it is believed by some observers, may affect the status of the statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals accused of murder which is scheduled to go into effect in West Germany on Dec. 31, 1969. There is a large body of opinion inside of Germany and abroad which holds that the statute should be postponed if not abolished altogether. But indications have been that the Bundestag, West Germany's lower house, is inclined to let the statute apply, unless some declaration against it was made by the UN.

U.S. Said To Be Concerned Over Reported Soviet-Egyptian Arms, Diplomatic Agreement

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (JTA)--United States officials were said yesterday to be increasingly concerned over reports, from unidentified pro-Israeli sources, of a major new Soviet arms agreement with Egypt and pledges of diplomatic support to achieve an eventual Arab victory over Israel in the form of a political solution of the Middle East conflict.

According to the New York Times, sources whose previous reports have been described as "strikingly accurate" said the arms deal calls among other things for the delivery to Egypt by mid-1969 of 100-150 supersonic SU-7 and MIG-21 jet fighters and 500 tanks equally divided between T-54s and T-55s, the latter with an infra-red guidance system that helps direct accurate artillery fire up to 1200-yard ranges. The pro-Israeli sources have stressed that the Soviet-Egyptian arms deal was not and never has been contingent on the American supply of F-4 Phantom jets to Israel; they describe it as "part of a long range Soviet penetration of the Arab world" and claim that it would have come about whatever the U.S. did with regard to Israel, the Times reported.

The pro-Israel sources and other diplomatic sources with long experience in the Middle East were said to believe that while the Soviet Union is willing to reach pragmatic agreements to avoid a confrontation with the U.S. in other areas, it shows no signs of agreeing to peace in the Middle East and similar underdeveloped regions where it believes it can expand its influence faster than the U.S. could contain it.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko have met in New York where both were present for the 23rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. President Johnson's announcement last week that he has directed Mr. Rusk to initiate negotiations with Israel for the sale of American supersonic military aircraft was seen here as a sign that Mr. Gromyko rejected any cooperation with the U.S. to limit arms shipments to the Middle East until Israel evacuates the Sinai Peninsula and other territories it occupied in the June, 1967 war, the Times reported.

Following the Rusk-Gromyko talks, details of a four-point Soviet-Egyptian military-political accord have begun to emerge. According to the pro-Israeli sources, the Soviets will supply Egypt with armed forces "sufficient to help retrieve, within two to five years, all territory lost to Israel in June, 1967." There was also agreement, these sources said, to collaborate in seeking a political solution that would constitute an Arab victory despite some minor concessions for world opinion. In return, Egypt would grant the Soviet Union permission to use Egyptian territory as a base for political and military expansion in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean. The Soviets, in addition, would continue to back Arab guerrilla warfare against Israel including long range penetration, sabotage and espionage, the Times' sources said.

Ida Kaminska Will Visit U.S. And Return To Israel When Yiddish Theater Available

TEL AVIV, Oct. 13 (JTA)--Ida Kaminska, the director of Poland's now defunct state-sponsored Yiddish theater, left Israel today for the United States with a promise to return here permanently as soon as proper facilities are available for a Yiddish theater. Miss Kaminska and her husband left Poland last August in face of a renewed anti-Semitic campaign by the Warsaw Government following its participation in the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. They spent some time in Vienna prior to coming to Israel to visit relatives. Miss Kaminska indicated that the theater facilities she wants are in the process of being established and hopes was expressed that she would return to Israel soon.

Israelis Prepared To Celebrate Simhat Torah With Street Festivities

JERUSALEM, Oct. 13 (JTA)--Israelis prepared today to celebrate the Simhat Torah festival with processions through the streets and traditional singing and dancing in the main squares of the city. Simhat Torah marks the reading of the last portion of the Torah and the first portion immediately afterwards to renew the annual cycle. Large crowds are expected and the religious youth organizations obtained police permission to march through the streets tonight bearing the Torah. A second "hakafot," traditional march with the Torah, will be held tomorrow night to mark the close of the holiday. At the request of authorities, the religious groups moved the site from the crowded square near the Jaffa Gate to a large parking lot near the Hechel Shlomo, headquarters of Israel's Chief Rabbinate.

El Al Announces It Will Buy Another Boeing 707, Bringing Its Fleet To 10

JERUSALEM, Oct. 13 (JTA)--El Al officials said today the airline will acquire another Boeing 707 airliner due to be delivered here in February 1970. The new plane will bring to 10 the number of Boeings in the airline. In 1971, El Al will receive its first Boeing 747, which carries 490 passengers.

Over 2,250 Czechoslovakian Refugees Have Sought JDC Aid In Vienna Since Invasion

VIENNA, Oct. 13 (JTA)--More than 2,250 Jewish refugees from Czechoslovakia have applied to the Joint Distribution Committee for help since the August Warsaw Pact invasion and several hundred have been helped to leave here and settle overseas. A JDC spokesman reported that the JDC was still providing regular welfare aid to 1,400 of the refugees. He also told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the cost of aid to Czech Jewish refugees had already exceeded the \$200,000 which was the emergency appropriation made in September.

The Czech situation and other refugee emergencies were reviewed at a conference of American and European Jewish welfare leaders from the JDC, United Jewish Appeal and the European Council of Jewish Community Services. Hias representatives also attended the parley, the first at which American and European Jewish leaders met to jointly assess Jewish welfare needs. The conference was told that the movement of Jews from Czechoslovakia reached its peak in mid-September when more than 100 new applicants reported daily at the JDC offices here. The conference also was told that the Czech situation was only the latest in a series of refugee crises since the end of World War II and that some 220,000 Jewish trans-migrants had passed through Vienna since 1945.

Secretary-General Thant Salutes Posthumous Award Of Nansen Medal To Jordan

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 13 (JTA)--Secretary-General U Thant yesterday saluted the posthumous award of the Fridtjof Nansen Medal to Charles H Jordan in recognition of his life's work on behalf of refugees. The medal was presented to Mr. Jordan's widow Thursday by Prince Sadruddin Aga Kahn, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in ceremonies at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Mr. Thant said in his message: "On the occasion of the award of the Nansen Medal for 1968, made in remembrance of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Nansen Award Committee annually honors a great benefactor of humanity. It is only fitting that this year the commission has decided to honor the memory of (Mr.) Jordan and to pay tribute to his lasting work on behalf of refugees. Mr. Jordan was, at the time of his death in August, 1967, director-general of the overseas services of the American Joint Distribution Committee and chairman of the Refugee Commission of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies. This award is a token of appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Jordan's devotion to the cause of refugees."

Mr. Jordan died under mysterious circumstances in Prague in August, 1967 while visiting there with his wife. The case remains unsolved.

Argentina Human Relations Seminar Told Anti-Semitic Incidents Have Declined

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 13 (JTA)--A three-day seminar on human relations was held here with the participation of delegates representing Jewish organizations in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and the United States. The gathering, organized by the Argentine Jewish Institute for Culture and Information, was the first of its kind on the continent. Its opening session took up a problem that has been the source of growing concern among Latin American Jewry -- anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiments.

Participants from the U.S. included Dr. Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, and Dr. Simon Segal, director of the AJCommittee's foreign affairs department. Another speaker was Father Jorge Mejia, chairman of the department for ecumenism of the Latin American Ecumenical Council. Father Mejia's group is interested in furthering Judeo-Christian dialogues and is studying revisions in Christian religious texts where anti-Jewish bias is found. He urged patience and understanding on the part of Christians and trust on the part of Jews.

The seminar was told that anti-Semitic incidents in Argentina have declined sharply in the past two years despite recent swastika daubings on Jewish cemetery walls and a fire, attributed by Jewish organizations to terrorists, that destroyed the \$2 million Israel pavilion at the international trade fair in Buenos Aires on Sept. 24. During the past year of President Juan Ongania's regime, only a half dozen serious incidents have been recorded compared to more than 100 during the regime of his predecessor, President Arturo Illia. But, Dr. Segal noted, "under the Illia Administration there were a few Jews holding Government positions and now there do not seem to be any." Delegates from Chile reported that Jews there are concerned with an alleged increase of anti-Israel commentary by the Marxist press. Uruguayan Jews said they were worried about political upheavals in their country because "as a minority we are the first to suffer whenever there is turmoil."

Kollek Officiates At Naming Of 'Israel Square' In Copenhagen Ceremony

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 13 (JTA)--Jerusalem, a city built on hills, and Copenhagen, a city on the sea, were united symbolically Friday when "Israel Square" was officially named in the heart of the Danish capital. The naming was performed by Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem who will officiate at a later date when "Copenhagen Square" is dedicated in Jerusalem. The events marked the 25th anniversary of the rescue of almost all of Denmark's 8,000 Jews from deportation by the Nazis. Mayor Kollek and other speakers alluded to that episode in remarks at the dedication ceremonies.

Hussein Denies He Intended To Turn Jordan Into 'Guerrilla State'

LONDON, Oct. 13 (JTA)--King Hussein of Jordan has written to the Sunday Telegraph denying a report which appeared in that paper last week that he intended to turn Jordan into a "guerrilla state" and free Arab commandos to operate against Israel with the full support of the Jordan Army. He said in his letter, published today, that Jordan fully accepted the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution on the Middle East and will continue to cooperate with the UN's special envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, whose peace mission was established by that resolution.

Young Jews In 27 Cities Hold Demonstrations Showing Solidarity With Russians

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA)--Over 3,000 young American Jews gathered on the Central Park Mall at noon today to begin Simhat Torah celebrations several hours in advance of the holiday which begins officially at sundown. The gathering, and similar ones in 27 other cities of the United States and Canada, is a demonstration of solidarity with the Jews of Soviet Russia, who are denied free religious and cultural expression. They were organized by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. The early Simhat Torah celebrations also launched a nationwide drive for one million signatures on a petition to U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations to urge the Soviet Union "to fulfill the promise of individual dignity and liberty inherent in its own Constitution and by its signature on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

The New York and Washington rallies heard statements from Presidential candidates Hubert H. Humphrey and Richard M. Nixon. Both rallies were taped by the Voice of America for broadcasting to Moscow. In addition, Kol Israel, the Israel state radio, taped the New York rally and will broadcast parts of it to Russia from Israel. According to an informed source, more than a dozen American Jewish youths, many from religious groups, have flown to Moscow to be with Russian Jews at the Simhat Torah celebration there, and will tell them of the solidarity displays in the West.

According to Rabbi Jacob Goldberg, chairman of the Central Park demonstration, Simhat Torah is the one day of the year when Soviet Jews are permitted to dance outside of their few remaining synagogues to symbolize their attachment to Judaism. He said it was hoped that news of the demonstrations in the U.S. and Canada would reach the Russian Jews by the time the holiday begins "to let them know we understand what they are doing and why they are doing it and are with them in the spirit of Simhat Torah." The petition addressed to Mr. Thant points out that Premier Alexei Kosygin's 1966 promise to let Soviet Jews be reunited with their families abroad has not been carried out; that Jews in Russia are not permitted to publish devotional literature or manufacture religious articles; that their cultural, educational and communal institutions have been shut down; and that Jews seeking a higher education in the Soviet Union are restricted by a rigid quota system.

NYU Refuses To Reinstate Fired John F. Hatchett Despite Student Strike Threat

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA)--New York University said yesterday that it would not reinstate John F. Hatchett, controversial Negro teacher whom it dismissed Thursday as director of its Afro-American Student Center, in order to avert a strike threatened by radical student groups tomorrow. Mr. Hatchett, accused of anti-Semitic and anti-white bias, was fired after referring to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Richard M. Nixon and Albert Shanker, president of the United Teachers Federation, as "racist bastards" in a speech delivered before a student group last week.

The dismissal was described by the American Jewish Congress as "an encouraging indication that anti-Semitism, racism and intemperate arrogance have no place in a university faculty." The AJCongress was one of several Jewish groups, along with the Catholic Interracial Council and the Protestant Council, which condemned the appointment of Mr. Hatchett to the NYU post last July. Their opposition was based on an article which the former Harlem school teacher wrote in November 1967 in the Afro-American Forum, a Negro teachers periodical. He alleged in the article that New York City's public school system was dominated by Jews who, with their "black Anglo-Saxon imitators," were poisoning the minds of Negro pupils.

The AJCongress said yesterday that it hoped Mr. Hatchett would be replaced "by someone who is more likely to guide black students into harmonious relationships with their fellow students and the communities in which they will live." About 100 students occupied two buildings on the NYU Bronx campus following Hatchett's dismissal. The university offered a compromise under which the teacher could serve as an advisor to Negro students on the campus, using his year's severance pay as salary. The university offered office space provided that the student groups supporting Mr. Hatchett paid the rent. Dr. James M. Hester, NYU president, said the principal reason for terminating Mr. Hatchett's appointment was that he "has proved to be increasingly ineffective in performing his duties because of the incompatibility of many of his actions and public statements with the requirements of his position in the university."

Workmen's Circle Executive Board Urges U.S. Diplomacy To Promote Middle East Peace

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA)--The national executive board of the Workmen's Circle urged the United States today to use its "diplomatic weapons" to bring about Arab-Israeli peace talks under the nine-point program offered by Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban in his address before the United Nations General Assembly last Tuesday. The Jewish labor fraternal order also called on the U.S. to continue military assistance to Israel and condemned the Soviet rearmament of the Arab states "at a time when peace is so essential to the Middle East."

The labor fraternal order, which held its annual meeting here, condemned the anti-Semitism of some Black Power militants but urged American Jews to continue their support of civil rights for Negroes and to reject "attempts to meet Black Power with white backlash." Joseph Mlotek, educational director, called for a revision of social studies curricula in American primary schools, high schools and colleges to include the contributions made by all ethnic groups in the development of America. He said that the contribution made by American Jews in the past 300 years "should be given the prominence it merits" in an expanded American history curriculum. He noted that primary and secondary schools maintained by the Workmen's Circle have long been teaching about the historical and cultural contributions made by Negroes and other ethnic groups in the U.S.