

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

Monday, October 28, 1968

No. 205

15 Israelis Killed, 35 Wounded In Fierce Artillery Duel Along Suez Canal

TEL AVIV, Oct. 27 (JTA)--Fifteen Israeli soldiers were killed and 35 were wounded in an artillery duel with Egyptian forces that raged intermittently for eight hours yesterday along the entire 100-mile length of the Suez Canal. At the height of the barrage at least two and possibly three Egyptian commando units crossed the Suez Canal into Sinai to plant mines and ambush Israeli vehicles, a military spokesman said. One unit penetrated a mile into Israel-held territory. Two of the Israeli fatalities occurred as a result of an ambush.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed near the Lebanese border last night in a bazooka attack by a band of saboteurs who escaped into Lebanon. Another soldier was killed Friday night in a Jordanian artillery attack on Israeli positions near Ashdot Yaacov in the Beisan Valley which wounded five of his comrades. An Israeli soldier died today of injuries he suffered when an Army halftrack struck a mine near Shaar Hagolan in the northern Beisan Valley yesterday.

Israel's Defense Minister, Gen. Moshe Dayan, visited officers and troops along the Suez Canal today. Yesterday's clash, the heaviest in the Suez sector since Sept. 8, was started by the Egyptians without provocation, Israeli sources said. Cairo radio claimed today that Israeli forces started the battle with a ground-to-ground missile attack on Port Tewfik, a suburb of Port Suez at the southern end of the Suez Canal. Israeli artillery set fire to the oil refineries and tank farms at Port Suez which were still blazing fiercely this morning. The refineries were deliberately spared by Israeli gunners in the Sept. 8 engagement. Egyptian sources claimed that houses were also hit in Port Suez and Port Tewfik and at Ismailiya at the canal's mid-point. They said five Egyptian soldiers were killed and 16 soldiers and civilians were wounded.

Israeli military authorities said today that they were convinced that the artillery attack was well planned and coordinated under the direction of Soviet military advisers who may have guided Egyptian artillery men during the action. They said the attack was probably intended to boost the sagging morale of Egyptian troops. But, they added, it may also have been a test to determine whether Egyptian troops could successfully invade the Sinai while Israeli forces were kept busy repelling an artillery attack. The Egyptian artillery barrage itself was less heavy than that of Sept. 8 but the commando probes under artillery cover were new.

One commando group crossed the canal north of Port Tewfik and ambushed two Israeli military vehicles on the strategic Mitleh road, killing two Israelis. The Egyptians fled under return fire and re-crossed the canal as Egyptian artillery opened up again to cover their retreat. Israeli sources said this occurred several hours after a cease-fire arranged by United Nations observers was supposed to have gone into effect. Another commando group crossed the canal near Kantara and laid mines which later damaged a water tank truck but caused no casualties. Additional mines found in the area were dismantled. Israeli sources said there was evidence that a third commando raid might have been attempted.

The Egyptian attack caught Israeli troops completely by surprise and the first salvos accounted for most of the casualties, a military spokesman reported. He said the guns began to roar simultaneously all along the canal with no advance warning. The attack began at 4:45 p.m. local time and ended about an hour later in a cease-fire. But Egyptian small arms fire was later directed at Israeli forces on the canal's East Bank opposite Port Tewfik. A new cease-fire was arranged for 11:30 p.m. but Egyptian forces continued their shelling and Israeli guns replied. The all-quiet was reported at 1:00 a.m. local time today.

A military spokesman said that Friday's artillery duel in the Beisan area was started by the Jordanians. Israeli return fire hit Jordanian positions. An Israeli soldier was injured Saturday when an Army halftrack struck a mine near Shaar Hagolan in the northern Beisan area. Three mines were discovered nearby and dismantled.

Arab saboteurs made one of their deepest penetrations of Israeli territory Friday when they shelled the Kadouri Agricultural School on the Afuleh-Tiberias road in lower Galilee with bazookas. They also planted mines and high explosives near one of the school buildings. One shell damaged a residence but its occupants, a mother and a four-month-old child, escaped unhurt. Israeli border police dismantled the mines. The bazooka shells used in the attack were of American-made 83mm. type.

Israel Complains To Security Council, Blames Egyptians For Shooting At Canal

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 27 (JTA)--Israel sent two notes last night to the Security Council accusing Egypt of responsibility for the shooting along the Suez Canal. In the first note, Israel accused Egypt of having started the shooting. In the second, Israel charged that Egyptian commando units crossed the Suez Canal at one point and tried to cross it at a second point. The second letter also said that the first commando unit retreated to the west bank after it was engaged by an Israeli patrol and that the second unit was driven back before it reached the canal's east bank. The letters were addressed to the October president of the Council, Liu Chieh of Nationalist China. Israel did not request a Council meeting.

West Bank Towns And Villages Under Curfew Following Student Demonstrations

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA)--Six West Bank towns and villages were under curfew today following a rash of anti-Israel student demonstrations which spread to East Jerusalem yesterday. The curfew was lifted later in one of the towns, El Byrah, where tensions were considerably eased. But it remained in effect in El Byrah's twin township of Ramallah and in Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin and the village of Tubbas.

The demonstrations occurred despite promises by West Bank elders to control the youngsters. Military government officials conferred today with local Arab leaders and made it clear that further anti-Israel demonstrations would not be tolerated. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned on Kol Israel radio that Israel would take stern measures including curfews and arrests if local Arab officials are unable to maintain order. He said he held parents and teachers responsible for influencing the youths. He rejected an explanation that the demonstrations were aimed at King Hussein of Jordan because of rumored Jordan-Israel peace talks. They were clearly in support of El Fatah, the Arab terrorist organization and Egypt, the Defense Minister said.

The demonstrations in Ramallah-Byrah and in Nablus and Jenin were the second this week. They occurred in Tulkarem and Tubbas for the first time yesterday. In East Jerusalem, Israeli police armed with staves and aided by paratroopers took over strategic points following two attempts by local high school girls to demonstrate outside Damascus Gate and near the East Jerusalem bus terminal. The girls shouted "Nasser, Nasser" and slogans supporting El Fatah. Two arrests were made. Earlier six persons were detained on suspicion of instigating a business strike in East Jerusalem. All shops were closed yesterday and the streets were deserted except for busses and taxis. But business and traffic was back to normal today.

Four Arab leaders known to have incited West Bank Arabs to civil unrest were expelled to Jordan Friday — a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher and a deputy mayor. They were given a few hours to settle their affairs and then escorted to the Allenby Bridge. Officials said the doctor, Salah An bawati, a Ramallah pediatrician, was known to have collected money for a terrorist group. The lawyer was Mussa Jyussi of Nablus, a former member of the Arab Socialist Baath Party. Mohammed Tewfig Haj Hassan, Jenin deputy mayor, a nationalist, was accused of seeking to induce other municipal councilors to end cooperation with the Israeli military government. The teacher was Dr. Mussa Deeb Abu Ghosh of Ramallah. Officials also reported a number of other arrests of Arabs held responsible for inciting civil unrest and violence. They included teachers of both sexes, headmasters, merchants and students.

First Of 6 Labor Exchanges Opened On West Bank For Arabs

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA)--The first of six labor exchanges to be established on the West Bank was officially opened in Jenin on Friday and the rest will be opened within the next few days. The exchanges are intended to find jobs in Israel for local Arabs in areas where no Israeli labor is available. An estimated 2,000 West Bank Arabs are seeking employment in Israel out of a population of about 90,000 in the area. The exchange will be run by two local officials under the supervision of an Israeli manager. Job priorities will be given to workers with families. The Jenin labor exchange was to have been opened last Wednesday but student demonstrations in the town caused a postponement. The exchanges are intended to eliminate the practice by some Israeli employers of recruiting Arab workers on the West Bank at lower wages than those prevailing in Israel.

Eban Says Diplomatic Situation Remains Same As When General Assembly Opened

JERUSALEM, Oct. 27 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who came home for consultations Thursday, said on a television interview that he brought no new peace proposals to the Government and that the diplomatic situation remained essentially as it was before the opening of the 23rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

He said however that several dangers to which the Israeli public had been alerted were averted, among them the suspicion that relations with the United States might deteriorate. Mr. Eban said that negotiations for the sale of 50 supersonic Phantom jets to Israel began last week when he met with President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk. The procedure of negotiations was agreed upon at those meetings and the talks will continue when Israel's envoy to Washington, Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, returns there in a few days.

Mr. Eban said in a statement issued on his arrival that the General Assembly had not engaged in an intensive debate on the Middle East as had been feared, that the Israeli will for peace was not ignored and that the nine-point peace plan he outlined on Oct. 8 has given new impetus toward a settlement. Speaking on television, Mr. Eban said he rejected the idea that Israel should commit itself in advance to implement the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution as demanded by Egypt and Jordan. Implementation can only follow negotiations and a mutual agreement with the Arabs, he said.

(The Cairo newspaper Al Ahram today published an interview with Premier Bajat Al Tal-houni of Jordan who said his country stood by the Khartoum formula of no negotiations and no peace with Israel. He denied that Jordan had submitted any proposals to United Nations peace emissary Gunnar V. Jarring because it did not want to engage in any form of negotiations with Israel even indirectly.)

ORT International Conference Hears Haber Propose Recasting Of Programs

MONTREAL, Oct. 27 (JTA)--A major recasting of the traditional programs of ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, was proposed here by the president of the World ORT Union. It would cope with new conditions arising from the June, 1967 Six-Day War and keep pace with changing educational and vocational requirements all over the world. Dr. William Haber, who delivered the keynote address at the International ORT Conference here, said one lesson of the Six-Day War was that the age of Jewish refugees is far from over.

Dr. Haber said that the reconstruction of European Jewry is presently centered in France where there are now some 300,000 North African Jews who fled from their countries for fear of repression after the Six-Day War. He said it was important to overcome their cultural, economic and educational deficiencies.

He said the 67 ORT technical and vocational schools in Israel have to "eliminate the educational deficiencies of tens of thousands of youth who are not being reached and must help increase Israel's skilled manpower reservoir." He said the curricula of ORT classes for almost 50,000 persons annually needed to be sharply revamped to avoid "obsolescence in the ways of instruction" so that graduates are "equipped to move occupationally with the technological winds of change." Dr. Haber noted a decline in manual trades in the 21 countries where ORT operates and a corresponding increase of opportunities for professional and technical employment which meant that ORT had to stress "career education as a means of opening wider these gates of opportunity." He urged increased funding for ORT programs.

Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp yesterday reaffirmed his country's position that Israel has a "right to live and prosper, free from fear of strangulation by its neighbors." Mr. Sharp applauded the manpower training and economic aid program which ORT has organized for 88 years. Calling attention to technical assistance projects of ORT in developing countries, he described this "other aspect" of the organization's work as having "great relevance to the diminution of the immense disparities that exist between the rich and the poor peoples of the world." He termed Israel's aid to emerging nations "an example for the whole world that a young country with such great need for trained manpower itself is willing to divert some of its scarce resources to help other developing nations."

Louis Broido, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, recalled that his organization had been "working hand in hand with ORT since 1947 supplementing each other's efforts in a harmony that has grown with the years."

WJCongress Sees Problems Stemming From South American Church's Quest For Dialogue

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Oct. 27 (JTA)--An official of the World Jewish Congress warned Latin American Jewry today that the Catholic Church in South America poses problems in its new quest for a dialogue with Jews. Dr. Gerhard Riegner, secretary general of the WJCongress, addressed the fifth conference of Latin American Jewish communities here attended by 250 delegates from 14 countries. He said that for centuries the Jews were objects of persecution by the Catholic Church but now Catholics are inviting Jews to dialogues and many Jews are taking part in them without mandate or responsibility. He said that "many churchmen are looking for 'Jewish Cardinals,' ignoring the fact that our organization is different from theirs and that the Jews are not only a religious community but a national entity."

The conference session was interrupted by an Argentinian youth, Alejandro Horowitz, who demanded and received permission to read a manifesto charging that the decision by the 27th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem to include more youth in the Zionist leadership was not being implemented.

Mr. Riegner spoke of the condition of Jews in Egypt, Syria and Iraq. He said several governments — France, Italy, Yugoslavia and Spain — were trying to help Jews leave Egypt. He assailed the Arab countries for refusing to permit a United Nations emissary to investigate the situation of their Jewish populations as requested by Israel. He also spoke about Eastern European Jewry and the revival of official anti-Semitism in Poland. He said he hoped the "hard line" on Jews in Russia and Poland would not last forever.

Dr. Tobias Kamenszain, president of the Argentinian Jewish Community Federation, discussed the various Jewish communities of Latin America, some of which he said were strong and well-organized while others were weak and loosely organized. The event, organized by the WJCongress, South American Executive and World Zionist Organization, heard Dr. Nahum Goldmann, WJCongress president, say that current times are dangerous for Jews. He cited a "new form of anti-Semitism called anti-Zionism" found in Poland and the Soviet Union, and said that South African Jews are "living on a volcano."

Mayor Of Hamburg First Jew To Be Elected Bundesrat President Since World War II

BONN, Oct. 27 (JTA)--Herbert Weichmann, the Jewish mayor of Hamburg, West Germany's largest port city, has been elected president of the Bundesrat, the upper house of the German Parliament, which is composed of representatives of the various states. He is the first Jew in post-war Germany to be elected to such an office. Mr. Weichmann, 68, was a resident of the United States during World War II. He returned to Hamburg afterward at the invitation of former mayor Max Brauer and became the city's finance senator and later mayor.

Rabbinical Council Warns That Reform-Conservative Israel Program Could Be Decisive

NEW YORK, Oct. 27 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Council of America, the association of Orthodox rabbis, warned today that projected plans of American Conservative and Reform rabbis for cooperative efforts for an indigenous non-Orthodox Judaism in Israel could be dangerously divisive at a time when Israel was facing severe new trials to its physical survival.

The proposed effort by the (Reform) Central Conference of American rabbis and the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly emerged from a joint all-day study meeting of the boards of the rabbinic groups last Wednesday at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Conservative institution here. Rabbi Ralph Simon, president of the RA, said the objective was to provide a "third option" to Israeli Jews whose choice now is limited to Orthodox Judaism, which is the officially-supported form of Jewish practice in Israel, and secularism. A number of proposals were envisaged at the study meeting, to be carried out cooperatively by the Committees on Israel of the two rabbinic groups, to strengthen present activities. Among them would be new efforts to encourage American rabbis to go to Israel and carry on programs of liberal religious thought and education among Israeli Jews. Rabbi Simon emphasized that the cooperative approach would seek to avoid any confrontations with the Israeli Government and the Orthodox rabbinate.

Rabbi Zev Segal, RA president, warned that such efforts could divide Jews both inside and outside Israel and might "destroy the unity which we so desperately need." He urged the Reform and Conservative movements "to desist from these efforts and to concentrate instead upon stronger support for Israel's genuine needs which are physical integrity, economic development and cultural expansion." He added that religious diversity and conflict had been "plaguering" the American Jewish community "for years" and that "there is no justification for permitting such divisions and tensions to be imported into Israel."

AJCommittee Chief Says U.S. Jews See Leadership Subordinating Jewish Interests

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 27 (JTA)--The executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee warned here today of signs that many American Jews "are beginning to feel that their national leadership is more concerned with bettering intergroup relations than with protecting the interests of the Jewish community." Bertram H. Gold made his remarks in an address to the AJCommittee's national executive board in which he cited growing fears by Jews of Negro militancy and the increasing "polarization" of U.S. society as being among the matters of greatest current concern to the American Jewish community.

Many Jews, Mr. Gold said, feel that they are "the particular targets" of the tensions and conflicts of the urban-racial conflicts. "The social disorganization of the black slums and changing neighborhoods has directly affected the merchants, social workers, small businessmen, civil service employees, teachers, cab drivers, doctors and others who provide services in those areas," Mr. Gold said. "Though we must reject demands for withdrawal from the civil rights struggle, the AJCommittee's leadership would not be fulfilling its function if we were to ignore the legitimate fears and apprehensions of Jews who are victimized by violence and affected by the demands for greater power by the Negro community at the expense of hard-won gains made by many individual Jews," Mr. Gold said.

At another session of the executive board meeting, Richard Maass, head of an AJCommittee mission that just returned from South America, reported that the Catholic Church there generally has failed to put into effect the so-called Jewish declaration adopted by the Vatican Council in 1965. The declaration denied the validity of the age-old charge of deicide against Jews. Mr. Maass, who spent two weeks in Argentina and Brazil, said "the wall of conservatism has not been breached in many places" in the Catholic Church and "progress in the area of interfaith relations has been agonizingly slow." He said that was so "possibly because the Church has more pressing problems on its hands today and possibly because of a lack of interest among Church leaders."

Mr. Maass said that latent anti-Semitism exists everywhere in South America even though each country has differences in governmental structure, social and economic development and degree of Jewish integration into the general community. He said it stemmed from ignorance about Jews and Judaism in an overwhelmingly Catholic culture, lack of progress in solving internal problems and the identification of Israel with "imperialism" in some circles, and of Jews with Israel.

Gardner, Lelyveld Urge Overcoming Of Rifts Between Minorities In Cities

NEW YORK, Oct. 27 (JTA)--The chairman of the Urban Coalition and the president of the American Jewish Congress today forecast a bleak future for New York and other cities unless blacks and whites stopped turning their backs on each other and joined hands in working for racial peace. John W. Gardner, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, termed the "fragmentation" of cities a breeding-ground of "fear and hostility." The most "ominous" rifts, he said, were those involving minority communities. Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, accused "extremists of the right and left" of seeking to break "the natural alliance between Negroes and Jews." He said the AJCongress was working to keep open its lines of communication with the Negro community. They were the principal speakers at the annual Stephen S. Wise Awards dinner of the AJCongress. Mr. Gardner received the organization's 1968 award "for advancing human freedom." Rabbi Lelyveld made the presentation. An award also went to David Arnow of New York, industrialist and philanthropist, who was honored "for dynamic leadership in strengthening Jewish life."