

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Bar-Lev Tells Cabinet Egyptian Artillery Attack Started Without Provocation

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, reported to the Cabinet yesterday that Egypt's massed artillery attack across the Suez Canal Saturday had been carefully planned in advance on the highest level in Cairo and was started without any provocation.

(Reports received at the United Nations in New York yesterday from Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of the UN Truce Supervision Organization, blamed Egypt for starting the battle. Gen. Bull reported that his staff members observed "mortar and heavy artillery fire initiated by United Arab Republic forces" at 2:45 p.m. Saturday near Kantara. The fire was returned by Israeli forces 10 minutes later according to the observers' report. Gen. Bull said that similar reports of hostilities begun by Egyptian forces came from other observation posts along the 100-mile Suez Canal front. Gen. Bull's report said both sides used artillery, mortars, light and heavy machine guns and tanks and in addition, "the United Arab Republic forces used rockets.")

Gen. Bull left for Cairo this morning to meet with Egyptian officials, apparently in connection with Saturday's shelling, and to inspect damage to UN posts along the canal. He was accompanied by his senior advisers.

An Israeli soldier was wounded by an Egyptian sniper north of Port Tewfik this morning. He was fired on from the West Bank of the Suez Canal while he was drawing water from a tank truck, a military spokesman said.

Saturday's Suez Canal clash occupied most of yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Another session has been called for today to hear the conclusion of Foreign Minister Abba Eban's report on the Middle East diplomatic situation. His report will be discussed at a third Cabinet session scheduled for Thursday. Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, also reported to the Cabinet yesterday on U.S.-Israel relations. The Government's secretary, Michael Arnon, told newsmen later that Mr. Rabin had made no reference to any political conditions attached by the U.S. to the sale of 50 F-4 Phantom jets to Israel.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban said on a television interview last night that the Egyptian artillery barrage Saturday may be regarded as Cairo's reply to Israel's query about whether Egypt was prepared to agree to establish a lasting peace in the area. The question was forwarded to the governments of Egypt and Jordan through the UN special peace envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring. The attack strengthened Israel's resolve not to move from its present positions on the cease-fire lines, Mr. Eban said. He added, however, that the avenue of contact with the Arabs through Dr. Jarring must be kept open and the hope for an eventual peace settlement must not be given up. Asked to comment on the opinion expressed by Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan that peace with the Arabs was not possible in the foreseeable future, Mr. Eban said that Jewry and Zionism have never shrunk away from any objectives because they did not appear realistic at the time. He said that peace is preferable to a cease-fire and that should be Israel's basic aim.

The evening newspaper Maariv reported today that the Israel Army has taken special measures to prevent future Egyptian commando incursions across the Suez Canal into Israel-held Sinai. Israel reported that two and possibly three such raids involving 50 commandos took place during Saturday's artillery duel. Maariv did not say what the measures were but commented that the Egyptians were apparently trying to convince their soldiers that the Suez Canal could be crossed. The newspaper Yediot Achronot reported that Gen. Dayan found the body of a slain Egyptian commando during his inspection of the canal's East Bank yesterday. The dead soldier was wearing an inflatable rubber suit, apparently for crossing the canal, and had several Kalatchnikoff rifle magazines on his person, the newspaper reported.

Funerals were held in a number of Israeli cities and towns today for the 15 Israeli soldiers who were killed in last Saturday's Egyptian artillery attack along the Suez Canal. Thirty-four were wounded. In the Knesset (Parliament) the entire chamber and the visitors' gallery rose to observe a minute of silence in tribute to the fallen soldiers. A funeral was held in the Galilee town of Rosh Pina today for Gilad Shamai, a soldier killed in a clash with saboteurs near the Lebanese border Saturday. He was buried next to the grave of his brother who was killed two years ago when his tractor hit a mine near Korazim, north of Lake Tiberias.

## Officials See Assault As Possible Test Of U.S. And Israelis

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Observers here believe that Saturday's Egyptian artillery assault across the Suez Canal may have been a Moscow-devised test of United States and Israeli reactions prior to other moves such as the clearing of the canal by Russian dredges.

They pointed out that the attack was apparently timed to occur when Washington was preoccupied with the election campaign and anxious to avoid a confrontation with the Soviets. U.S. officials noted the presence of Soviet gunnery officers at all echelons of the Egyptian artillery command but carefully avoided comment or involvement in the latest incident.

(The influential and authoritative Cairo daily, Al Ahram, asserted Monday that the artillery clashes and commando attacks at the Canal marked a "turning point" in the undeclared war in the Middle East. It quoted Gen. Mohammed Fawzi, Egyptian War Minister, as asserting that Egyptian troops had given "a living example of offensive fighting spirit." The paper added that the engagement "showed the Arabs' increasing ability to resist and check the enemy and impose on the Israelis a solution other than what they want.")

### Egypt Accuses Israel Of 'Premeditated Military Aggression'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 28 (JTA)--Egypt accused Israel yesterday of "premeditated military aggression" on Saturday by launching an attack against Port Tewfik with 216mm. ground-to-ground rockets. In a letter to the Security Council, Egypt said the rockets were intended to shell population centers in the Suez Canal area, and that Israel caused loss of lives, property damage and destruction to homes.

### **2 Israelis Injured By Mine, Others Hurt In Jordanian Rocket Attack In Beisan Valley**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Two Israeli civilians were injured this morning when a tractor they were using hit a mine south of Manarah in Upper Galilee near the Lebanese border. Two other civilians were injured yesterday evening in a Jordanian rocket attack on the town of Beisan in the Beisan Valley. Electric wires were hit causing a temporary blackout but other damage was slight and there were no serious casualties, a military spokesman said today.

The Jordanian rocket attack, followed by an artillery barrage, was the first in more than two months directly aimed at civilian targets. It drew swift response from Israeli forces which blasted Jordanian positions around Irbid and other towns with artillery and mortar fire. The Jordanians started the shooting at 7:00 p.m. local time with Katushya 130mm. rocket-launchers, a Czechoslovakian-made weapon that has been increasingly used in recent weeks by Arab commando gangs operating from Jordan. Six rockets exploded in the middle of Beisan sending residents to bomb shelters. Israeli forces returned the fire with mortars zeroed in on the rocket-launcher positions. The Jordanians brought up their long-range "Long Tom" cannon and high trajectory howitzers which were answered in kind by Israeli artillery. An Israeli officer said the Jordanian guns were silenced.

Lebanese authorities said today that several mortar shells struck a Lebanese village near the Israel border. They claimed the shelling was a reprisal for an attack on an Israeli patrol near the Lebanese border Saturday in which two Israeli soldiers were killed.

### **Patrol Captures Band Of 8 Saboteurs Sent From Karameh**

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--An Israeli patrol intercepted and captured a band of eight Arab saboteurs from Jordan in a brief exchange of fire about 12 miles north of Jericho today, a military spokesman announced. Two of the saboteurs were wounded but there were no Israeli casualties. The patrol also seized a large quantity of firearms, bazooka shells and shell casings used to make self-firing devices. Demolition charges and high explosives were also found on the captured men. They told interrogators later that they came from Karameh, the commando base in Jordan, and belonged to the Palestinian Popular Liberation Front.

### Tank Commander Says Armored Corps Can Be Mobilized Without Reserves

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Israel's armored corps can mobilize for large scale operations without calling up reserves of men and tanks, the armored corps' commander, Brig. Gen. Israel Tal, said today. He spoke on the occasion of armored corps day which coincided with the 12th anniversary of the 1956 Sinai Campaign, the first battle in which Israeli armor was employed on a large scale. Gen. Tal said his command has replaced all of the losses suffered in the Six-Day War and would be strengthened shortly.

### **Herzog Calls For More Attention To Arab-Israeli Peaceful Co-Existence**

MONTREAL, Oct. 28 (JTA)--An Israeli general complained here yesterday that while border shootings and bomb scare make headlines, little is said or written about growing peaceful co-existence between Arabs and Israelis in the occupied territories.

Gen. Chaim Herzog, the first military governor of the West Bank and recently elected president of the Israel ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training), spoke before 600 delegates to the World ORT conference here.

He accused President Nasser of Egypt, the Soviet Union and the El Fatah terrorists of deliberately attempting to prejudice an increasing trend toward a negotiated settlement of the Middle East dispute. "The events of the last few days make us apprehensive but not fearful," Gen. Herzog said. "The answer to the Soviet policy of hatred and provocation in the Middle East must be to strengthen Israel to the point where this country can be a deterrent against any possible aggression." Gen. Herzog cited ORT vocational schools for Arabs on the West Bank as an example of "basic co-existence that is perhaps the greatest reality in the area."

## Report Czechoslovakia 'Show Trials' Involving Jews Are Being Planned

PARIS, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Reports reaching here from Czechoslovakia today said that a series of "show trials," similar to the trial of Rudolph Slansky during the Stalin era, in which charges of "Zionist conspiracy" are expected to figure, are being planned by Soviet occupation authorities. According to the reports, the Russians have given Czech authorities a list of several hundred names, mostly of liberals and including many Jews or Czechs of Jewish origin, with orders not to let these people leave the country.

Czechoslovakian Premier Cernik has been forced to agree to these demands and border posts have been instructed accordingly, the reports said. The Russians are said to have compiled their list of accused from files confiscated at the beginning of the Soviet occupation last August from the Czech secret police and the Ministry of Interior. Among those listed to stand trial is Prof. Eduard Goldstuecker, a prominent Czech-Jewish author and academician who was president of the Czech Writers' Union and vice rector of Charles University in Prague. Prof. Goldstuecker escaped from Czechoslovakia at the time of the invasion and is presently lecturing at Sussex University in England. He has accepted an invitation to lecture as visiting professor at the Institute of German Studies at Stockholm University, Sweden, in the fall of 1969. The reports said the trials would be conducted by Czechs but that the prosecutor and probably the judges will be selected from hard-line Communist associates of former President Antonin Novotny.

## Polish Social And Cultural Association Holds Meeting, No Jewish Activities Discussed

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Jewish Social and Cultural Association of Poland held a meeting recently in Wroclaw but no program of Jewish activities was discussed by the 20 persons who attended, it was learned here today. Jewish life in Poland has deteriorated since the Government began its "anti-Zionist" campaign. The meeting took up preparations for celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Polish Folk Army and the 50th anniversary of Polish independence.

According to reports from Warsaw, the Association has been inactive for the last few months. Club rooms remain open but they are used mainly by people who drop in to play cards and watch television. Several speakers at the Wroclaw meeting pointed out that even in the present repressive climate in Poland, there were opportunities for lectures and similar events. The Yiddish State Theater, whose director, Ida Kaminska, has left Poland permanently, is still functioning. It is presently performing in Lodz and is attracting Jewish audiences from all over the district.

## BBC Hebrew Programs Ended, Foreign Office Accused Of Political Decision

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The British Foreign Office was accused of political motives in ordering the suspension of the British Broadcasting Corporation's short-wave Hebrew programs which were officially ended yesterday. Erwin Bienenstock, director of the Hebrew service for the past nine years, said, "I don't consider that we are being closed for the technical reasons given. It is a political decision by the British Government."

The London Times, in an editorial, said there was a "distinctly disingenuous ring" to the official explanation that the Hebrew programs were ordered suspended for financial reasons and because the BBC's English language broadcasts have a larger audience in Israel. The Times pointed out that BBC's annual budget from the Foreign Office for its foreign service broadcasts amounted to \$22.8 million and that the Hebrew service cost only \$33,600 a year. Some \$840,000 are spent on the Arabic language programs which are on the air more than 10 hours daily and "include everything from Koran readings to plays especially produced for the service in Beirut." The Times said that superior medium wave technical facilities used to transmit broadcasts in other languages to the Middle East were never made available to the Hebrew service, "for some reason presumably not unconnected with Eastern Mediterranean politics." The Times concluded, "A still small Hebrew voice of sanity will be snuffed out."

## Lise Meitner Dead At 89, Nuclear Physicist Fled From Nazi Germany

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Dr. Lise Meitner, the Austrian-born nuclear physicist whose pioneer work led to the splitting of the uranium atom, died in a Cambridge nursing home yesterday at the age of 89. Dr. Meitner was the daughter of a well known Viennese-Jewish lawyer and was the first woman in Europe to earn a Ph.D. degree. She is credited with having laid much of the theoretical ground work for the atomic bomb although she did not participate directly in its production. For 30 years, Dr. Meitner was the scientific partner of the late Dr. Otto Hahn, the Nobel Prize-winning German nuclear chemist. Dr. Meitner was born in 1878 and studied at the University of Vienna and later in Berlin. She was an unusually gifted mathematician and earned prominence in the field of radioactivity. One of her achievements was clarification of the relation between beta and gamma rays. She left Germany in 1938 as Nazi anti-Semitism rose, and took refuge in Sweden where she continued her work in nuclear physics for 20 years at the Nobel Institute. She was given Swedish nationality but came to England in 1960 so that she could spend her old age with relatives in Cambridge. Dr. Meitner was forced to flee Germany only nine months before Dr. Hahn announced to the scientific world the result of experiments carried out with Dr. Meitner that made it clear the atom could be split. Six and a half years later, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. News of the bomb came as a complete surprise to Dr. Meitner who deplored the weapon and dissociated her work from it.

## Lithuanian Jewish Intellectuals Appeal To Communist Party To Permit Emigration

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Jewish intellectuals living in Vilna have appealed to the Lithuanian Communist Party to permit Lithuanian Jews to emigrate to Israel because "we are not wanted here." The appeal was made by 26 intellectuals in a letter which was not signed because "we know well how people who had protested against flourishing anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union at one time or another were summarily dealt with."

The letter was made public today by the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry, and is the first written protest against Soviet anti-Semitism by Jews living in the USSR that has come to the attention of Western observers, according to Prof. Nathan Glazer, the committee's newly-elected chairman. Prof. Glazer, of the University of California, described the appeal for emigration as "unique and unprecedented." The letter said in part, "If the borders would be opened for emigration today, some 80 percent of the entire Jewish populace would leave Soviet Lithuania and depart for Israel." The letter, addressed to Comrade A. Snieckus, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party's central committee, was smuggled to the West some time ago, Dr. Glazer said.

Prof. Glazer announced the launching of a campaign for 25,000 signatures from American university professor urging Russian authorities to provide three million Russian Jews with the same cultural and religious facilities given to other officially-recognized minority groups. It also asks that Soviet Jews who wish to be reunited with families living abroad be permitted to leave.

The Lithuanian Jews' letter said there was a "rising wave of anti-Semitism" in their country and asserted that it had been revived by anti-Israel propaganda in the nation's press. "We cannot be silent at a time when the press publishes material that nourishes local Judophobia," the letter asserted, charging that leading Communists were "openly promoting" anti-Semitism. It also described anti-Jewish discrimination in higher education, government service, labor unions and Communist Party affairs.

## Rabbis Warn Mixed Marriage Partners On 'False Assumption' About Jewish Rite

NEWARK, N.J., Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Board of Rabbis of Essex County, N.J., has warned couples in mixed marriages not to be "deluded into the false assumption that they have been married according to the Jewish rite" even if their wedding was a religious ceremony performed by a rabbi.

The warning was contained in a statement signed by 24 rabbis which appeared as an advertisement in the Jewish News of Newark. It noted that "mixed marriage is a growing fact in American Jewish life" and that some families desire a "face-saving solution" by seeking out a rabbi who will officiate at such a ceremony.

"No rabbinic body, Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, either in the past or present, has ever approved of a rabbi officiating at a mixed marriage," the statement said. "The very blessing essential to a Jewish marriage ceremony, including the formula, 'Thou art consecrated to me according to the law of Moses and Israel,' make the ceremony of mixed marriage an act of hypocrisy...Let not our people, and particularly our young people, be misled by the performance of such 'Jewish religious ceremonies.'"

## Post Office Schedules Christmas Stamp Based On Van Eyck's 'Annunciation'

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The United States Post Office has scheduled sale of a 1968 Christmas stamp, an action that in recent years has drawn protests from Jewish organizations including the American Jewish Congress. They claim that it violates the church-state separation provision of the Constitution. The six-cents stamp will go on sale on Nov. 1. It is based on a detail from "The Annunciation" by Jan van Eyck, the 15th Century Flemish artist. The painting is in the National Art Gallery in Washington.

## Council Asks Lindsay To Bar Use Of Facility For Teaching Of Hatred Or Revolution

BROOKLYN, N.Y., Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Brooklyn Jewish Community Council called on Mayor John V. Lindsay today to bar the use of any city educational facility for the purpose of disseminating racial hatred or teaching the techniques of demonstrations and revolution and to dismiss any city employee who engages in such activities during or outside of business hours.

The mayor was asked to take these steps as a means of bringing an end to the third teachers' strike to hit this city since the school year opened Sept. 9. The community council expressed "deep distress" over the racial overtones and the polarization of ethnic groups which the strike has developed. The dispute is between the predominantly white, two-thirds Jewish, United Federation of Teachers and the predominantly Negro Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board which is engaged in a city and state-approved experiment in school decentralization.

## American Jewish Historical Society, Hebrew University Collaborate On Histories

WALTHAM, Mass., Oct. 28 (JTA)--The American Jewish Historical Society and the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University will publish a multi-volume series of histories in Hebrew describing the Jewish community in the United States. The project will involve newly written and edited works in English prepared by distinguished scholars and translated into Hebrew and published by the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University. The first three volumes are expected to be published in 1969-70, with the initial works concentrating on the history of Jewish life in the U.S. from the earliest settlement to the current day.