

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Wednesday, November 6, 1968

No. 212

French Officials Urge Government To Call Summit Session On Growing Soviet Naval Power

PARIS, Nov. 5 (JTA)--The foreign affairs commission of the French National Assembly called on the Government today to take the initiative and call for a Big Four (United States - Russia - France - Britain) summit conference to try to curtail the increasing Soviet naval power in Mediterranean waters. The commission's report, prepared by a Gaullist deputy and former minister, Arthur Conte, noted that Egypt has become a naval and air base for Soviet forces and that President de Gaulle could play a major role in calling such a meeting.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources today that the commission's report was a first step taken by France in the direction of a Big Four conference which would have the effect of giving France a new voice in Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East affairs. Diplomatic pressure for a summit conference, preferably to be held in Paris, was expected to reach a climax after the inauguration of the next U.S. President on Jan. 20, 1969.

Mr. Conte wrote in his report that "Egypt has become a huge aircraft carrier for Soviet forces while Alexandria and Port Said have become, for all practical purposes, Soviet ports." The report said that Soviet success in extending its influence and presence in the area threatened the security of France and said that a Big Four conference would enable all concerned "to reconsider and clarify the entire situation."

(The Jerusalem newspaper Davar today reported that a number of Soviet ships were leaving the Mediterranean and interpreted this as an indication that Moscow does not want an Arab-Israel war.)

Israeli Parliamentary Delegation Slates To Visit Paris

PARIS, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Diplomatic observers here will pay close attention to a formal visit by an Israeli parliamentary delegation next week for possible deliberate "slips" by their French hosts that might indicate a change in France's attitude toward Israel which has been singularly cool since the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war.

The invitation for the visit was extended prior to the war and the subsequent deterioration in Franco-Israeli relations but it was never rescinded. The group, headed by Speaker of the Knesset (Parliament) Kaddish Luz, will spend a week in France on what is described officially as a goodwill visit. They will confer with Roger Frey, minister in charge of inter-parliamentary relations, and will participate in a working session of the French National Assembly. They will also be the luncheon guests of Chaban Delmas, president of the Assembly. According to official reports, their visit will be of a "protocol nature."

Many Arab Shops In East Jerusalem Re-Open, Owners Contest Seizures In Court

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Many Arab shops re-opened in East Jerusalem today as a protest strike begun by Arab merchants last Saturday appeared to be petering out. Owners of 15 shops and restaurants that were seized by police Sunday have appealed the action to the High Court of Justice and police authorities will be called on to defend the legality of the seizure.

According to authorities, the Arab premises were confiscated to serve as billets for extra policemen assigned to maintain order in East Jerusalem where tensions ran high. Arab merchants there went on strike Saturday in a gesture of protest on the 51st anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. The strike was continued Sunday, Monday and today because of the confiscations. Last night burning rags were thrown into three Arab shops whose owners did not observe the strike but the fires were put out before they could cause damage. Police continued to patrol the streets today but no incidents were reported.

Young Arab Dies Of Injuries Suffered In Hebron Explosion That Injured 5 Others

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--A three-year-old Arab child died today of injuries received in yesterday's explosion in Hebron which injured two other children and three adults, one of the latter seriously. First reports that a 14-year-old Arab boy was killed while allegedly carrying a bag of explosives proved false. Security officials believe that the explosives were placed on the scene by a group of children as no adults were in the vicinity at the time.

The blast occurred near the cave of Machpelah -- the Patriarchs' Tomb -- which has been under constant surveillance since a terrorist grenade exploded there Oct. 9 injuring 42 Jewish worshippers and sightseers. The Tomb, reputed to be Abraham's burial site, lies within the compound of the Ibrahim Mosque and has been a source of controversy between Moslems and Jewish worshippers.

Two of the injured adults in yesterday's blast were Jews who were able to drive their car to the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem for medical treatment. The third, an Arab over 60, was seriously hurt.

'Al Ahram' Reports Egyptian War Ministry Distributing Weapons To New Militia

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported today that the Egyptian War Ministry had begun to distribute weapons to the newly created Peoples' Defense Force. The militia was established by decree of President Gamal Abdel Nasser 24 hours after Israel's commando raid last week deep into Egyptian territory which resulted in damage to two bridges and a power station. The report from Cairo said militia recruits are now in training camps all over Egypt and will relieve Army regulars of guard duty behind the lines.

Members of the militia are to guard civilian and Government installations in the hope of forestalling or blunting any future Israeli forays beyond the Suez Canal cease-fire lines.

(A New York Times dispatch from Cairo today said the Defense Force would also be politically advantageous to the Government by providing employment and giving civilians a feeling of participation in the struggle against Israel. At the same time, creation of the militia "may pose serious risks for the regime" in view of the "numerous plots reported against President Nasser since the 1967 war," the Times reported. "The Government has also announced that former military men are expected to play a leading role within the force. However, many of the country's foremost officers have grievances against Mr. Nasser or the military leadership, which is the principal buttress of his power," the Times said.)

Mock air raids were held in Alexandria and Damietta yesterday as 21 military advisors were being deployed to various districts to coordinate the work of the militia. Deep anxiety over the vulnerability of Egypt's strategic centers, notably the Aswan High Dam, was behind the Nasser decree, Western observers believe.

Shooting Breaks Out Again In Jordan, Hussein Regime Opposed By Guerrillas

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Shooting broke out again tonight in the streets of Amman, the Jordanian capital, which had been under an 18 hour curfew since clashes yesterday between King Hussein's troops and guerrilla bands apparently backed by Syria. The 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. curfew was lifted for several hours to permit householders to shop but many shops were boarded up, foreigners were warned to stay indoors and schools were closed. Tanks and troops were reported patrolling the city.

The clashes, which precipitated Jordan's worst crisis since the June, 1967 war, will determine, observers believe, whether the Jordanian ruler can successfully stand up to guerrilla groups which have accused him of trying to stop their forays against Israel. King Hussein, in a radio address yesterday, assailed the guerrillas as "paid agents" of a foreign power whose aim was to foment civil strife in Jordan and not to fight the common enemy, Israel. King Hussein's charges were directed against the so-called Victory Phalanges, a splinter group of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. There was no protest against the King from El Fatah, largest and best known commando organization based in Jordan. But the Popular Front denounced Hussein in a statement issued at its Beirut headquarters which accused him of trying to disarm the terrorists to create an atmosphere conducive to implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. The Palestinian guerrilla organizations have refused to accept the resolution.

Damascus radio today called for a general meeting of Palestinian terrorist organizations to be held in Cairo tonight or tomorrow. Cairo radio praised the terrorist and issued an oblique warning to Hussein that "anyone who tries to interfere with Palestinian activities is fighting against the collective will of the Arab nation."

'Wheelchair Olympics' Begun In Israel With Participants From Many Countries

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar officially opened yesterday the Stoke-Mandeville games, popularly known as the "wheelchair olympics," in which paraplegics and other disabled veterans compete in a series of sports events. The opening ceremonies were on the Hebrew University campus but the contests will be held mainly in the Tel Aviv area. Contingents from 27 countries are participating, with the largest foreign representation coming from the United States and from England where the games originated after World War II. Other participants represent Sweden, West Germany, Austria, Italy, France and India. Poland and the Soviet Union were invited but refused to send delegations. The games, held every four years, include basketball, bowling, tennis and soccer, all played from wheelchairs, and swimming events.

President Shazar Distributes Medals To Veterans Of Pre-1948 Defense Units

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar distributed the first "Fighter Medals" to veterans of pre-1948 organizations that constituted the defense force of Jewish Palestine and who fought for Israel's independence. Among them were several Army generals and Cabinet members, members of the Haganah, and the other underground organizations, Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern group. Also on hand to accept the awards were descendants of the early pioneer fighters who were members of Hashomer (guardsmen), a force created when Turkey ruled Palestine, and relatives of such legendary figures as Yosef Trumpeldor, Sarah Aaronson, Dov Hos and Gen. Itzhak Sadeh. One contemporary recipient was Capt. Ike Aharonovitz who commanded the illegal refugee ship Exodus in 1947.

Israel Will Subsidize Exports From Occupied Territories To Jordan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Exports from the occupied territories to Jordan will be subsidized at a rate of up to 10 cents per dollar according to the type of goods, it was announced today. The rates are the same as those applied to exports from Israel.

Arab Student From Nablus Sentenced To Prison On Charges Of Sedition

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--A 27-year-old Arab student from Nablus was sentenced to seven years in prison by a military tribunal yesterday. He was found guilty on several counts including printing anti-Israel pamphlets and inciting students to strikes and violence.

Prime Minister Jonathan Of Lesotho Visits Bethlehem And Hebron Mayor

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Chief Leabua Jonathan, Prime Minister of Lesotho, yesterday visited Mayor Elias Bandak of Bethlehem and Sheikh Mohammed Ali Jaabari, the mayor of Hebron, in a tour of West Bank towns prior to his departure from Israel. The African head of Government was the guest of honor at a dinner given by Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol is convalescing from a virus infection.

Achievements Of Canadian Jewry Hailed At Synagogue's 200th Anniversary Event

MONTREAL, Nov. 5 (JTA)--The achievements of Canadian Jewry in the fields of welfare and education were hailed here by Governor General Roland Michener of Canada at a dinner marking the 200th anniversary of Congregation Shearit Israel -- the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue -- which is Canada's oldest Jewish congregation. The dinner was attended by Senator David Croll, representing Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Bishop Kenneth Maguire, Dr. Solomon Gaon, Chief Rabbi of Commonwealth Sephardic congregations, and more than 300 guests from the United States, Great Britain and France.

Mr. Michener said that the Jewish community "had translated the Jewish trait of involvement and concern for the destiny of humanity at large into concrete terms through its outstanding work in the areas of welfare and education." He mentioned as examples the Baron de Hirsch Institute, the Saidye Brofman Center, and the B'nai B'rith, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Dr. Gaon presented the congregation with an antique silver menorah from a collection belonging to London's Shaar Hashamaym Synagogue.

Permanent Representatives Of 6 EEC Nations To Deliberate Tariff Agreement

BRUSSELS, Nov. 5 (JTA)--A recommended preferential tariff agreement between Israel and the European Economic Community will be deliberated by the permanent representatives of the six EEC member nations who will meet here at the end of November. The recommendation was contained in a working paper prepared by the European Commission on relations with Israel. Its conclusions were that only a full preferential agreement could develop economic relations between Israel and the EEC countries and benefit Israel's economic development.

Social Democrats' Presidential Candidate On Visit To Israel

BONN, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Gustav Heinemann, West Germany's Minister of Justice, has been nominated by the Social Democratic Party as a Presidential candidate in next year's national elections. Mr. Heinemann is an outstanding liberal and one of the foremost opponents of the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecutions. He left for Israel yesterday for a week's visit. Mr. Heinemann has called for abolition of the statute of limitations which is scheduled to take effect Dec. 31, 1969.

See Postponement Of Security Council Meeting On Israeli, Egyptian Complaints

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 5 (JTA)--A third Security Council meeting is scheduled tomorrow on Israeli and Egyptian complaints based upon recent military incidents. But UN sources believe that the meeting will be postponed as no resolutions are believed being circulated among the 15 members for presentation. It is expected that the Council may, if it reconvenes, express a consensus wish to have both sides abide by the cease-fire.

The sessions, begun last Friday, grew out of an Israeli commando raid into Egypt last week which resulted in the damaging of two bridges and a power station, as well as Egyptian cease-fire violations in the Suez area, among which were an Oct. 26 artillery barrage that took 15 Israeli lives and injured 34.

Ambassador Yosef Tekoah told the Council yesterday that a possible motive for Egypt's new policy of "preventive" military operations was "to sabotage...peace-making efforts." He said that Israel will continue efforts to promote a Middle East peace and that Foreign Minister Abba Eban had returned to New York from Jerusalem with "further proposals and additional clarifications."

Lord Caradon of Britain told the Council that new hostilities have threatened to bring about new fighting and said that if the UN fails this year to bring about peace, "then surely 1969 will be the year of retribution...the year when hate and fear and hopelessness take full command, when the horror of another war becomes a terrible certainty." Endalkachew Makonnen of Ethiopia said that hopes of progress in the work of UN Middle East peace mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring had been dampened by recent events and said that the Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Middle East resolution must be implemented.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abba Eban was scheduled to meet Dr. Jarring today for the second consecutive day. He had already addressed several questions to Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad on Egypt's attitude toward peace through Dr. Jarring. It was reported that Mr. Riad was awaiting a reply through Mr. Jarring of his question about whether Israel was prepared to withdraw from territories it occupied during the June, 1967 war.

Haber Says Diversion Of Funds Following War Have Hurt Programs Throughout World

GENEVA, Nov. 5 (JTA)--The Executive Vice Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee reported here that thousands of Jews throughout the world went without needed help in 1968 as a result of the Six-Day War in Israel. According to Samuel Haber, emergencies such as the migration of over 2,000 Jews from Poland following a renewed outbreak of anti-Semitism and the flight of 4,000 Jews from Czechoslovakia after the Soviet invasion forced the relief agency to divert funds from on-going programs. Mr. Haber said, "As a result, services which bring life-saving and life-giving hope to children, the aged and handicapped had to be postponed, curtailed or eliminated."

The JDC leader made his statement at a press conference following discussions at the annual JDC overseas conference. The meeting brought together the directors of JDC programs in Europe, Israel, North Africa and Iran, as well as American communal leaders and representatives of cooperating agencies to review developments and plan the budget for the coming year. The JDC, which aids 350,000 Jews in 27 countries, is a major beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal.

Mr. Haber listed specific groups of people hurt by the diversion of funds and lack of funds. In North Africa and Iran, he said, 2,000 aged, sick and handicapped Jews received cash relief grants that were inadequate to maintain a minimum standard of health and decency; an additional \$144,000 is needed. In addition, \$55,000 is needed for a housing program for 1,850 of the same people, he said.

In France, according to Mr. Haber, 5,000 Jews, half of them newcomers from North Africa, receive only 60 cents a day toward food. A half million dollars are needed to provide them with an adequate level of relief, he said. Mr. Haber reported that thousands of Jews in dozens of French provincial towns have no synagogue or community center. The 65,000 Jews of Marseilles, France's second largest city, have no old age home or adequate Jewish schools and the 20,000 Jews in Lyons also lack a Jewish day school. He said an overall expenditure of \$2 million is needed for new construction projects and to complete integration of North African Jews.

In Israel, Mr. Haber said, many thousands of non-aged, chronically ill patients have suffered from deferment of an outlay of \$85,000 for a rehabilitation program. They include victims of strokes, traffic accidents, muscular and other crippling diseases. Hard-of-hearing children in Galilee cannot be helped because of the need to eliminate a \$59,000 project to expand the small existing facility in Haifa, he said. A geriatric unit in a Jerusalem hospital for the chronically ill costing \$85,000 had to be deferred and a day care center for mentally retarded children in a district north of Beersheba cannot be built for the lack of \$25,000, Mr. Haber reported.

Philadelphia Ghetto Study Finds Merchants Are Not Gouging The Poor

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 5 (JTA)--A study made by Temple University and the Academy of Food Marketing of St. Joseph's College here has refuted frequent charges that the poor in ghetto areas of Philadelphia are being gouged by merchants who charge higher prices than prevail in higher income neighborhoods and sell inferior merchandise, the Jewish Exponent reports. The study was administered by Dr. Donald F. Dixon, associate professor of marketing at Temple, and Daniel J. McLaughlin, Jr., assistant professor of food marketing at St. Joseph's College. It compared prices charged by stores located in the North Philadelphia "inner city" with prices charged in upper income areas throughout the city.

"The research was initiated after the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice found that rioting occurred in major cities because the poor were against persons who allegedly represented the principal form of their oppression, namely white merchants and principally Jews who charged high prices or sold inferior goods," the Exponent reported. The Dixon and McLaughlin studies failed to substantiate hypotheses that prices rose when welfare checks were distributed and that supermarket prices were higher in low income areas than in high income areas. "It was found that some products in the market basket were slightly higher in price at the end of the week, but an equal number were lower, so that there was no appreciable over-all change," the Exponent reported.

The survey noted that low income families, because of lack of mobility and for other reasons, make more purchases in small stores than in supermarkets and may therefore pay higher prices for some products "but this result does not imply economic discrimination against the poor." The Dixon-McLaughlin research substantiated a survey of local merchants made by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia which found that ghetto merchants "generally offer sound merchandise at reasonable prices and that exceptions are rare," the Exponent reported.

Mrs. Cecilia Razovsky Davidson Dead At 77, Aided Immigrants And Refugees

NEW YORK, Nov. 5 (JTA)--Mrs. Cecilia Razovsky Davidson, a social worker and civil servant who devoted her career to aiding immigrants and refugees, died in San Diego, California Sept. 28 at the age of 77, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. Mrs. Davidson, who was active in Jewish communal affairs even after retiring seven years ago, was the first Jewish civil servant hired to do refugee resettlement. She organized the Coordinating Committee for Refugee Resettlement which later became the National Refugee Service.

Mrs. Davidson was born in St. Louis and started her career teaching English to foreigners at the Jewish Educational Alliance there. Later she worked in Washington, D.C. as inspector of the Children's Bureau and afterwards became secretary in the immigrant aid department of the National Council of Jewish Women. In 1933 she was selected to head a committee of immigration experts appointed by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins to study conditions on Ellis Island, then an immigrant reception center.