

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

Tuesday, November 12, 1968

No. 215

Eshkol Says Foundation Of Settlement Must Be A Signed Peace Agreement

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol said today that the foundation of any settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbors must be "a real peace agreement signed by the parties concerned." He said that without a formal peace the components of a settlement, including agreed and secure boundaries, could not exist and the cease-fire map would remain in force. Mr. Eshkol spoke in the Knesset (Parliament) where he delivered his "State of the Nation" address. His remarks were followed by a general debate in which some coalition members, notably Herut, joined opposition parties in demanding that the Government increase the pace of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and fortify the region.

Mr. Eshkol's remarks constituted a summary of the current situation. He said that the Arab guerrilla war of terror and sabotage against Israel had failed and that as a result of living for more than a year under Israeli rule, Arab attitudes in the occupied territories had changed. "The curtain of hostility and fear which the Arab rulers established between ourselves and their peoples has perhaps been slightly lifted," he said. On the other hand, Mr. Eshkol warned, the Arab states are stronger militarily than they were in June, 1967 owing to arms supplies from the Soviet Union. He said that Egypt has one-and-a-half times as many fighter-bombers as it had in the Six-Day War. But Israel's strength has also increased greatly, he added, noting that Israel's Air Force has fully absorbed the Skyhawk fighter-bombers, subsonic planes delivered from the United States earlier this year.

The Prime Minister said that Israel's conditions for peace include free passage through the Straits of Tiran which command the route to Israel's port of Eilat. He said peace would lead to regional cooperation and the solution of various problems including that of the Arab refugees within a regional and international framework.

Mr. Eshkol stressed that "readiness for peace leads to direct negotiations and absence of direct contact is tantamount to non-recognition" which precluded peace. He blamed Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser for the lack of progress toward peace and cited Egypt's Oct. 26 artillery attack across the Suez Canal. He said that according to Mr. Nasser's most recent public statements, "Egypt will be satisfied only by a new assault on the very existence of Israel. He (Nasser) appears to be aiming not at the status quo ante of June 5, 1967 but at the status quo ante of Nov. 2, 1917, the day the Balfour Declaration was announced." He said that as long as Egypt treats Arab terrorists "like pampered children" and considers peace something that Israel wants for ulterior motives, Egypt's support of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 peace resolution "can be regarded only as hypocrisy."

Prime Minister Eshkol said Israel regards the development of united Jerusalem as its capital as a matter of first priority but added that this depends, as do so many other goals of Israel, on increased immigration. He referred to the establishment of Nahal - paramilitary settlements - around Israel's frontiers as "a heavy burden and great challenge to Jewish youth." But its realization, he said, depends on strengthening bonds between Israel and the Jewish people abroad. He urged a "supreme effort" in the economic sphere "to work more, save more and export more."

Eban Raps Riad, Rifai For Leaving UN, Says Pursuit Of Peace Damaged By Departures

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 11 (JTA)--Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad "squandered in cold blood" an opportunity to pursue Middle East peace at the United Nations headquarters by returning to Cairo at this time. Mr. Eban told a press conference that Mr. Riad's departure constituted at this time Egypt's reply to Israeli efforts to maintain a dialogue with Israel through UN Middle East envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. But he refused to concede that the Jarring mission is dead, taking heart, he said, from Secretary-General U Thant's announcement following the departure of Mr. Riad and Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdel Moneim Rifai for Amman that the two Arab diplomats "will be available to Ambassador Jarring either at UN headquarters or elsewhere whenever he has something new to report and to discuss with them." Mr. Eban announced that he was returning to Israel within 24 hours.

Mr. Eban said that continuation of the Jarring mission was important to the future of the UN as well as to the parties to the Middle East conflict, adding that he hopes Mr. Thant will treat it as a matter of "urgency." He refused to equate the lack of success of the Jarring mediation with failure, noting that the Vietnam negotiations in Paris continued in a "desperate condition." The key to success, he said, was "patience, perseverance and renewal after each disappointment."

Mr. Eban said there had been no substantive departure from Egyptian adherence to its Khartoum formula of no peace, no recognition and no negotiations with Israel, adding that peace cannot be made of such "unpromising material." This situation, he noted, was unlike the ability of the ancient Hebrews in Egypt to make bricks without straw.

He recalled that Israel had formulated what it regards as basic issues and invited an Egyptian response to seven central questions: What is Cairo's definition of a "just and lasting peace?" Does Egypt agree that the term "secure and recognized boundaries" denotes a concept different from the previous armistice lines? Does Cairo accept the need for agreement with Israel on the principles cited in the Nov. 22, 1967 Security Council peace resolution? Would Cairo join in working out arrangements to provide security against the kind of "vulnerable situation" that caused a peace breakdown in

June, 1967? What is the reaction to the refugee proposal contained in Mr. Eban's Oct. 8 General Assembly speech? What would be Cairo's policy and action regarding passage of Israeli flagships through the Suez Canal when it is opened? Does Cairo agree with Israel's interpretation of the implications and consequences of ending belligerency and acknowledging Israel's sovereignty?

Mr. Riad's failure to stay and discuss these details was seen by Mr. Eban as a "refusal to live in peace." But, he said, Israel will not break off the talks and will talk "at any level, any time and any place" whether or not there have been any changes in the Arab position. A substantive reply from Egypt to Israel's questions would have enabled Jerusalem to make progress in formulating its views and proposals, he said.

Mr. Eban said that Israel has not been approached on the question of moving the Jarring mission to another site. Geneva has been frequently mentioned. The Jarring mandate expires Nov. 30. The Foreign Minister says he has no reason to believe that Dr. Jarring will terminate it at that time. He said Jordanian Foreign Minister Rifai would not have returned home if Mr. Riad had not done so. The Foreign Minister frequently reiterated Israel's insistence that a peace pact must be based upon agreement by the contending parties and that an imposed peace from the outside would be unacceptable.

Sapir Criticizes Dayan Plan To Integrate Hebron Into Economic Unit With Israel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir, secretary-general of the Israel Labor Party, criticized Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan's proposal to integrate the West Bank town of Hebron and surrounding areas into a single economic unit with Jerusalem and the Negev Desert city of Beer-sheba. Mr. Sapir said he opposes integration of Arabs into the Israel labor market and that the Dayan proposal would create a bi-national state. "We have not come here and shed our blood to create such a state," he said.

Gen. Dayan refused to debate Mr. Sapir publicly, but Moshe Kol, Minister of Tourism and Development, backed him up. Mr. Kol said that Israel does not regret her occupied territories policy, a policy he said that seeks to raise the living standard of the population.

Dayan told a Beersheba audience last week that "there is no difficulty in transforming this area into one unit in terms of transport, water, electricity and agricultural matters." He also said Gaza Strip Arabs should participate in such an economic unit. An advocate of integrating occupied territories Arabs into the Israel economy, Gen. Dayan said Jewish population superiority makes fear of Arab domination from within unnecessary.

Rabin Says Israel Hopes To Sign Phantoms Pact Before Jan. 20

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Israel Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin today told the concluding session of the Labor Zionist Organization of America -- Poale Zion that he hoped and believed that an agreement between the United States and Israel on the sale of 50 Phantom jets will be signed before President-elect Richard M. Nixon takes over Jan. 20. "We're in the practical phase of the negotiations," he told reporters. Mr. Rabin told the convention that he regretted that sometimes in the U.S., "we have to beg for 50, 60 or 100 hundred jets. We shall overcome even some reluctance to sell these planes."

Israel and the U.S. are concluding negotiations for the sale of the fighter-bombers, the Washington Post reported. The plane sale agreement, expected to run between \$175 million and \$200 million, is expected to be concluded shortly and then shifted to the Defense Department for sale logistics. Delivery of the F-4s originally was not to begin until 1970, but U.S. officials are reportedly sufficiently impressed with the influx of new Soviet military equipment in the Middle East, particularly Egypt, to sympathize with Israel's desire to have deliveries begin in 1969, the paper reported.

Dayan Most Popular Choice For Prime Minister, Public Opinion Poll Reports

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is still the popular choice to become Prime Minister of Israel, according to the results of local public opinion poll released today. Thirty-two percent of those polled favored Gen. Dayan against 23 percent for Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and 11 percent for Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon.

Thant Says Israel Occupation Prevent Easing Of Arab Refugee Problem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 11 (JTA)--Secretary-General U Thant, in an unprecedented appearance before the special political committee of the General Assembly today, said that the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan River "and the lack of any present indication as to when that occupation will be terminated" prevented an easing of the refugee problem by the return of persons displaced by the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war to their homes.

Mr. Thant came before the political committee to appeal for renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Arab refugees (UNRWA) which expires next June. He underscored the urgency of financial support to meet the agency's 1969 budgetary requirements amounting to \$42.5 million and to make up an expected deficit of \$5 million. He said it would be "unthinkable" if the mandate was not renewed and added that "the international community which

the United Nations represents cannot abandon this very large group of people for whose plight the UN must bear a considerable measure of responsibility."

Mr. Thant estimated the number of Palestinian refugees at over one million people, "who considerably outnumber the whole population of a number of member states of the UN." He referred at length to Arabs displaced from their West Bank homes and from refugee camps there by the June, 1967 war and said that for them "the only remedy that would appear to be at once acceptable and practical is their early return to their former places of residence."

"I think it is necessary to state that if the camps on the West Bank could again serve their original purpose, and if the displaced persons could return to their former homes, a long step would have been taken towards reducing the hardships faced by a large number of refugees and displaced persons in Jordan," Mr. Thant said. "I realize, however, that a major factor and a possible obstacle to such a development from the standpoint of the displaced persons and refugees themselves, and conceivably of the Government of Israel as well, is the continuing occupation by Israel forces of the area concerned and the lack of any indication as to when that occupation will be terminated and peaceful conditions prevail."

In that connection, Mr. Thant cited the June 14, 1967 resolution of the Security Council which, among other things, said that the return to their homes of persons who fled in the wake of the Arab-Israel war should be facilitated. A similar appeal was made by the General Assembly in its resolution of July 4, 1967, he said. "Although efforts have been made to secure such a return for both refugees and displaced persons, the results in terms of the numbers who have actually returned have been relatively small," Mr. Thant said.

Second World Economic Conference Planned In Israel For Next May

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--A second world economic conference will be convened in Jerusalem next May to continue the work begun by the economic conference that took place here last April on the initiative of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. The decision to hold a new conference was made at the conclusion of a week-long meeting of foreign and Israeli businessmen and financiers who comprise the regional chairman selected at last spring's gathering.

The purpose of the economic conferences is to further the rapid development and modernization of Israel's industry and commerce and to increase the country's exports through technical advice and infusions of foreign investment capital. The meeting just ended here recommended that the stress be placed on technological industries and other fields where Israel has a particular competitive advantage or an urgent need. The participants asked the conference technical committee to work closely with the Jewish Agency to promote the immigration of qualified persons and businessmen and to brief them on investment opportunities.

Pincus Calls JTA 'Important Tool' For Establishing Israel-Diaspora Relations

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Defining the Jewish Telegraphic Agency as an "important tool in bringing together Israelis and Diaspora Jews," Jewish Agency Executive chairman Louis A. Pincus yesterday urged Israeli editors to make the fullest possible use of JTA news. Mr. Pincus, who also heads the Agency's immigration department, also told Israeli editors and reporters to make great use of correspondents abroad to tell the Israeli public more about Diaspora Jewish life. He spoke at a meeting sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Journalists devoted to the topic "Affinity Between Israeli and World Jewry." Mr. Pincus urged the Israeli press to show greater interest and understanding of Diaspora Jews. "Jewish existence as a nation will be endangered if there is not an identification between all parts of the Jewish nation, especially between Israel and the Diaspora," he said.

15 Arab-Owned Shops In East Jerusalem Are Returned, Seized Following Protest

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Fifteen Arab-owned shops in East Jerusalem confiscated by Israeli police last week were returned to their owners today following a meeting between Police Minister Eliahu Sasson and local Arab leaders. The Arabs promised to cooperate to prevent further unrest in the city. The Arab premises were seized in the aftermath of an Arab protest strike on the 51st anniversary of the Balfour Declaration which exacerbated tensions in East Jerusalem. Police said the shops were needed to billet extra police assigned to the city. Some of the shops are owned by Arabs known to be active in the anti-Israel movement.

Egyptian Papers Claim Arrest Of Yemenis In Assassination Case Is 'Zionist' Plot

LONDON, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Egyptian newspapers claimed today that the arrest of three Yemeni Arabs in New York Saturday night for allegedly plotting to assassinate President-elect Richard M. Nixon was part of a "Zionist" plot to discredit the Arabs and turn Mr. Nixon against them. Cairo's semi-official newspaper Al Ahram alleged that the police account was "full of holes." The newspaper Al Gumhoriya said the charges against Ahmed Rageh Namer and his sons, Abdo and Hussein, were brought by the police of New York which is "a den of Zionism in America."

Al Ahram said the alleged plot against Mr. Nixon may have been devised to hint to the next President that "perhaps New York's five million Jews denied you their votes but the Arabs tried to murder you." Al Ahram said that Yemen was not directly involved in the Palestine issue and that a plot against Mr. Nixon was unlikely because he has not taken office and his exact Middle East policy was not as yet known despite its generally pro-Israel slant.

Synagogue Council Voices Concern Over Conflict Between Jews And Negroes

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Concern over deteriorating Negro-Jewish relations was expressed here by the Synagogue Council of America. Focus of its remarks was the New York teachers' strike which has kept public schools closed since the beginning of September, except for a few days of classes. The strike stems from a conflict between the predominantly Jewish United Federation of Teachers and the mainly Negro and Puerto Rican Ocean Hill-Brownsville school district which is engaged in an experiment in school decentralization.

The New York situation has been aggravated by charges of anti-Semitism and counter-charges of white backlash. The Synagogue Council of America, in a policy statement, condemned "irresponsible and reckless individuals" for "exploiting the tensions created by the (school) dispute to fan anti-Semitic and racial animosities." The Council, national coordinating agency of the lay and rabbinical branches of Reform, Orthodox and Conservative Judaism, urged both sides in the strike to agree on a compromise. But it noted that the chance of compromise "is made virtually impossible by the excesses of a few irresponsible voices who have inflamed the situation by injecting racist and anti-Semitic aspersions. Racism and anti-Semitism must be condemned, no matter what their source," the statement said. "Equally imperative is that responsible leadership on both sides not permit the uninformed and the reckless to obscure the real issues. To dismiss the legitimate goals of the teachers' union as motivated by anti-Negro racism is as false and immoral as to distort the legitimate desires of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville local board as anti-white racism or anti-Semitism."

A full page advertisement in the New York Times Monday accused the leadership of the teachers' union of trying to attribute the anti-Semitism of a few extremists to the Ocean Hill-Brownsville school district. The advertisement was signed by some 400 teachers in the district, many of them Jewish.

Labor Zionists Favor Establishment Of Zionist Federation In United States

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--The Labor-Zionist Organization of America -- Poale Zion concluded its annual convention Monday with adoption of a series of resolutions on Zionist, domestic and international issues and the election of Dr. Leo Diesendruck, professor of physics at Queens College, as its national president, succeeding Hy Faine who served in that post for the last four years.

The convention took a strong position in favor of establishment of a Zionist federation in the United States in line with the World Zionist Congress decision last June. The convention called on the Labor Zionists' central committee "to give the highest priority" during the coming term to its establishment.

The convention also adopted a resolution confirming the organization's commitment to the expansion of educational programs, employment and housing opportunities for black Americans while condemning "the vicious anti-Semitism, anti-Israel agitation and racism which has been part of the hate campaign of some black and white extremist organizations." The Labor Zionists also backed "compensatory treatment" for black Americans and other minority groups "designed to create quickly equality of rights...in fact as well as in law, in all aspects of American life."

The resolution on forming an American Zionist federation noted that the Zionist Congress decision was "implicitly directed in the first instance to the U.S. because of the central position America has in the World Zionist Organization and in Jewish life in general. The American Zionist federation must serve to renew Zionist initiative and consolidate our efforts in such major areas as aliyah, youth and education, public affairs, and Jewish action. It must be an indigenous, democratic organization on both the national and the grass roots level. It must be open to new elements and new ideas. In this way, it will have a double impact, both raising the issues of priority and democracy in American Jewish life and setting an example, in these respects to the community."

The organization announced its merger with Achdut Avodah, Israel political party, to form the Poale Zion -- United Labor Zionist Organization of America. Achdut Avodah is one of the three factions comprising the Israel Labor Party.

46 Jewish Refugees From Eastern European Countries Land In U.S., Canada

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Forty-six Jewish refugees from three Eastern European countries have landed in the United States and Canada, the United Hias Service reported today. According to Carlos L. Israels, president of the immigrant aid society, the refugees from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary boarded a charter flight at Vienna. Twenty-four landed at Montreal and 22 at New York, he said. The flight was sponsored by Catholic, Protestant and non-sectarian agencies in addition to Hias. Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice president of Hias, estimated that 4,000 Jews have left Czechoslovakia since the Soviet-led invasion of that country last Aug. 21 and 1,500 of them have applied for migration aid at the United Hias Vienna office. Mr. Jacobson said that over 800 Jews have already been resettled in the United States, Canada, Western Europe and Australia.

Goldmann Arrives Here For Meetings, Will Receive ZOA Medallion

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, arrived here today for a series of public appearances and conferences with American Jewish leaders. He will address a meeting of the World Jewish Congress here Sunday. On Nov. 24, the former president of the World Zionist Organization will receive the Theodor Herzl medallion presented by the Zionist Organization of America in ceremonies at the organization's annual convention.