

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## United States, Britain Urge Israel To Permit Return Of Refugees Displaced By War

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 18 (JTA)--The United States called today upon Israel to enact a "greatly expanded program" for returning to the West Bank Arabs who were displaced by the Arab-Israel war of 1967. Appearing before the United Nations' Special Political Committee, the U.S. Ambassador J. Russell Wiggins expressed the hope that Israel, "in advance of permanent peace," would make possible the return of "most of the persons displaced by the 1967 war." The committee today resumed deliberations on the question of renewing the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), due to expire next year. "As another winter descends upon the refugees, surely their plight will touch the hearts, move the minds and overcome the fears of Israel and inspire an act of generosity and confidence that will give the whole world an example of humanity and magnanimity," Mr. Wiggins declared. Mr. Wiggins said that the June, 1967 war had resulted in some 175,000 UNRWA registered refugees fleeing their homes and camps. He said further that 350,000 persons were also displaced for the first time.

Both Mr. Wiggins and Great Britain's Ambassador to the UN, Lord Caradon, who also appeared before the committee, urged the renewal of UNRWA's mandate.

Lord Caradon also called for steps "allowing the new refugees to go home." He recalled proposals to solve the refugee issue made by Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban in the General Assembly on Oct. 8 but said that "they and other proposals will be up for consideration in the course of consultations directed to the solution of the long-term problem in the search for an overall political settlement."

The British diplomat said that "nothing is more urgent" than to forestall the misery of the post-1967 refugees — "many of them in the hills of Eastern Jordan — that winter is sure to bring. He said that the "newly displaced persons" should be allowed to return to homes and UNRWA camps, schools, clinics and other facilities near Jericho and to other permanent accommodations on the West Bank.

Israel's Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, who had not intended to speak in today's session, was given permission to appear to reply to an attack on Israel by Ambassador Adnan Tarcici of Yemen. Mr. Tekoah, in the course of his reply, told the committee that "had there been no Arab war of aggression in 1948, in defiance of the UN, there would have been no refugee problem. Had there been no continued Arab warfare against Israel ever since 1948, the refugee problem would have been solved a long time ago. Had there been no Arab aggression in 1967, there would not have arisen the problem of persons displaced by the renewed hostilities. Had Arab warfare ended with the cease-fire of June, 1967 and not continued unabated in the Jordan Valley," its population "would not have become the victims of renewed Arab aggression." The Israeli envoy said the Arabs, "having caused the refugee problem," cannot now shirk the responsibility for solving it by terminating the war and making peace with Israel." Mr. Tarcici accused the "Zionists in Palestine" of practicing "apartheid." He blamed the "Zionists" for "three successive aggressions" and said that the Arab refugees had been expelled from their homes by Israel.

The committee followed its procedures of 1966 and 1967 and granted permission to four members of the "Palestine Arab Delegation" to appear at its hearings. It made clear that such permission did not imply recognition of that organization. The request on the delegation's behalf had been made by Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Arabs were recognized as private individuals.

## National Democrats Plan To Use Legislative Power To Get Ruling On Constitutionality

BONN, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The right-wing, reputedly neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) is planning to use its influence in seven West German state legislatures in which it holds seats to get a ruling on its constitutionality by the Constitutional High Court in Karlsruhe. Party chairman Adolf von Thadden said yesterday that NPD deputies in the state parliaments would present motions asking the state governments to call on the Bundesrat (West Germany's upper house) to seek a ruling from the court on the NPD's status. The Bundesrat is composed of representatives of the state legislatures.

West Germany's Minister of Interior, Ernst Benda, said last week that an investigation of the NPD by his ministry unearthed sufficient evidence to satisfy the High Court that the party is unconstitutional under German law and should be banned. Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger has examined the evidence but a decision to present a case before the Karlsruhe court has been postponed. Most political leaders are opposed to the NPD but there are sharp differences of opinion about whether a ban on the party might not help rather than hinder it. There is also concern that the High Court may rule against the Government creating considerable embarrassment for Government leaders while enhancing the prestige and respectability of the NPD.

On the other hand, some NPD members say, a decision by the Government not to ask the court to act would still leave the NPD with the stigma of unconstitutionality. Even those in favor of a ban note that the court could not possibly act before next September's national elections and the NPD might enter the Bundestag (lower house) no matter what the eventual ruling is. While the debate

continues, the NPD plans to distribute millions of pamphlets stating its case. One of the main arguments against it is that the party's legal existence damages West Germany's image abroad and is grist for East German and Soviet propaganda mills. Those who contend that the NPD is a source of trouble point to the brawl that took place in Siegen on Saturday between NPD strong-arm men and about 300 demonstrators who attempted to crash a party rally addressed by Mr. von Thadden. Police had to intervene with water cannon and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. The episode was reminiscent of the early days of the Hitler movement when brown-shirted Nazis battled anti-Nazis in the streets of German cities. Also reminiscent of those times was Mr. von Thadden's threat in his Siegen speech that the NPD had "enough strong men" to defend itself if the state was unable to guarantee its right to hold public rallies under the rules of law and order.

### Dayan Defends Proposal For Economic Integration Of Parts Of West Bank With Israel

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan cited a long list of decisions by the Cabinet and other official Government bodies today to support his contention that his proposal for the economic integration of parts of the West Bank with Israel was not contrary to Government policy. Gen. Dayan's proposal aroused criticism in some quarters, particularly from former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, secretary-general of the Israel Labor Party. Gen. Dayan said that if any ministers did not agree with his proposals, they could raise questions at Cabinet meetings.

He appeared before the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, today to answer questions concerning his suggestion made in Beersheba a week ago that an integrated economic entity be created embracing the Judaean Hills region from Jerusalem through Hebron and south to Beersheba. Gen. Dayan said this was not at variance with decisions by the Cabinet, by the ministerial committee for the occupied territories or by the committee of ministerial directors that preceded it. Among the decisions he mentioned was one calling for the employment of Arab labor in Israel, another recommending establishment of industrial projects in the occupied territories utilizing local Arab labor, and a third that would link the electric power system of the West Bank with Israel's power grid. Gen. Dayan also referred to decisions on a ministerial level to market Israeli goods on the West Bank and to market some West Bank produce in Israel. He said that in view of these decisions his proposal did not constitute a detour from Government policy.

The Cabinet meanwhile remained in session through most of the day continuing the political debate begun yesterday after Foreign Minister Abba Eban completed his report on Israeli diplomacy. The debate will continue at next Sunday's regular Cabinet meeting when Mr. Eban is expected to sum up the Cabinet's views. The Foreign Minister yesterday evaluated the current situation at the United Nations and described his most recent contacts with the UN's special peace envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring. He also reported that negotiations in Washington for the purchase of F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers had reached "a practical stage."

Observers here noted that whatever decisions are eventually adopted by the Cabinet, the present situation calls for no change in Israel's basic position that peace can be achieved only through negotiations with the Arabs and that all questions must be settled within the framework of such negotiations. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol reiterated that position in his statement to the Knesset last week.

Foreign Minister Eban said in a TV interview last week that reports of differences among Cabinet members on the peace issue were greatly exaggerated by the press in Israel and abroad. He said that most Cabinet ministers agreed in principle that Israel was prepared to accept borders different from the present cease-fire lines in exchange for peace with her neighbors. Referring to reported different approaches to peace and boundary questions by Deputy Prime Minister Allon, Gen. Dayan and Minister-Without Portfolio Sapir, Mr. Eban said the views they shared were far more important than those that divided them. Speaking of the Jarring peace mission, he said he did not think the UN envoy would try to make any substantive suggestions of his own for a settlement because that was outside of his Security Council mandate.

### Foreign Secretary Stewart Confident Jarring Mission Will Continue

LONDON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart expressed confidence today that the peace-seeking mission of the United Nations special envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, would continue. Replying to questions in the House of Commons, Mr. Stewart said that although the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt and Jordan have all returned home from the UN, each of them had expressed a readiness to continue discussions with Dr. Jarring. Britain will give Dr. Jarring its full support, he added.

Mr. Stewart said there was also a general acceptance by the parties concerned of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution on the Middle East. But the question remained whether any particular action was needed to implement it and if so, what action and by whom. William Witlock, Undersecretary of State at the Foreign Office, said the best hope for re-opening the Suez Canal lay within the framework of a general Middle East settlement. Speaking on the same subject, Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said there were hopes for re-opening the canal and for releasing the 15 merchant ships trapped in the waterway since June, 1967. He added that the Government would like to isolate this particular issue from the general Middle Eastern problem.

## 2 Arab Saboteurs Killed, 1 Wounded And Captured, In Clash In Jordan Valley

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Two Arab saboteurs were killed and a third was wounded and captured in an encounter with an Israeli Army patrol in the Jordan Valley near Umm Tutz last night. There were no Israeli casualties. But an Israeli soldier was injured slightly when Jordanians shelled Israeli positions in the northern Beisan Valley near Ashdod Yaacov, a military spokesman reported. Sporadic exchanges of small arms and mortar fire continued through the night along the cease-fire demarcation line.

Lt. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, visited two Beisan Valley settlements today and advised the settlers to build "deeper and stronger" shelters. The villages, Kfar Ruppin and Beisan, have been frequent targets of Jordanian artillery shelling and rocket attacks by the 130mm. Czech-made "Katyusha" rocket launcher. Gen. Bar-Lev said the Army was using old and new methods to fight sabotage and terrorist activities. He warned the settlers to be ready for sudden bombardments.

## Cairo Reports Jordan Approaching Arab States With Request For Summit Meeting

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--A Cairo radio broadcast heard here yesterday said that Jordan has approached other Arab countries to convene an Arab summit meeting over the mission of the special United Nations peace envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring. The broadcast, quoting diplomatic sources in Amman, said that Jordan's Prime Minister Bahjat el-Talhouni, was in Saudi Arabia and Foreign Minister Abdul Moneim Rifai was in Egypt to propose "urgent Arab coordination which only a summit conference can achieve." According to reports from London, King Hussein will visit there next week for talks on the Middle East.

## Protests Held In Paris, Elsewhere Against Upcoming Secret Trials In Poland

PARIS, Nov. 18 (JTA)--More than a thousand Frenchmen -- members of Parliament and former Cabinet ministers among them -- attended a rally organized by the French Union of Eastern European Jews to protest the anti-Semitic measures of the Polish Government and the cultural and religious repression of Soviet Jews. The principal speaker, Gen. Pierre Koenig, charged that the Soviet and Polish Governments were "directing the anti-Semitic movements" all over Eastern Europe. Salomon Friederich, speaking on behalf of the sponsoring group, declared that Hitler and Stalin were "not dead but have, on the contrary, formed a new alliance."

The rally coincided with the beginnings of world-wide student protests against the secret trials that the Warsaw regime will start shortly against Jewish students and faculty members arrested last spring for allegedly instigating the uprising of Polish students who demanded democratic reforms.

(Jewish and non-Jewish students in London began an all-night silent vigil outside the Polish Embassy and the private residence of the Polish Ambassador to protest the forthcoming trials. Similar demonstrations were held on university campuses in London and in the provinces. They were organized by the World Union of Jewish Students who were joined by various non-Jewish student groups in proclaiming Nov. 18 a day of international protest against the student trials. Cables denouncing the trials were sent by student groups to Secretary-General U Thant of the United Nations, to the British Foreign Office and to the Polish Embassy.)

(In Tel Aviv today, local students joined the movement with the publication of protest statements directed to the Warsaw regime. They denounced the use of anti-Semitism as a weapon in Poland's internal political struggles and expressed concern over the safety of the surviving Jewish community in that country. The students said their protest was not against the Communist regime in Warsaw but against a regime that exploited anti-Semitism.)

(In Buenos Aires today Zionist students sent a letter to the Polish Ambassador, Bernard Bogdanski, calling the planned trials "discriminatory." They wrote that the fact that many of the students facing trial are Jewish "indicates a form of discrimination inconsistent with the principles of justice and equality, and tarnish the Socialist tradition." Jewish students at the University of Buenos Aires cabled the Ambassador, "We are deeply concerned by the arrests and trials of students in Poland as we protest and request their freedom. Stop discriminatory measures against Jews."

Also in Buenos Aires, Argentine Jews of Polish origin drafted a note of protest to be sent to Wladyslaw Gomułka, newly re-elected head of the Polish Communist Party, in which they demanded an end to the persecution of Poland's small surviving Jewish population. The situation of Polish Jews was discussed at a meeting which took note of the continuing "anti-Zionist" campaign in Poland; the purge of the last Jew from the Warsaw Politburo -- Vice Premier Eugeniusz Szyr; and secret trials, which will soon start, of Jewish students and faculty members. The meeting resolved to ask Mr. Gomułka to permit Jews to emigrate to be reunited with their families in Israel and to permit Jews remaining in Poland to continue Jewish lives and maintain contacts with Jews abroad.)

## Tourists Report Large Numbers Of Egyptian Jews Still Held In Prison

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA)--First-hand reports of continued detention and maltreatment of large numbers of Egyptian Jews have been brought here by tourists who visited Egypt a short time ago. They said that Jews are imprisoned mainly in the Helouan concentration camp near Cairo and have been under arrest, without trial, since the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war. The tourists, some of whom spoke to relatives of the prisoners, reported many complaints of mistreatment by prison wardens. They said the prisoners were allowed to receive visitors only once a month and then only for a half hour.

## NATO Ministerial Council Warns Soviet Union Of Mediterranean Intervention

BRUSSELS, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The NATO Ministerial Council concluded its semi-annual meeting here Saturday with a warning to the Soviet Union that any intervention "directly or indirectly affecting the situation in Europe or in the Mediterranean would create an international crisis with grave consequences." The warning was contained in the final communique issued by the 15-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization which for the previous three days had been considering the threat to world peace posed by Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia and the build-up of Soviet naval strength and political influence in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The communique was deliberately vague in that it mentioned no specific countries that were threatened by Soviet activity in the Mediterranean area. It said, however, "Determined to safeguard the freedom and independence of their countries, they (the NATO powers) could not remain indifferent to any development which endangers their security." The communique noted as well that "the expansion of Soviet activity in the Mediterranean, including the presence of Soviet naval units, requires vigilance to safeguard allied security."

The NATO deliberations, though conducted mainly behind closed doors, obviously took a very grave view of the growth of Soviet naval strength in the Mediterranean for the first time in history. Reports by military and strategic experts noted that the Soviet fleet was making use of the Egyptian ports of Alexandria and Port Said and the Syrian port of Latakia. Throughout the proceedings, however, no mention was made of Israel, which has been the target of Soviet denunciations since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war and would be the most likely victim should the Soviets intervene directly in renewed hostilities in the area. Informed sources pointed out that most delegates believe it is not NATO's task to become involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and that the best way to counteract Soviet penetration is to achieve an Arab-Israeli peace. It was pointed out when the NATO sessions started that Israel is not a member of the alliance and is not even one of the fringe nations which NATO would consider itself obliged to defend in case of aggression.

## Arabs Fail To Offer Competition To Miss Israel In Beauty Contest, Some Bet On Her

LONDON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Most of the Arab countries failed to enter contestants in the Miss World beauty contest held here last week because they were certain that the Israeli entry, Miri Zamir, would win and this would have been "a major national catastrophe" for the Arabs had they competed, the London newspaper "People" reported yesterday. Miss Israel came out third in the event and eight Arab diplomats who had each bet \$120 on her to win lost their money, "People" reported. According to the paper, the Arabs considered Miss Israel the prettiest entry and most polished of the contestants and their experts were sure she would win or emerge one of the runners-up. The official reason for the absence of an Arab entry was that Islam forbids girls to display themselves before strange men.

## Dr. Gaon Expresses Confidence About Future Of Jewish Community In Spain

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--A prominent Sephardic rabbi said here today that he was confident about the future of the Jewish community in Spain which numbers between 10,000-12,000 living in Madrid, Barcelona and Malaga. The Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, chief rabbi of the Sephardic Congregations of the British Commonwealth and director of the Sephardic Studies program at Yeshiva University, spoke at the fourth annual Sephardic community leadership conference held at the university.

He told more than 200 rabbinic and lay leaders of the Sephardic communities in North America that he had just taken part in laying the cornerstone of the first synagogue to be built in Madrid since the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. He reported the opening of the first kosher restaurant in Madrid and a kosher hotel in Malaga, a resort city. Dr. Gaon said further that "there is on the part of the Spanish Government an attempt to aid Jews in immigrating to Spain from Morocco and from Egypt and other Arab lands. Provided the educational and spiritual facilities are made available, a Jewish cultural life can be rebuilt."

Rabbi Gaon said Spanish Jews were mostly Sephardic and were generally professionals or business people. The rabbi of the new Madrid synagogue, to be consecrated Dec. 16, will be Benito Garson who was born in Tetuan, Spanish Morocco, and was ordained in London. Rabbi Gaon said that Max Mazin, president of the Madrid Jewish community, was trying to unite all the Jewish communities of Spain into one association. "The Jewish community in Spain is trying to take its place with those others of the diaspora in fulfilling its cultural and traditional responsibilities," he said.

The restoration and reunification of Jerusalem, including the rebuilding of the world's oldest synagogue, were given as goals of Israel's Sephardic community by Eliahou Eliachar, president of the Sephardi Community of Jerusalem, at the conference. Mr. Eliachar, vice-president of the World Sephardi Federation, said Zalman Shazar, President of Israel, had become honorary president of a special committee formed by the Sephardic community for restoration of the Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai Synagogue, oldest in the world.

Abandonment of the central content of religious Sephardic life in the face of the challenges of modern society threatens the existence of synagogue life in North America, Dr. Gaon said. "The greatest crisis," said Dr. Gaon, "is the need for well-trained men and women who can serve the Sephardic tradition as educators." At present some 40 Sephardic students attend Yeshiva University. They are given special courses to perpetuate their "unique and rich heritage which has contributed so much to the totality of Jewish scholarship and tradition," he said.