

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel Reiterates Willingness To Admit Additional Refugees Who Fled After War

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Israel reiterated today its willingness to admit additional Arab refugees who fled from the West Bank in the wake of the June, 1967 Arab-Israel War. The Ministry of Interior, in a statement issued today, said that 7,000 unused permits issued to refugees in Jordanian camps last summer may still be used by their bearers; if not they will be transferred to other refugees who will be admitted after usual processing of their applications. The permits were issued to heads of families and actually cover about 25,000 persons including minors registered to them.

The Israeli announcement was an apparent response to yesterday's appeal by the United States and British representatives at the United Nations for a "greatly expanded program" for returning refugees displaced by the 1967 hostilities. The appeal was made by U.S. Ambassador J. Russell Wiggins and Great Britain's Ambassador Lord Caradon during the special Political Committee's deliberations on renewing the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA).

Israel announced about a year ago that it was willing to re-admit the refugees. Application forms were distributed in refugee camps and other centers in Jordan by the International Red Cross. Over 20,000 persons returned the completed forms but 7,000 of the permits issued had not been used when the deadline for return was passed. Today's announcement extended the deadline until mid-January, 1969 after which the permits will be transferred to other refugees who apply for repatriation.

## French UN Envoy Calls For Return Of Arabs To West Bank In Greater Numbers

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 19 (JTA)--The French representative to the United Nations today called for the return of Arab refugees to the West Bank in greater numbers than heretofore. Armand Berard, speaking during the continuing discussion in the Special Political Committee on the report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said his Government attached great importance to the use of refugee camps on the West Bank to alleviate the hardships that winter will bring. He noted that only 14,000 of the 400,000 Arabs who fled the West Bank in the wake of the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war had returned to their homes and camps under the repatriation plan adopted by Israel in July, 1967.

Mr. Berard also noted that the commissioner-general of UNRWA, Laurence Michelmore, had said that his agency could provide better relief for the refugees if a Security Council resolution calling for their return was implemented. Mr. Berard said the tragedy of the Palestine refugees was given an added dimension by the 1967 war. The successive military actions unleashed after that war "aggravated the situation and contributed to the intensification of the exodus of Palestine refugees from the occupied area," he said.

Mr. Berard noted that UNRWA faced a deficit of \$3.2 million in 1968 and \$5 million in 1969. He said his delegation was against having the administrative costs of UNRWA paid out of the regular UN budget because such a procedure would make the budget mandatory for all member states, while the original 1949 resolution of the General Assembly establishing the refugee agency envisaged financing by voluntary contributions. The French diplomat said his Government favored extension of UNRWA's mandate beyond its June 30, 1969 expiration date "as a humanitarian necessity." The Political Committee agreed to permit a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Organization to be heard without implying recognition of that organization as "representing the people of Palestine." The PLO was so described in a letter signed by the representatives of 14 Arab countries petitioning for the right of its spokesmen to be heard.

Of the \$629 million spent by UNRWA since its inception in 1950 to care for refugees of the 1948 Middle East war, the United States has donated \$433 million -- 69 percent of the total. All the Arab countries have contributed only 2.6 percent of the total, and Israel has contributed about one-quarter of one percent. For 1968, the Arab contributions have risen to three percent and Israel's to 1.6 percent. The Soviet Union has contributed nothing.

## Israel Will Not Permit Arabia To Land Forces On Strait Of Tiran Island, Eshkol Says

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Israel will not permit Saudi Arabia to land forces on the island of Sanafir in the Strait of Tiran which Egypt leased from Saudi Arabia and used as a military base during the June, 1967 Six-Day War, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol stated in the Knesset (Parliament) today. Mr. Eshkol, who spoke in reply to questions disclosed that the subject of the island had been raised in his talks with President Johnson in Texas last January.

Replying to a question by Uri Avneri of the Haolam Hazeq faction on the nuclear non-proliferation pact, Mr. Eshkol said that it might be a matter of weeks or a matter of years before Israel signed the draft treaty, depending on many factors. He refused to elucidate but confirmed a statement attributed to him several weeks ago that there was no need for Israel to "rush" into signing

the treaty, Israel has been reported under considerable pressure from the United States to ratify the pact, an action which the U.S. Congress has yet to take. According to some reports, Israel's compliance is a condition of the sale of 50 F-4 Phantom jet supersonic fighter-bombers.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told the Knesset that Israel has warned the Lebanese Government that it will be held responsible for preventing infiltration into Israel territory of armed saboteurs and terrorists. Gen. Dayan said 10 acts of sabotage or shootings occurred along the Lebanese border during the last three months. He said many of the saboteurs came from Syria but some are based in Lebanon.

Concerning Sanapir Island, Mr. Eshkol said that Israel has not gone into the question of ownership but maintains control of it by means of regular landings and patrols. The island was occupied by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War. Later Saudi Arabia approached the U.S. to pressure Israel into returning it.

### State Dept. Sends Moscow U.S. Concept On Israeli Withdrawals

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Highly-placed State Department officials have transmitted to the Soviet Union a United States concept on Israeli withdrawal that would mean the return, with some exceptions, to conditions that existed prior to June 5, 1967, when the Six-Day War began. It was learned today that the State Department formula conceives a restoration of the earlier situation with some exceptions involving Jerusalem, possibly the Gaza Strip, and some international "guarantees" reminiscent of those formulated in 1957, after the 1956 Suez Campaign.

Undersecretaries of State Nicholas Katzenbach and Eugene Rostow have, in the past 10 days embarked on pressure on Israel to consider concessions, it was reported. This development coincided with the decision of Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol to cancel a scheduled visit to Washington to meet President Johnson. It was learned that Mr. Eshkol would not come to Washington until the Johnson Administration was over.

(In Jerusalem it was reported today that Premier Eshkol had postponed his trip to the United States, scheduled for December, with no new date set. The reason for the postponement was reported to be the press of urgent matters which had piled up while the Premier was bedridden recently with a virus infection.)

State Department officials claimed today there would be continuity in the new moves they were making on Israel through contacts with Moscow. They said the initiatives were required to normalize the Middle East and avert war.

The State Department was the source of reports that President-elect Nixon was preparing for early discussions on the Middle East with the Soviet Union, Israel, Egypt, and other Arab states. Officials said that Mr. Nixon was considering taking the initiative to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt. The Johnson Administration had wanted to resume relations with Cairo some time ago but President Nasser demanded unilateral American support of unconditional withdrawal by Israel. Diplomats said Mr. Nixon would soon get a report from former Treasury Secretary Robert Anderson, who saw President Nasser on what Anderson and the State Department described as private business.

U.S. Administration leaders recognize, however, that Russian military moves in support of the Arabs indicate the need for the supply of the Phantom jets long sought by Israel. But an attempt was made, it was reported, in the first draft of a memorandum to impose conditions unacceptable to Israel. Included was Israeli adherence to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Israel rejected the draft. Another was substituted today which eliminated most of the objectionable conditions, it was understood. It is now anticipated that the memorandum of understanding will be signed within a week. Then more detailed negotiations will be opened with Defense Department officials. By mid-December the actual transaction may take final form.

The United States position, as communicated to the Soviets, still calls for a peace settlement but spells out in advance the concessions Washington feels Israel should make. Some sort of demilitarized boundary solution is seen to the Gaza Strip and some negotiations envisaged on Jerusalem. The exact outline was not precisely known but it was believed that the whole concept, including control of the Strait of Tiran, was one that Israel would not find acceptable. President Johnson's address before the B'nai B'rith is being invoked by the State Department in insisting that peace must not reflect the impact of military conquest.

The new diplomacy may not be considered by the new Administration as binding and it may be taken to reflect the personal initiatives of State Department leaders during the closing days of the Johnson Administration. Israel is expected to proceed cautiously because of the peculiar timing of the new initiatives. It was learned that Israel Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin met with Katzenbach and Rostow, in two separate visits to the Department in recent days, at their request.

### Report Jarring Has Decided To Move Mission To Geneva, Awaiting 3 Parties' Approval

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 19 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources reported here today that Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations' special peace envoy to the Middle East, has decided to move the headquarters of his mission to Geneva but is awaiting agreement by the parties concerned on timing the shift. When replies are received from Egypt, Jordan and Israel, Dr. Jarring is expected to propose a date for resuming his efforts at the new site, the sources said. Since his mission began early this year, Dr. Jarring has maintained headquarters at Nicosia, Cyprus from which he travelled regularly to Jerusalem, Amman and Cairo.

## Lebanese Release Students Arrested For Allegedly Inciting Riots, Protect Jewish Quarter

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Lebanese authorities have released six foreign Jewish students who were arrested for allegedly inciting riots and moved quickly last week to protect Beirut's Jewish quarter from pogroms by enraged Arab mobs, it was reported here yesterday. The students were reportedly of French and Turkish nationality. The students were arrested after accusations, published by Lebanese newspapers, that they and local Jews were responsible for last week's student demonstrations and riots in Beirut and Tripoli. One student was reported killed and eight injured in what were apparently clashes between factions supporting Palestine Arab guerrillas and groups opposed to the commandos. Lebanese authorities released the students quickly, and placed heavy guards around the Jewish quarter. Interior Minister Pierre Gemayel urged citizens not to follow incitement against a national minority.

## Soviet Court Reaffirms Sentences Of Banishment For Mrs. Daniel, Litvinov, Others

LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA)--The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation confirmed today sentences of banishment and labor camps for five dissenters among whom were Dr. Pavel Litvinov and Mrs. Larisa Daniel, it was reported here.

The dissenters had been convicted of a breach of the peace by public demonstrations against the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Daniel, wife of imprisoned writer Yuli Daniel, had been sentenced to four years' banishment. Dr. Litvinov had been sentenced to five years' internal exile; he is the grandson of former Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov. Others involved were Konstantin Babitsky, a literary critic; Vladimir Dremlyuga, a laborer; and Vladimir Delone, a former student.

## Report Intensification Of Arab Propaganda Activities Through France

PARIS, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Arab propaganda activities have become more aggressive and widespread in France in recent weeks since the establishment of the "Arab-French Solidarity Committee," it was reported here. The committee is currently holding a special "Palestine Week" devoted to the plight of Arab refugees and of Arabs in Israel-held territory. The committee is also organizing special friendship societies among intellectuals and has begun publication of a bi-monthly magazine.

Reports reaching here from Beirut said that the ousted former head of the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism, Rabbi Elmer Berger, has become a "hero" of the Arab countries where he has been lecturing and addressing public meetings. Rabbi Berger is due in Cairo next week for a series of lectures at the invitation of the Arab League, the reports said. His speeches denounce Israel and Zionism and voice unlimited support for the Arab cause.

## Wiesenthal Says Bormann, Other War Criminals, Alive And Hiding In South America

PARIS, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Simon Wiesenthal, the director of the Jewish documentation center in Vienna, who has devoted his life to tracking down wanted Nazi war criminals, said in Strassbourg yesterday that Hitler's deputy, Martin Bormann, and a host of other wanted Nazis are alive and hiding in South America. Mr. Wiesenthal also asserted that other war criminals have found a safe haven in East Germany where one of them is now a member of Parliament. He identified the latter as Stefan Roick, who allegedly directed the extermination of the Lublin ghetto.

Mr. Wiesenthal spoke at a conference organized by the Strassbourg branch of the B'nai B'rith. He said Bormann was constantly on the move between Paraguay, Chile and southwestern Brazil. He is constantly watched by bodyguards who use special transmission equipment to warn him of the presence of strangers in his vicinity. Mr. Wiesenthal said. In addition to Bormann, South America has provided a haven for Gestapo chief Heinrich Muller, Richard Glucks, who was inspector-general of the concentration camps, and Josef Mengele, the notorious "death camp doctor" of Auschwitz, Mr. Wiesenthal said.

He declared that according to "highly reliable sources," these men, if apprehended and extradited, would not benefit from the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecutions that is scheduled to go into effect in West Germany on Dec. 31, 1969. The Bonn Government would try them as it has at its disposal huge amounts of evidence against them, Mr. Wiesenthal said. He added, however, that because of the safety precautions they take, the wanted Nazis could be arrested only by the authorities of the countries in which they live.

## Mrs. Dayan Tells Indians Of Efforts To Improve Economy Of Arab Refugees

NEW DELHI, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Mrs. Ruth Dayan, wife of Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, described at a press conference here efforts being made by Israelis to improve the economy of Arab refugees in camps in Israel-held territory. Mrs. Dayan is visiting India in connection with an International Labor Organization conference on the role of handicrafts in the economy of developing countries. She said that Arab and Israeli social workers worked together in the camps and bought whatever the refugees made. She said a training course in dress-making was opened for Arab women in Jerusalem. She also described the operations of Maskit, an organization she founded to develop Israel's handicraft industry. Mrs. Dayan said she was gratified by the hospitality shown to her in India and particularly the reception she received from the Indian Jewish community. Israel will participate in the 21st International Geographic Conference to open here during the first week of December. Three members of the Israeli delegation, Dr. Amiram Gonen, Dr. Asher Schick and Dr. Aryeh Shahar, have arrived and are presently on a study and lecture tour of various Indian cities.

## Jewish Leaders Join Others Attending Funeral Of Augustin Cardinal Bea in Rome

ROME, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Jewish leaders joined Roman Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox church and lay leaders here today at the funeral of Augustin Cardinal Bea who died last week at the age of 87. Cardinal Bea was the chief Vatican spokesman for Christian unity and was the architect of the Vatican Ecumenical Council's Declaration absolving the Jewish people of guilt for the Crucifixion of Christ. Zachariah Schuster, European director of the American Jewish Committee, represented that organization at the rites.

In New York, the American Jewish Congress sent a message to the Vatican expressing "profound sorrow" at the death of Cardinal Bea. The message was sent by Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, president, and Dr. Joachim Prinz of Newark, N.J., chairman of the AJCongress' Commission on International Affairs. Addressed to Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, Vatican Secretary of State, the cable said, "Cardinal Bea...over a period of many decades dedicated himself to the promotion of a better relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish people and...was one of the main architects of the important pronouncements that were issued by the Vatican Council. To all men of every religious creed, he was a symbol of the true ecumenical spirit and set an example for all of us. His memory will remain honored and blessed amongst the Jewish people all over the world."

(In Buenos Aires, the Latin American Executive of the World Jewish Congress sent a letter of condolence today to the Apostolic Nuncio, Monsignor Umberto Mozzoni, on the death of Cardinal Bea. The WJCongress also cabled a message of sympathy to the Royal Spanish Academy on the death of its life president, Ramon Menendez Pidal, long friendly to the Jewish people. Senor Pidal had contributed to the elimination of many idioms and terms offensive to Jews from Spanish dictionaries.)

## Nixon Sends First Greetings To A Jewish Organization As President-Elect

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 19 (JTA)--President-elect Richard M. Nixon sent greetings yesterday to the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America (Conservative) which opened its five-day biennial convention here. It was Mr. Nixon's first message to a Jewish organization since his election and was addressed to Mrs. Sol Henkind, League president. He declared, "Programs such as yours to advance religious, educational and social service projects exemplify the kind of citizen involvement which I have strongly advocated and hope to strengthen during the course of the next Administration."

Dr. Louis Finkelstein, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, rejected in an address the contention that the youth of today are bereft of religion. He told the 2,000 delegates, "Their impatience and revolt against the injustice and smugness of society is compatible with religion, since our Hebrew prophets too were vociferous in expressing their sense of indignation at the smugness of their times." Dr. Finkelstein added, "What is remiss is that our youth today follow only one aspect of true religion, namely that of protest and quest for change, while ignoring the second aspect of the integral whole of religion -- the observances of rituals and the adherence to the heritage of our forefathers and the tenets of our faith."

Mrs. Joseph Wagenheim, the League's affiliations chairman, told the convention that 37 new Sisterhoods have been added in the past two years, bringing the total to 800. Total membership is 210,000 -- some 10,300 more than in the census during the last convention in 1966. Mrs. Baruch I. Treiger, the League's executive director, said the latest affiliates have been organized mainly in newly-developed Jewish communities.

The organization contributed almost \$1 million in 1966 and 1967 to the Jewish Theological Seminary and expects the annual grant to be made again this year. Another \$1 million has been turned over to the seminary for construction of the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall for Women Students. Construction of the hall will begin in 1969 and be completed in December, 1970 as part of the new \$14 million seminary complex in New York City.

## 59 Jewish Refugees From Eastern Europe Arrive In U.S. For Resettlement

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Fifty-nine Jewish refugees from Czechoslovakia, Poland and other Eastern European countries arrived today at Kennedy Airport, the third charter flight in a series that began with the aid of United Hias Service on Oct. 25 when the first Czech refugees reached the United States.

Gaynor I. Jacobson, Hias executive vice-president, said that the new Americans, who included doctors, engineers, mechanics and other professional and technical experts, would settle in New York, Chicago, Boston, Bridgeport, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cleveland and Lewistown, Pa. Carlos L. Israels, Hias president, said that nearly 3,000 Jews from Czechoslovakia and Poland had applied to the Hias Vienna office for emigration aid and that more than 1,000 had already been resettled in the U.S. and other Western countries.

## French Reform Jews Deal With 'Negative' Image, Adjustment To French Culture

OTTAWA, Nov. 19 (JTA)--A "negative" image that Reform Judaism appears to have presented among other Jews in Canada and the problem of Jewish adjustment to the predominantly French culture of Quebec province were the subjects of papers presented at the biennial convention of the Canadian Council of Reform Congregations here. Rabbi Arthur Benjamin of Ottawa's Temple Israel said the "Achilles' heel" of the Reform movement in Canada was "a negative approach to Judaism that defined itself as running away from the old man with the beard rather than toward a pattern of Jewish observance and expression of real quality and import."