

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Charge Polish Embassy In Washington With 'Cynical' Attempt To Exploit Ghetto Film

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (JTA)--The Embassy of Poland was today charged by a spokesman for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations with "cynically attempting to exploit a television film on the Warsaw Ghetto." Meanwhile, persons invited to a special showing and party arranged by the Polish Ambassador on Dec. 3 began declining invitations.

Polish diplomats had decided to stage a propaganda showing of a National Broadcasting Co. "Eternal Light" program on Nazi atrocities in the Warsaw Ghetto because of rising American criticism of current Government-sponsored anti-Semitic policies in Poland. Andrej Konopacki, first secretary of the embassy, has publicly taken the position that Poland is "anti-Zionist" and "anti-subversive" but not anti-Semitic. Polish Ambassador Jerzy Michalowski invited leaders of the Jewish community and press-TV media to the embassy for Dec. 3 party.

The spokesman for the Conference of Presidents voiced "shock over the arrogance of the embassy in exploiting the martyrdom of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto at the very time that the Peoples Republic of Poland is preparing show trials of an anti-Semitic nature reminiscent of the Stalin era. The very same embassy, during the 25th anniversary of the Ghetto uprising, issued propaganda deprecating and minimizing the courage and heroism of the Jewish freedom fighters. The Warsaw Government even made it difficult for Jews in Warsaw to memorialize the martyrs on the 25th anniversary. The Conference has confidence that American Jewry will see through this hypocritical attempt to confuse and mislead the U.S. Jewish community" he said.

An NBC spokesman said the network had borrowed some film footage of the Ghetto battle for use in the "Eternal Light" program. "A Record of Remembrance." The program is produced under the auspices of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York. When NBC returned the borrowed historical strips, used as inserts, the network sent the Polish Embassy the complete show as a conventional courtesy. The NBC official explained that had footage been borrowed even from North Vietnam the same courtesy would have been extended to Hanoi to show the context in which the loaned material had been used.

But the Polish Embassy decided to make a big production of the presentation of the film print to Ambassador Michalowski. A gala cocktail reception was scheduled and invitations issued. Mindful of the growing shock in America over the revival of anti-Semitism, under the guise of anti-Zionism, the Polish Government apparently seized upon an opportunity to obscure the present issue by denouncing Nazi policies of the past.

Herman Edelsberg, director of the international affairs department of Bnai Brith, said today that "it is infamous that this same Polish Government that defamed the Warsaw Ghetto martyrs a few months ago as part of its continuing anti-Semitic campaign should now try to exploit a film memorializing the Jewish uprising. It is a case of the thief seeking to divert attention from himself by crying 'stop, thief.' The new-type Nazis are pointing a finger at the old Nazis." (Warsaw authorities recently issued a list of uprisings by Polish patriots against the Nazis. The Jewish revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto was omitted.)

## New York Jewry--And Israel-- Providing Aid To Yeshiva Hit By Arsonists

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA)--The New York Jewish community was mobilizing today--with an assist from Israel--to help the fire-devastated Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway, in Brooklyn, recover from its estimated \$100,000 to \$200,000 loss. The Flatbush Orthodox yeshiva, 11th Jewish house of worship desecrated in the last three months, was the victim of arson yesterday that left its first floor Beis Midrash (study hall and synagogue) gutted. Lost were seven Torahs, thousands of books including Talmud volumes and numerous religious articles. The two-story brick yeshiva, opened a year ago, took "many years of hard struggle" to build, said one source. It was built "dollar by dollar" by the generally low-income Jewish community.

Answering an appeal from Mayor John V. Lindsay, the Israel Government Ministry of Religious Affairs announced today it would fly four Torah scrolls--possibly from an Eastern European collection--to the yeshiva. A man from Valley Stream, L.I., walked in with a fifth scroll. Gifts of money and religious texts, as well as loaned books, were promised today by various private citizens and synagogues. Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative), told the JTA he was taking steps to organize a committee representing various elements of the "community-at-large" to raise funds for restoration. He hopes to obtain emergency grants from Jewish charities which do not normally make contributions to yeshivas.

Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis, said the organization plans to appeal to member congregations to create a fund which can provide money to desecrated and damaged yeshivas or synagogues. It will also appeal for Torahs and other items to replace those burned.

Principal and founder of the Eastern Parkway Yeshiva is Rabbi Meilach Silber. One of the burned Torahs had been sent by his father to a Polish village to save it from the Nazis. When the Silbers came to America they took it with them. Plans for a funeral for the damaged scrolls, as prescribed by Jewish tradition, were being made.

## West Bank Merchants Protest New Security Measures Restricting Commercial Traffic

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA)--West Bank Arab merchants have protested to the military government over new security measures restricting commercial traffic with Jordan which, they say, will create economic hardships. The measures, to take effect Tuesday, will require trucks carrying goods from Jordan to unload as soon as they cross the Allenby or Damiya bridges to the West Bank. Their cargoes will be reloaded on other trucks after inspection by Israeli guards. West Bank produce bound for Jordan will also have to be unloaded for inspection and reloaded before crossing the bridges. Israeli authorities believe the explosives which killed 12 persons and injured 55 in the Machane Yehudah vegetable market in Jerusalem last Friday might have been hidden under goods coming from Jordan. They went off in a parked car which, while bearing Israeli license plates, may have come from the West Bank or Jordan.

The Nablus Chamber of Commerce complained in a telegram to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan today that the transfer of cargoes from truck to truck would be costly and increase the price of West Bank produce shipped to Jordan as well as Jordanian merchandise imported to the West Bank. They said also that drivers who hitherto drove directly between the West Bank and Amman would lack employment. Similar protests were lodged by the chambers of commerce of other West Bank towns.

The new regulations will not bar travel between the West Bank and Jordan but travellers will have to cross the bridges on foot. Travel permits to Jordan will be issued for shorter periods of time. No restrictions will be imposed on West Bank workers entering Israel for employment; at last count there were several thousand with entry permits and their number is expected to increase with the citrus-packing season. West Bank Arabs visiting Israel for other purposes will be issued one-day passes only instead of the 30-day passes issued previously, according to Brig. Gen. Raphael Vardi, military governor of the West Bank.

He told mayors and merchants in West Bank towns that there would be greater restrictions placed on movement within the occupied West Bank itself and that the area would be broken up into zones for tighter control. Roadblocks will be set up on many roads that hitherto have had free-flowing traffic. More checkpoints will be set up within Israel itself, and there will be surprise searches on Israel-West Bank roads. The various steps are expected to limit the free flow of commodities and human traffic that began shortly after the June, 1967 war and which became a tacitly recognized condition between the two nations which are still technically at war.

## Sasson Tells Knesset Israel Plans No Collective Punishment Of Arabs

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA)--Police Minister Eliahu Sasson told the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that the Israel Government does not intend to impose collective punishment on the Arab population despite recent terrorist outrages against civilians. He spoke in reply to eight agenda motions presented during debate on last Friday's explosion in the Machane Yehuda market. He said that as a result of the latest terrorist acts, the time may be ripe to reappraise prison conditions for convicted saboteurs and to consider more stringent judicial measures against them. He added that there would be no change in the Government policy of not identifying Jerusalem's Arabs as a whole with the terrorists. This policy will stand, he declared, although no Arab civic or religious leaders in East Jerusalem had demonstrated the moral courage to publicly condemn the bombing. Mr. Sasson said that Israel's prisons today hold more than 1,700 terrorists, either serving sentences or awaiting trial. Additional hundreds of terrorists have been killed in clashes with Israeli forces. He said Israel viewed the terror as part of a wide-ranging political and military campaign directed by forces beyond Israel's borders and outside of the occupied Arab territories.

## Dayan Says Jordanians Have Fired On Israel Often Since Hussein-Commando Agreement

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reported to the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that Jordan had opened fire on Israeli positions more than 30 times since last week's agreement between King Hussein and the principal guerrilla groups operating from Jordanian soil. He said that the agreement, which made no mention of the cease-fire between Israel and Jordan, greatly aggravated the situation along the demarcation line giving the marauders virtually a free hand to act against Israel so long as they recognized the authority of the Hussein regime and obeyed Jordanian law. Gen. Dayan spoke in reply to an agenda motion presented by Gideon Hausner, of the Independent Liberal faction, on the role of Iraqi troops stationed in Jordan since the June, 1967 war. He said the Iraqis should be considered part of the general framework of the Jordanian Army. Their main importance was in the creation of an "Eastern Command" headed by an Iraqi general and designed to defend Jordan from a possible Egyptian take-over attempt, but it did not absolve the Iraqis of guilt in aiding and training Arab commandos. Gen. Dayan said. He rejected a proposal by Mr. Hausner to warn Iraq that it should not consider itself safe from reprisals because of its distance from Israel.

## 5-Man Guerrilla Band Wiped Out, Israelis Capture 17-Member Terrorist Group

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28 (JTA)--A five-man Arab guerrilla band was wiped out in an encounter with an Israeli patrol yesterday near El Hamma in the Golan Heights, close to the Jordanian border, a military spokesman reported. Israel authorities also announced the capture of a 17-member Arab terrorist gang from Hebron believed responsible for at least four acts of sabotage or attempted sabotage. Ten were described as "collaborators" who provided saboteurs with food and shelter. Two others are Hebronites who recently received training in Jordan.

A 17-year-old Los Angeles girl, Sari Roberta, who is not Jewish, lost her right foot yesterday when she stepped on an anti-personnel mine in a banana grove near Kibbutz Golan in the Beisan Valley where she was working as a volunteer. She is one of 30 American volunteers at the kibbutz, located less than a mile from the Jordanian frontier.

## Israel Exchanges Allegations On Human Rights With Soviet Union And Syria

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 27 (JTA)--Israel exchanged allegations yesterday about violations of human rights with the Soviet Union and representatives of Arab countries. Mutual allegations were voiced in the United Nations' Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee which has just begun general debate on an issue connected with the International Year for Human Rights. Mrs. Tamar Eshel of Israel expressed "dismay and sorrow" that the Soviet Union, "whose Constitution safeguards the rights of all peoples and minorities, has been consistently discriminating against the Jewish minority...numbering more than three million people." She also drew the committee's attention to "the systematic campaign of propaganda, pursued by the official mass media in the Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany against Jews." The Israeli representative also spoke of the "plight of the Jewish minorities in certain Arab countries in the Middle East."

The committee was presented by Sweden with a 34-power draft resolution on the International Conference on Human Rights held in Teheran, Iran last spring. It would have the General Assembly take action on "full implementation of human rights."

While praising the Teheran conference for making an "important constructive contribution to the cause of human rights," Mrs. Eshel told the committee that the Israeli delegation "found itself the target of a political propaganda offensive that disrupted the proceedings, created dissension and led to the adoption of a one-side political resolution." E.N. Nasinovsky of the Soviet Union termed Mrs. Eshel's remarks "slandorous insinuations" and said that the Soviet Union provided "equal rights for every nationality," adding that Israel had violated human rights in the Arab territories occupied during the June, 1967 war. His position was supported by George J. Tomeh of Syria who denied there was "political propaganda" at Teheran regarding Arab rights in those territories. Mr. Tomeh accused Israel of raising a smoke-screen to hide humanitarian resolutions adopted at the UN since the Six-Day War. He cited a report by Secretary General U Thant which he said made it "absolutely clear" that Israel refused to agree to a Security Council request to Mr. Thant to send a "humanitarian" envoy to the occupied territories to study the condition of Arabs in them.

In her charges against the Soviet Union, Mrs. Eshel said that unlike other minorities, the Jews are deprived of any means of using their own language for instruction, of learning their own history in any language, and of developing their own culture and civilization. "Three million Jews are permitted to have, in all, 62 synagogues and only three practicing rabbis...The Jewish minority, while officially considered a national group, is doomed to forcible assimilation, cultural disappearance and spiritual strangulation." She called anti-Semitism in Russia a political tool and Jews there "scapegoats for the evils of a society and the failure of a system." Turning to East European propaganda, Mrs. Eshel said the "campaign is camouflaged to appear to be directed against Zionism as an ideology and as a political movement" but she said it was evident that it was really a "powerful revival of anti-Jewish prejudices and policies." She said that the words "Zionist" and "Jew" are interchangeable in this campaign. "How can we interpret the repeated accusation that 'Zionists' ('Jews') endanger the peace of the world, that they are responsible for the liberalization in Poland, that they undermine the Government of Poland, and that they are the enemies of the Socialist ideas of the Soviet Union?" Mrs. Eshel praised Czechoslovakia for not being drawn into anti-Semitic practices and criticized the "rehabilitation of the notorious anti-Semite Trofim Kichko whose book 'Judaism Without Embellishment' was published in 1963 by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kiev."

### Says Polish Anti-Semitism Outgrowth Of Jews In Secret Police

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The wave of anti-Semitism that spread over Poland during the past year had its roots in the secret police that the Russians brought when they took over that country in 1944, according to a Warsaw dispatch by Nicholas Carroll published in the Washington Post today. The reporter believed that the anti-Jewish campaign, though officially inspired by the Communist regime, took hold because Poles resent the role once played in the secret police by Jewish Communists.

"In 1944 the Russian brought with them not only a police government with a strong Jewish element, but also a new police apparatus staffed at the top almost entirely by Jews whose crimes against the Polish people in imposing Communism are not forgotten," Mr. Carroll wrote. "Hence, it is scarcely to be wondered at today that, if you scratch a Pole, you will find an anti-Semite."

### Mrs. Kaminska Arrives In New York, May Pursue Career Here

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Mrs. Ida Kaminska, director of the now nearly defunct Jewish State Theater of Poland, is in New York, possibly to pursue her stage career in this country. She arrived with her husband, actor-producer Meir Melman, a son, daughter and grand-daughter. She left Poland several months ago, went to Israel, and arrived here aboard a chartered flight from Vienna carrying 36 Jewish refugees from Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries. Their migration was assisted by the United Hias Service.

## Delegation Of Students Will Confer At Foreign Office On Polish Student Trials

LONDON, Nov. 28 (JTA)--A delegation of Jewish and non-Jewish students will confer next Tuesday with Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, as part of their program of protest against the treatment of students in Poland. The delegation, including the leaders of the National Union of Students and the Student Christian Movement, are mobilizing public opinion against the upcoming secret trials of Polish students who are blamed for inciting last spring's riots on behalf of democratic reforms. A number of Jews are among the students slated to face Polish courts. In a related development, prominent British university teachers signed a letter published in the Times of London protesting the planned trials and associating themselves with the International Day of Protest against them.

## Keyserling Elected President Of National Committee For Labor Israel

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Leon H. Keyserling, an internationally prominent economist who served as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Eisenhower from 1950 - 1953, was elected to be president of the National Committee for Labor Israel, American fund-raising and service agency for Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, holding its 45th annual convention here. Mr. Keyserling succeeded Joseph Schlossberg, an American trade union leader, who had headed the committee since 1934.

Dr. Sol Stein, executive director, reported yesterday that nearly \$5,275,000 was raised during the fiscal year ended last Sept. 30 for the health, educational, vocational training and social welfare institutions supported by Histadrut in Israel. He said the income included \$3,930,000 in cash raised through the Histadrut campaign in the United States, Canada and Latin America and \$1,344,000 in deferred income through the American Histadrut Development Foundation. Histadrut has two million Israeli members including 50,000 Arabs.

Mr. Keyserling, who has prepared four major studies of the Israel economy, attended the world economic conferences in Israel in 1967 and 1968 at the invitation of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and has frequently served as an economic consultant to the Israel Government. He is presently a consulting economist and attorney with offices in Washington, D.C.

Summarizing the National Committee's achievements since its founding in 1923, Dr. Stein said that over \$67 millions had been raised for the Israel Histadrut Campaign, and an additional \$19.6 millions by Pioneer Women, an affiliated group, for projects of Histadrut's Working Women's Council. The money went toward construction of 732 medical centers throughout Israel; 177 cultural centers; 92 children's institutions; 52 units in homes for the aged; 72 projects in vocational schools; 73 libraries; 35 synagogues; 27 sports centers and facilities; and 34 miscellaneous projects.

Yehoshua Levy, Histadrut treasurer, sent the convention a message saying that the voluntary agencies of Histadrut "must be enlarged to serve the growing population, particularly the new immigrants and the youth." Histadrut's medical service is the largest in Israel covering 72% of the entire population, with an annual budget of nearly \$100 million dollars.

President Johnson sent greetings saying Histadrut's efforts "closely parallel America's efforts to build a better society" for its citizens. The National Committee raises funds among trade unions, Jewish organizations, Jewish federations and welfare funds, and individual donors.

## Karasick Sees No Conspiracy In Crimes Against Jews In Slum Areas

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (JTA)--A national Jewish leader declared here that verbal and physical assaults against Jews and Jewish property in slum areas constituted a problem of crime in the streets and "not an anti-Semitic conspiracy." But he warned that a conflict was developing in Negro-Jewish relations which required serious consideration from the Jewish community. Joseph Karasick, national president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, voiced those views to some 2,000 delegates and guests at the 70th anniversary national biennial convention of that central representative organization for some 3,000 Orthodox congregations throughout the United States and Canada.

Mr. Karasick said Jews throughout the U.S. felt a special concern over one phase of the recent public school teachers strike in New York City -- elements of anti-Semitism in the conflict between black parents and teachers in the experimental Ocean Hill-Brownsville school district in Brooklyn and the United Federation of Teachers. He added that Orthodox Jews "in poverty areas are the targets of rioting and synagogues on the borders between black and white communities are the targets of stonings and bombings." Mr. Karasick said one source of Negro Jewish differences is that anti-poverty program, while far below needs, are sufficiently effective so that "the American Negro is finally beginning, in increasing numbers, to move up the competitive ladder." Like the Jew before him, Mr. Karasick added, the Negro is discovering that one good way to combat job bigotry is to go where his hard-won job skills are "measured on their merits -- the civil service." He said the areas in which the ghetto Negro was most likely to meet the Jew was in public school teaching and social casework areas in which competitive examinations are the door to admission, in these areas the Negro, "scrambling at long last up the ladder," sees the Jew in his way. He said the Jew already sees the aspiring Negro as a professional threat, particularly when proposals are made seriously that "blacks should get special consideration in easing of professional requirements for jobs."

These negative aspects of black attitudes toward Jews, Mr. Karasick emphasized, must not be used as an excuse for Jews to "withdraw from the struggle for a more decent society" for all minorities.

## Sentence KKK Member, 22, To Prison For Attempt To Dynamite Jewish Home In Miss.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Nov. 28 (JTA) -- A 21 year-old alleged Klu Klux Klan member was sentenced to 30 years in the Mississippi Penitentiary today for attempting to dynamite the home of a prominent Jewish businessman last June 30 in a personal vendetta against a "Communist-Jewish conspiracy." Lauderdale County Circuit Judge Lester Williamson pronounced sentence on Thomas Albert Tarrants III of Mobile, Ala. Tarrants was spotted by two detectives planting a box containing 29 sticks of dynamite and a 30-minute timing device at the fashionable home of Meyer Davidson. Detectives were staked out because of a wave of anti-Semitic terror attacks by night riders in and around Meridian. In Tarrants' possession was a handwritten diary in which he declared that since March 23, 1968 he had been actively engaged in an underground guerrilla war against the "Communist-Jewish conspiracy" using any means necessary. Defense Attorney Thomas Haas, of Mobile, told the jury that Tarrants' mind had become diseased with an anti-Communist obsession until he felt he was fighting "for his God and his country." He urged them to find him insane and put him "where he can be treated by competent physicians." District Attorney George Warner asked for the death penalty under Mississippi's tough bombing law.