

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel-Jordan Front Cools Off; Israelis Ponder Motives Behind Iraqi Attacks

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5 (JTA)--The Israel-Jordan demarcation line was quiet today for the first time in four days as political and military circles here pondered the possible motives behind the Iraqi artillery attacks from Jordanian soil on Israeli border settlements. Those attacks triggered yesterday's Israeli air strike against the 10,000-12,000-man Iraqi force stationed in northwest Jordan and their weapon and radar concentrations. The force comprises more than a division with auxiliary units.

The consensus was that the Iraqi bombardment stemmed from political rather than military considerations. Iraqi troops have been stationed on Jordanian soil since the June, 1967 war, although they saw no action in that conflict, and Baghdad has never agreed to a cease-fire agreement with Israel. They operate independently of Jordanian authorities and are known to have given considerable aid to Arab marauders. But until last week they refrained from direct action and their artillery attack on Beisan and Jordan Valley settlements was unprovoked by any action by Israel.

Some observers said the Iraqi attack was intended to disrupt any plans Jordan may have for entering into peace talks with Israel and also to divert attention from Iraq's domestic troubles. Others speculated that the Iraqis have a vested interest in continued bloodshed and tension along the Israel-Jordan demarcation line because that may be seen as an excuse for Iraqis remaining in Jordan. These observers pointed out that the Iraqis have overstayed their welcome in Jordan and that King Hussein, who has had serious troubles with Palestinian commando groups, regards the Iraqi military presence as a source of domestic friction. Israeli officials said Iraq may have sought to start trouble with Israel to divert attention at home from economic difficulties and the seemingly endless war with the Kurds. They noted that President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt has resorted to similar tactics to still unrest at home. Israel's Defense Minister, Gen. Moshe Dayan, noted last week that the Iraqi commander in Jordan supervised an "eastern front" which is supposed to relieve Egypt from the burden of protecting Jordan. Some observers said today that Col. Nasser may have asked the Iraqis to escalate the tension on the Israel-Jordan border because of the recent student riots in Egypt or because the Egyptians may be planning new aggressive acts themselves.

An Israeli military spokesman said the Iraqi artillery barrage was well planned and organized. It began simultaneously along the whole sector facing the Beisan and northern Jordan Valleys. Shell fragments indicated that the Iraqis used 122-millimeter howitzers and other weapons with which the Iraqi, but not the Jordanian Army, is equipped. The spokesman said that three Iraqi batteries were concentrated around Irbid, Jordan's second largest city, with a population of over 100,000. A radar station was located between Irbid and Mafraq and a weapons and armored vehicle depot was located near Mafraq, a rail and road junction. These were the main targets of Israeli jets. The spokesman said that the air attack lasted one hour and that almost every type of plane in the Israel Air Force was employed, using a variety of bombs and other weapons. He said all targets were set afire, noting that Israeli pilots exercised great care not to hit the civilian population. The attack was intended as a warning to Iraq that its shelling of Israeli settlements would not go unpunished. No sorties were flown against Jordanians. A high-ranking Israeli officer said that the Israeli jets were unopposed by any aircraft although some "Arab" aircraft were spotted by the Israeli pilots. These planes did not engage them and the pilots later differed on what type or nationality they may have been. One source said Iraqi MIGs were seen taking off but none went into action.

Radio broadcasts from Baghdad heard here today gave a picture of frenzied mobs raging through the streets as a funeral procession bore the bodies of Iraqi troops - of unspecified numbers - who were killed in the Israeli air raid. The mobs demanded vengeance against Israel, the annihilation of the Jewish State and a war "to the death" against Israel. They also hurled epithets at the United States. Baghdad radio called it the greatest protest in Iraqi history. Later Iraqi Premier Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr went on the air and accused the U.S. and Israel of plotting a campaign of "sabotage and assassination" to force the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Jordan. Cairo radio yesterday broadcast a speech by Col. Nasser who vowed to punish Israel "even if it costs a million casualties."

Israel today accused Jordan of responsibility for the murder of an Israeli pilot whose Super Mystere jet was shot down over Jordanian territory yesterday. According to an Israeli spokesman, the pilot, Lt. Nadav Nehorai of Bet Alpha, a Beisan Valley settlement, was seen parachuting safely. When Israeli rescue helicopters arrived on the scene they found him seriously wounded, shot at close range apparently by Jordanian civilians. The pilot died on the helicopter while receiving medical treatment.

## Thant Tells Tekoah, El-Farra Of 'Concern About Deteriorating Military Situation'

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 5 (JTA)--Secretary General U Thant emphasized today to the United Nations Ambassadors of Israel and Jordan his "concern about the deteriorating military situation" along the cease-fire line. After calling them to his office separately, Mr. Thant asked them, a UN announcement said, "in the context of the Security Council cease-fire resolutions, to convey his concern to their respective governments." Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah and Jordanian envoy

Muhammad H. el-Farra were also informed by the United States Mission that the State Department regards the cease-fire violations by both sides as detrimental to the peace-seeking mission of UN mediator Gunnar V. Jarring. The same message was given to the Ambassadors in Washington, Itzhak Rabin and Abdul Hamid Sharaf.

#### Washington Skeptical Of Reports That Egypt Has Gotten MIG-23s

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA)--The Department of Defense is skeptical of reports that MIG-23 jets have been delivered by Russia to Egypt, although it was deemed possible that a few of the advanced supersonic fighters had been flown to Cairo for propaganda and demonstration purposes.

Officials commented on a recent report from Morocco that the MIG-23 had arrived in Egypt. Known by the NATO code name, "Foxbat," the MIG-23 is a twin-jet multi-purpose fighter capable of attacking at speeds three times the speed of sound. Authorities said here that MIG-21s had been supplied in quantity to Egypt and that the flow of SU-7 ground attack fighters was increasing. The MIG-23 is still being tested by the Soviet Air Force. It has not yet been delivered in quantity to Russian squadrons. The MIG-21 remains in general use.

President Johnson today joined visiting Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda of Iran in pledging "all possible support" to efforts to bring about a United Nations settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. A joint statement released by the White House said the two leaders "agreed that Iran and the United States should continue to give all possible support to the efforts of Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring to bring about a just and lasting peace in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967."

#### Italian Diplomats On Fact-Finding Mission Tell Eban Egypt, Jordan Are 'Intransigent'

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA)--Two senior Italian diplomats met here yesterday with Foreign Minister Abba Eban following visits to Amman and Cairo. Although no details of the meeting were disclosed, it was learned from reliable sources that they told Mr. Eban the Egyptian and Jordanian positions on the Middle East conflict were "quite intransigent."

Carlo Perrone-Capone, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry political affairs section in Rome, and Uberto Bozzini, chief of the Middle Eastern department at the Italian Foreign Ministry, are visiting the Middle East on a special fact-finding mission for Foreign Minister Giuseppe Medici. They will return to Rome tomorrow after conferences with officials of the Prime Minister's office, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Defense. They denied that there was any intention of Italy serving as a mediator in the Middle East dispute. They said the purpose of their trip was to gather information for their Government on the prospects of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and the status of the Jarring mission.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed satisfaction yesterday with the announced pause in the mission of Dr. Jarring which will begin when he completes his current round of visits to Middle East capitals, UN Secretary-General U Thant announced Tuesday that Dr. Jarring was resuming his duties as Sweden's Ambassador to Russia although he will not resign his UN mediation post. He will hold a new round of discussions with Middle East officials in mid-January. The spokesman said the plan seemed "sound and realistic" as it will give the governments concerned an opportunity to review their positions. He said Jordan and Egyptian would have a chance to reconsider their refusals to enter into detailed and factual discussion of problems involved in promoting peace. The spokesman said that Mr. Eban informed Dr. Jarring that he was willing to resume contact with him at any suitable time and place, when they met on Cyprus this week.

#### Tass Says Arabs View Scranton Fact-Finding Mission With 'Pessimism, Apprehension'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA)--The Soviet Union's official news agency, Tass, said today that Arab governments viewed the fact-finding mission of former Pennsylvania Gov. William W. Scranton with "pessimism and apprehension." Interpreters here viewed the Tass commentary as an expression of Soviet doubt about President-elect Richard M. Nixon's Middle East policy.

Commenting on the current visit of Mr. Scranton to the Middle East on Mr. Nixon's behalf, Tass said that "connivance with Israeli extremists has become a sad tradition at the White House." It said that Arab sentiments about the mission were justified because of the sending of "tremendous" arms supplies by the U.S. to Israel which have "made it possible for the Israeli extremists to pursue from a position of strength their policy toward neighboring Arab states." "The Arab public justifiably considers the recent agreement on the delivery of up-to-date Phantom jet fighter-bombers to Tel Aviv as encouragement for the aggression which impedes a political settlement of the crisis in the Middle East," Tass said.

Observers noted that the Tass commentary did not reiterate warnings delivered Tuesday by the Communist Party newspaper Pravda that Moscow "will administer a resolute rebuff to the intrigues of the aggressors" in the Middle East and "will uphold the interest of our security and the security of our friends." The Pravda editorial said that Moscow considers the Middle East part of its security zone because it "directly adjoins our southern borders" and that the Kremlin will take all possible steps to prevent a "dangerous flare-up" in the area.

### First Group In UJA Israel Visitation Program Is Briefed By Eban, Kollek

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA)--More than 100 members of the United Jewish Appeal's "Operation Israel" program received top level briefings yesterday from Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem. The briefings were closed but it was understood that they covered such subjects as the Soviet presence in the Middle East, Israel's attitude toward President-elect Richard M. Nixon, prospects of the Gunnar V. Jarring peace mission and Israel's spiraling humanitarian needs.

The UJA group was the first of more than 1,000 American-Jewish leaders who will visit Israel between now and the end of the year in connection with the Israel Emergency Fund drive for 1969. Group leaders are Edward Ginsberg, UJA general chairman, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice chairman. The Emergency Fund campaign was extended for its third year to relieve Israel of its financial burden of many social and humanitarian programs because of the strain on its resources for defense and security needs.

### Kiesinger Warns, In Exclusive Interview, Of Middle East Danger To World Peace

BONN, Dec. 5 (JTA)--West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger warned today that "any war in the Middle East carries in itself the danger of becoming a world war" and said that whether it did or not depended "on that old riddle, will the Soviet Union run the risk or will Moscow refrain from action?" He added that "Russia has always left the way open to pull back when a general war seemed imminent."

In an exclusive interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's West Germany correspondent Alfred Wolfmann, the Chancellor said he had "no doubt that the smouldering Middle East crisis should be viewed in the context of what happened in Czechoslovakia and of the new Soviet foreign policy generally." In reply to a question about the Soviet naval build-up in the Mediterranean, the Chancellor said it was impossible to know what the Russians had in mind there, "but it is clear that their relationship with Yugoslavia has changed." Chancellor Kiesinger emphasized that any normalization of relations between West Germany and any Arab state would not be at the expense of Israel. He said it was "premature for Germany to offer herself as a mediator between Israel and the Arab states, but we would not miss a chance to mediate if it offered itself to us -- that would be a mission we would gladly accept."

Dr. Kiesinger said relations between West Germany and Israel "have been undergoing a welcome revolution." He attributed this to "the reaction of the German people to the Six-Day War, which was the turning point." He said Germans "displayed a real sense of participation. It was an emotion that erupted suddenly" Dr. Kiesinger replied to a question about his meeting with former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion at the funeral of the late Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, lauding Mr. Ben-Gurion as "one of the most remarkable personalities of our time" and saying that "in the craving for world peace, the Israeli and (President) de Gaulle show similar insight."

Dr. Kiesinger said, with reference to the European Common Market, that on numerous occasions he had instructed the West German representative to support Israel's application for association, "with persistence, if needed." Referring to the reputedly neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD), he said the best way to get rid of it was by democratic means in an election.

### Knesset Member Quits, Criticizing Government Plan To Send Mission To West Germany

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5 (JTA)--A member of the Knesset (Parliament) resigned his seat yesterday, criticizing the Government's decision to send a parliamentary delegation on a goodwill visit to West Germany next spring. Prof. Dov Sadan, of the Mapai faction of the Israel Labor Party, said that if a Government that enjoys a majority in Parliament can decide on a mission to West Germany it should "let the ministers go but not members of the Knesset." Prof. Sadan said he had wanted to resign for some time but heeded his party's request that he remain, adding "This was the last straw."

(Nine visiting Israeli journalists joined 10 West German newsmen at a seminar that opened in Bad Godesberg yesterday to discuss matters of common interest. The Israelis arrived here on the inaugural flight of Lufthansa, the German national airline, which has just established regular flights to Israel. They were scheduled to meet Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and other officials today.)

### Christian Democratic Union Apologizes To WJCongress For Electoral Alliance With NPD

LONDON, Dec. 5 (JTA)--West Germany's largest political party, the Christian Democratic Union, apologized in a letter to the World Jewish Congress here for an electoral alliance that some of its members arranged with the rightist National Democratic Party (NPD) in local elections earlier this year. A letter received today from the office of Dr. Bruno Heck, general secretary of the CDU, described the alliances as "an unfortunate blunder" and said that disciplinary proceedings are under way to expel the party members responsible. The letter was a response to a WJCongress resolution expressing concern over the CDU alliance with the NPD.

### French Leftists Hit Warsaw's Anti-Semitism, Demand End To Anti-'Zionism' Drive

PARIS, Dec. 5 (JTA)--A French left-wing organization today condemned the Polish regime's anti-Semitic policies and demanded that Poland's Communist Party chief, Wladyslaw Gomulka, honor the pledge he made last October that the campaign against "Zionists" and "revisionists" would not take on an anti-Semitic character. The demand was made in a letter to Mr. Gomulka and to Prime Minister

Jozef Cyrankiewicz of Poland by the Movement Against Anti-Semitism and Racism which in the past has often collaborated with extreme left-wing bodies. The organization expressed its concern and world anxiety over the fate of Polish Jews. It said, "the anti-Zionist policy of the Polish Government seems to have overlapped into other fields and to have caused a reawakening of anti-Semitism in Poland."

A mass protest demonstration against Poland's treatment of the Jews was held here yesterday under the auspices of the newly formed Action Committee Against Racist Activities in Poland which described itself as a "liaison body." Its membership includes prominent members of the extreme left in France. Observers here said the protests by the leftist groups have further weakened the local Communists, especially since the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, and that their activities will weigh heavily in both Moscow and Warsaw.

### U.S. Jewish Groups Offer Help To Odessa Jews To Rebuild Burned-Down Synagogue

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA)--Twenty-five national Jewish organizations have offered to help the Jews of Odessa, the Soviet Union Black Sea port city, rebuild their Great Synagogue, destroyed by fire on Nov. 26. The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, coordinating body for the 25 groups, sent a telegram to synagogue officials offering the aid.

Signed by Lewis H. Weinstein of Boston, the Conference chairman, it said the "American Jewish community is saddened and distressed to learn of the destruction of your synagogue by fire. Our heartfelt wish is to be of all possible help in replacing Holy Scrolls and otherwise facilitate continuance of worship. Let us know your needs and how we may effectively assist." The Conference said it was awaiting a reply.

The Soviet Government's Novosti news agency attributed the fire to a "short circuit in electrical wiring in matzoh baking facilities." Odessa has one of Russia's largest Jewish communities. Novosti said "the Jewish religious community is taking measures for restoring the building of the synagogue and ensuring normal conditions for performance of religious rites by believers."

### Computers Seen As Critical Element In Israel's Industrial Development

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA)--The chief scientist of the International Business Machines Corp. said here tonight that computers were a critical element in Israel's development of science-based industries.

Speaking at a national dinner of the American Technion Society, Dr. Emanuel Piore said, "the Technion is the keystone of Israel's technological and scientific development. It is there that computer science will have the greatest impact on strengthening Israel's economy."

Dr. Piore, an IBM vice president and board of directors member, pointed to a trend in the U.S. to introduce high school and college students to computer technology, and urged that Israeli students be similarly exposed so that the nation will "create a viable economy through science-based industries." "Computers also may be crucial in solving agricultural problems, such as the critical lack of water resources in Israel," he said. "They can be used effectively for weather forecasting to determine precipitation possibilities and then control maximum efficiency of water use after rainfall," he added.

The American Technion Society supports the Haifa institution. A primary objective of the dinner was to help establish a school for computer science and maintain a newly acquired IBM System 360 Model 50 computer. The guest of honor was Charles Frost, retired business executive and patron of Jewish philanthropies. Lawrence Schacht, newly-elected president, presented a testimonial scroll to him. Also participating were Alexander Goldberg, the Technion president; Maurice Rosen, outgoing Society president; and Michael Comay, former Israel Ambassador to the United Nations.

### Tells Of Program Designed To Attract American, Canadian Children To Israel

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA)--Dr. Joseph Klarman, head of the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliyah department in Jerusalem, said here yesterday that the Agency has inaugurated a plan to attract children of United States and Canadian Jews to be educated in Israel. The Agency is also seeking to attract to Israel the children of Israelis who settled in the two Western countries.

Dr. Klarman, a member of the Agency Executive, discussed the plan at a press conference along with Abraham Frank, who heads the aliyah department of the Agency in New York. The former said that Youth Aliyah has 80 special institution-settlements where children live and are educated. They offer classes in all grades and prepare children for a life as useful Israeli citizens. Teachers in the schools are themselves products of them, he said.

### Jewish Editor And Leader Of German Jews In Buenos Aires Dies At 65

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 5 (JTA)--Dr. Hardi Swarsensky, editor of the German-Jewish weekly, Juedische Wochenschau and leader of the German Jewish colony in Buenos Aires, died here today of a heart attack. He was 65.

Born in Berlin, Dr. Swarsensky studied at the Berlin, Munich and Leipzig universities, graduating as an attorney. During his career in Germany until 1939, he was a leader of the Maccabi and member of its world organization. In 1937 he was named general secretary of all Jewish juvenile organizations in Germany and chairman of the committee for the rescue of Jews imprisoned in Nazi camps. He fled to London in 1939 and in 1940 settled here. He was editor of a number of books on Zionist matters.