

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Tuesday, December 10, 1968

No. 234

Scranton Confers With Eban And Eshkol. Receives Statement Of Israel's Peace Position

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--President-elect Richard M. Nixon's personal fact-finding envoy to the Middle East, William W. Scranton, conferred for two hours with Foreign Minister Abba Eban today and was later received by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. Mr. Scranton also reportedly intended to talk to Palestinian Arab leaders whom he was to see at the United States Consulate here.

No details of the conversations were released. A Foreign Ministry spokesman, David Rivlin, told reporters that Mr. Scranton had conveyed to Mr. Eban the wish of Mr. Nixon to study the problems of the area and Israel's view of them. Mr. Eban gave a detailed account of Israel's position, emphasizing its insistence on a lasting peace reached through an agreement with her neighbors which would also establish secure boundaries. He reportedly stressed Israel's willingness to explore every possible means for peace but said that no corresponding desire had been demonstrated by Egypt which refuses to enter into a serious discussion of the issues relating to peace. Soviet penetration into the Mediterranean was also reportedly discussed.

According to reliable sources Mr. Scranton made a point of telling Mr. Eban that Mr. Nixon does not feel bound by any statements of policy made by anyone in the present Administration, including President Johnson and the State Department. He reportedly believes that the principles of American policy will not change. But Mr. Scranton reportedly did not explain the statement he made in several Arab capitals during his current tour of the Middle East -- and repeated to newsmen at the Allenby Bridge today -- that the U.S. "will pursue a more even-handed policy" in the Middle East when the Nixon Administration takes office next month.

The former Governor of Pennsylvania said the U.S. would show no favoritism in the future toward any nation because "it had to consider the feelings of all nations in the Middle East and not favor one over the other." In reply to a reporter's question, he said he did not think the U.S. was showing favoritism at present. Mr. Scranton reportedly told Mr. Eban that his duty was to report to the President-elect and he was bound to study problems from their grass-roots without being affected by past policy.

Mr. Scranton entered Israel via the Allenby Bridge which he crossed on foot owing to the ban on vehicular traffic from Jordan to the West Bank. He conferred yesterday in Amman with King Hussein and other Jordanian officials. On Saturday he met with Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser in Cairo. He also visited Iran, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. Israel is the last country on his Middle East itinerary.

Mr. Scranton told newsmen here that he was encouraged by his visits to the Arab capitals. He said at a press conference in Amman yesterday that President Nasser and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad were "very open, frank and desirous of a reasonable and just settlement." He also said that Arab leaders looked forward to a change in American Middle East policy though, he added, their views were not precise. According to reports from Amman, King Hussein indicated that one change he wanted was resumption of U.S. military aid to Jordan to help it even the arms balance with Israel and to ease pressure on him to seek assistance from the Soviet Union. Reports from Amman said that King Hussein told Gov. Scranton that he considered last week's Israeli air raid on Iraqi military positions in Jordan not a reprisal but an attempt to topple him from his throne. He said Israel held him responsible for the Iraqi artillery attacks on Israeli settlements and the incursions of commando groups but that he controlled neither. A radio broadcast from Beirut made public a note that was delivered to Gov. Scranton last week by a group of Lebanese leaders who protested American support for Israel and warned that it might push the Arab world into the Communist camp. The signatories included two former Foreign Ministers, Dr. Charles Malik and Dr. Georges Hakim. The note claimed that U.S. support of Israel was incompatible with Arab rights and violated the right of self-determination. Mr. Scranton said in Israel that he would not reach any conclusions on the Middle East until he summed up his impressions from all the countries visited.

4 Former SS Officers Go On Trial For Killing Laborers Who Exhumed Babi Yar Bodies

BONN, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Four former SS officers went on trial in Stuttgart today for the 1943 murder of 530 Jewish slave laborers whom they had forced to exhume and burn the bodies of 33,000 Jews massacred by the Nazis in the Babi Yar ravine in the Ukraine two years earlier. The purpose of the exhumations was to destroy evidence that might be discovered by advancing Russian armies. The accused are Hans Sohns, 62, Fritz Zietlow, 66, Ernst Helsgott, 57, a former police commissar in Dusseldorf, and Fritz Kirstein, 60. Twenty-seven witnesses will be heard at the trial which is expected to last until the end of next month.

The prosecution charged that the defendants, members of the special SS task force IV-A, supervised the exhumations which were carried out on direct orders from Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler. The slave laborers removed the earth that the earlier executioners had dynamited over the mass graves, saturated the remains with gasoline and burned them. According to the indictment, the laborers, Jews and Russians, were subsequently murdered to prevent disclosure of their work. Several other former members of the exhumation squads have been tried over the years. Three were sentenced last February to life imprisonment at hard labor.

Acquittal Of Nazi Judge Brings Storm Of Criticism; Galinski Calls It 'Atrocious'

BERLIN, Dec. 9 (JTA)--A West Berlin court's acquittal of a former Nazi judge who pronounced death sentences on 250 political prisoners in 1943 and 1944 has aroused a storm of protest in this city. The ex-judge, Hans-Joachim Rehse, who presided over one of Hitler's notorious Peoples Courts during World War II, was freed by Judge Ernst Jurgen Oske on grounds that he was only carrying out the laws of the time. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish Community, described the judgment as the "most atrocious" to have been delivered by a German court since 1945. An official of the West German Interior Ministry said it would be hard for people abroad to understand why West German courts today were incapable of handling cases involving "a judiciary which had been debased to a point where it was an instrument of terror." Mayor Karl Schuetz of West Berlin said he hoped that an appeal against the verdict would be allowed and that another court would administer justice. A member of Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union, Bert Even, chairman of the Bundestag (Lower House) interior committee, said the decision was "infuriating because it lacks any trace of legal spirit."

Judge Oske based his acquittal decision on an earlier ruling by West Germany's Federal Court that judges could not be convicted of having deliberately manipulated the law "if they were blinded by the Nazi ideology and legal philosophy of the time." He said that while the verdicts of the Peoples Courts are inhuman by present standards, in wartime Germany the maintenance of security was of highest importance. The victims of Judge Rehse's sentences and those of other Nazi judges were convicted of making "defeatist" statements and cracking jokes about Nazi leaders or talking to friends critically about the Nazi regime.

Israel's First Heart Transplant Patient Holding His Own In Petach Tikvah Hospital

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Israel's first heart transplant patient, 41-year-old Itzhak Sullam, was apparently holding his own, although still unconscious, according to a bulletin from Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah today. The bulletin said his new heart was functioning normally and there were no signs of rejection. His breathing and blood pressure were normal and the fact that he has not regained consciousness was not "a cause for concern," the bulletin said. Doctors were maintaining a 24-hour watch over the patient.

A mystery surrounds the identity of the donor of the heart that was transplanted into Mr. Sullam's body in an eight-hour operation performed by a team headed by Dr. Morris Levi last Friday. For undisclosed reasons, Dr. Levi and hospital authorities have kept it a closely guarded secret. Press reports that the donor was a traffic accident victim gave rise to claims from at least three families that the donor was their relative. One family wrote to the Ministry of Health and to the Chief Rabbinate alleging that the heart was taken from a relative without their knowledge or consent.

The attitude of the Chief Rabbinate was still obscure. Nothing was said to indicate approval or disapproval of the operation as far as Halacha — Jewish religious law — was concerned. Observers recalled that the Ministry for Religious Affairs asked the Chief Rabbinate six months ago to appoint a committee to study the issue and make a clear statement on heart transplants. Nothing was done however and the Rabbinate was reported only now to be considering the appointment of such a committee.

Cabinet Discusses Arab Territory Policies, May Have Considered 'Allon Plan'

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The Cabinet resumed discussion today of policies relating to the future of the occupied Arab territories. The discussion lasted three hours and will be continued at a future session but no details were released. Observers here assumed that the so-called "Allon Plan" for partitioning the West Bank into an Arab enclave and a string of Israeli security settlements was formally presented to the Cabinet for the first time. Cabinet secretary Michael Arnon would give no information other than the names of the 10 ministers who participated in today's discussion. Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon was among them as was Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Hebron's Arab Mayor Is First West Bank Leader To Condemn Jerusalem Bombing

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Shiekh Mohammed Ali Jaabari, the mayor of Hebron, yesterday became the first West Bank Arab leader to publicly condemn the terrorist bombing of the Machane Yehuda market in Jerusalem which took 12 lives and injured 55 persons last month. The mayor, in an interview on Kol Israel radio, said the citizens of Hebron condemned sabotage both in their own town and in Jerusalem. He said the Moslem religion did not countenance killing of innocent people. Mayor Jaabari has called for a meeting of West Bank Arab leaders to solve their own problems. His views were opposed by Mayor Hamdi Kanaan of Nablus who believed that Jordan — or Jordan in consultation with Palestinian leaders on both banks of the river — was the only true representative of the West Bank population.

Israel Post Office Leases Satellite Channels For Overseas Telephone Calls

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Overseas telephone calls from Israel may soon be transmitted via satellites as an alternative to the submarine cable linking Israel with France that went into operation recently, the Post Office announced today. The Post Office has leased three channels on Intelsat I which is orbiting the earth in a fixed position over the Atlantic Ocean and is used to relay trans-Atlantic calls.

Israel Tells UN Refugee Problem Is 'Bitter Fruit' Of Arab Recourse To Arms

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 9 (JTA)--Israel intervened in the debate in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee today to "set the record straight after three weeks of one-sided abuse" as to responsibility for the existence of the Palestine Arab refugee problem. Ambassador Michael Comay of Israel, in a documented speech which covered the inception of the refugee problem in 1948, described the refugee situation today as "the bitter fruit" of the Arab attempt to solve the Palestine question by force of arms. He warned that the issue of responsibility was pertinent today because statements made by the representatives of the Arab Governments in the Special Political Committee's debate over the last two weeks had shown that "nothing has been learned and nothing forgotten. There is still the proclaimed faith that history can be rewritten by the sword. What is more," he added, "we are still confronted with a design to organize the Palestinian Arabs, including the refugees, as a military vanguard and so plunge them into fresh disasters."

Pending before the Special Political Committee is an American resolution to extend the life of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees to June 30, 1972. Arab spokesmen, during the two weeks of debate on UNRWA, have blamed Israel for the Arab refugee problem. Today, the Israel representative replied and declared that "but for the misguided Arab war against Israel, there would not have been a single Arab refugee. As it was, by the time the dust of battle had settled, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs had moved from Jewish into Arab areas, although some 85 percent of the Arabs of Mandated Palestine remained, and still remain within the area that came under the mandate."

British Race Relations Board May Be Asked To Rule On Anti-Shechita Pamphlet

LONDON, Dec. 9 (JTA)--A six-year-old pamphlet reissued by the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in connection with its current campaign against shechita (Jewish ritual slaughtering) may be referred to the Race Relations Board because it contains material allegedly offensive to Jews, it was announced in the House of Commons today. The pamphlet was denounced by the Board of Deputies of British Jews for its allegedly "inaccurate and tendentious statements of a technical nature" as well as its implied slur on Jews.

Alan Lee Williams, a Labor Member of Parliament, said he may refer the matter to the Race Relations Board unless the Royal Society deleted the offensive paragraph. The paragraph reads: "People whose practices contravene moral requirements of a host country ought to accept pre-stunning" of cattle prior to slaughtering. The reappearance of the pamphlet coincided with the introduction of a private member's bill to abolish shechita. Another Labor MP, Erich Moonman, who is a member of the RSPCA called it "a shame and outrage" and said the Society had been "led astray." Allan Joiner, deputy secretary of the RSPCA, claimed there was nothing anti-Jewish in the pamphlet.

Victor Mishcon, vice-president of the Board of Deputies, issued a statement on behalf of the board which noted that the pamphlet's allegations about shechita had been "strongly rebutted by many leading non-Jewish scientific experts." The statement said that "the Jewish community particularly resents the suggestion of the RSPCA pamphlet that Jews are 'a people whose practices contravene the moral requirements of the host country.' Whatever the intentions of the RSPCA and the Council (for Justice to Animals) in conducting their present campaign against shechita, the Board of Deputies deplores the introduction of inaccurate and irrelevant arguments which are already being exploited by anti-Semitic and racist elements."

(Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies, who is now visiting in this country, told JTA today that he had consulted with American defense organizations as to methods employed in this country to deal with attacks on shechita which might be utilized by the British Jewish community.)

Chile Police Investigating Two Anti-Jewish Bombing Attempts In Santiago

SANTIAGO de Chile, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Police are investigating two Molotov cocktail bombings by anti-Semitic terrorists here. One of the explosives was hurled at dawn Sunday at the Jewish Hungarian Club. Fire caused damage before it was extinguished. That night an automobile belonging to a member of the Bene Israel (Indian Jewish) community was bombed, with fire damage estimated at \$500. No one was hurt in either incident.

Rabbi Rackman Named Chairman Of Jewish Agency Advisory Committee

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, has been appointed chairman of the newly-organized national advisory committee of the Jewish Agency's department of education and culture, Dr. Neumann announced. Dr. Rackman, who is assistant to the president of Yeshiva University and rabbi of the Fifth Ave. Synagogue here, will head a committee of Jewish educators, academicians and laymen who will plan and review regularly the program and activities of the department, which is headed by Dr. Abraham P. Gannes. Rabbi Rackman is also a member of the JTA board of directors.

Israeli-British Trade Figures Show Big Spurt In 1968 Over Previous Year

LONDON, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Trade between Britain and Israel increased substantially during the first nine months of 1968 compared to the corresponding period of 1967. During the period that ended last Sept. 30, Britain exported \$150,292,800 worth of goods and materials to Israel and imported \$83,926,800 from that country. In 1967, exports and imports amounted to \$92,020,000 and \$65,116,800 respectively.

American Zionist Council Plans To Counter Anti-Israel Propaganda Campaign

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The chairman of the American Zionist Council said yesterday his organization planned to act to combat a propaganda campaign in the United States which attacked Judaism and Israel "in the guise of anti-Zionism." Rabbi Israel Miller told a Council all-day conference on the "Middle East Crisis" that the propaganda is disseminated in the United Nations, in "respectable church publications" and on campuses. Depicting anti-Israel propaganda efforts in the U.S., Dr. James Sheldon, chairman of the department of Christian social relations, Protestant Council of New York, said there were four principal sources of it: 14 Arab delegations in the UN, the Arab information office, the Palestine Arab Delegation and the Palestine Liberation Organization, all in New York City. Nathan Kameny, co-chairman of the Middle East Affairs Committee of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, cited the propaganda campaign of the Organization of Arab Students, with representatives on 125 U.S. university and college campuses. Rev. Karl Baehr, director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee's inter-faith committee, said that despite the presence of many friends of Israel in the Christian ministry, there are many churchmen "placed strategically" on mission boards who are "enemies of Israel."

Schenker Feted On Emigration To Israel, Sees Zionism In Large World Context

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Avraham Schenker, a member of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem, was feted yesterday along with his wife on the eve of their emigration to Israel. More than 500 persons prominent in Jewish life honored Mr. Schenker on his 50th birthday and on the occasion of their imminent departure. Mr. Schenker, whose is head of the Agency's Executive Organization and Information Department, said that Zionism -- the "struggle for Jewish national liberation" -- is part of the global struggle of small peoples and nations for political survival and cultural continuity. This struggle, he said, was set against a background of efforts by Great Powers to not only dominate but to swallow up minorities.

In the presence of Ossie Davis, movie celebrity and civil rights leader, Mr. Schenker praised the world's black peoples, in Africa and the United States, for their "struggle for liberation." He spoke with "sadness and a sense of tragedy" that it was necessary to "condemn anti-Semitism which has spread among black people in America. Anti-Semitism from any source means strengthening reaction, and strengthening reaction means playing into the hands of the anti-black elements in America," he said. Mr. Davis voiced concern as a black leader about attempts to incite hostility between black and Jewish communities.

Lubavitcher Hasidim To Mark 170th Anniversary Of Freeing Of Rabbi Schneur Zalman

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Lubavitcher Hasidim will mark the 170th anniversary tomorrow of the freeing of the founder of their movement, Rabbi Schneur Zalman, of Liadi, from a Czarist prison where he had been held 53 days on grounds of disloyalty to the regime. The vindication of Rabbi Zalman is regarded by followers of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement as an event of symbolic and historical significance. Ceremonies celebrating the event will take place in Lubavitcher headquarters here and at Kfar Chabad, the movement's village in Israel.

Gifts Totalling \$2,700,000 Announced At Dinner For Haifa Institute Of Technology

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Gifts totalling \$2,700,000 to the Haifa Institute of Technology were announced at a national dinner here of the American Technion Society, which supports the Haifa institute. Among the gifts was one for \$250,000 from Julius Silver, a Manhattan attorney, for a bio-medical engineering school. Charles Frost, retired business executive and philanthropist, gave \$300,000. The funds will be allocated for various purposes, including expansion of the Institute's school for computer sciences.

Services Held For Max Simon, 80; Was Leader Of Cleveland Jewish Community

CLEVELAND, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Services were held here yesterday for Max Simon, long a leader of the Cleveland Jewish community, who died Dec. 5 at the age of 80. Mr. Simon was a founder and first president of the Jewish Community Council, established in 1935, and was a prime mover in the merger of the Council in 1951 into the Jewish Community Federation. He served as Federation president from 1956 to 1959 and two years later was elected a Federation trustee for life. An active Zionist, he was a founder of the local Israel Bond Organization. In January, 1967, on his 79th birthday, the Jewish National Fund gave him a testimonial dinner and announced that a 10,000-tree forest in his name was being planted in Israel. He served nationally on boards and committees of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and the United Jewish Appeal.

Hebrew University Specialist Conducting Survey For Future U.S. Ulpan Courses

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--A Hebrew University expert on teacher training is conducting a survey of ulpan programs -- intensive Hebrew language courses -- in the United States with the intention of establishing such courses in communities where they do not exist. The survey by Aharon Rosen was undertaken on behalf of the Jewish Agency American Section according to Dr. A.P. Gannes, director of its department of education and culture. Dr. Gannes said that Mr. Rosen will also conduct an eight-week teacher training course, beginning next month, to prepare teachers to conduct ulpan schools. The Ulpan Center in New York, a joint project of the Jewish Agency and the Herzl Institute, has an enrollment of 650 students, Dr. Gannes said.