

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXV Fifty-First Year

Thursday, December 12, 1968

No. 236

Scranton Says Nixon Administration Will Offer Peace Plan For Middle East

ROME, Dec. 11 (JTA)--William W. Scranton said here today that the Nixon Administration would offer a Middle East peace plan shortly after it takes office next Jan. 20. Mr. Scranton made the disclosure during a brief stop-over at Rome Airport en route home. He just completed a week-long fact-finding mission for President-elect Nixon which took him to Iran, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Israel. "Certainly we will put forward a peace plan," Mr. Scranton told reporters, "but for now I must keep my ideas to myself." He said his Middle East tour convinced him that all parties concerned genuinely wanted peace.

Report Scranton Asked Israeli Leaders To Curb Attacks On Jordan Territory

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA)--William W. Scranton, President-elect Richard M. Nixon's special envoy to the Middle East, reportedly asked Israeli leaders not to strike targets in Jordan and to refrain as much as possible from hostile acts against Jordan. This was learned from sources close to Mr. Scranton who said that he believed military action only increases tensions and hurt chances for peace.

The former Pennsylvania Governor who visited four Arab countries, Iran and Israel on his fact-finding mission for Mr. Nixon, left Lydda Airport today for the United States. At an airport press conference he repeated earlier statements that he was more encouraged about Middle East peace prospects than when he started his tour. He said that he had "no personal opinions" but could understand both the Israeli and the Arab positions. "I found in Israel elements necessary for peace talks," he told reporters. "I had useful talks here and talks with the Arab leaders have encouraged me. I understand Israel's position regarding direct negotiations which can bring peace to the Middle East. I also understand the Arab difficulty in stomachaching Israel's reunification of Jerusalem." Mr. Scranton emphasized that the purpose of his Middle East junket was to gather facts and that policy decision on the Middle East would be made by Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Scranton met Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in the latter's home Tuesday. Reporters were barred from the meeting which was attended by Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces; Gen. Tzvi Tzur, Deputy Defense Minister; Gen. Aharon Yariv, chief of intelligence, and representatives of the Foreign Ministry. Gen. Dayan gave Mr. Scranton an ancient glass object as a gift for Mrs. Nixon. There was speculation that Mr. Scranton may meet with Gen. Dayan again when the general visits the United States this weekend.

London Times Says Many Believe Scranton Was Taken In By Arab Leaders' 'Smooth Talk'

LONDON, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Many Israelis believe that President-elect Nixon's fact-finding envoy to the Middle East, William W. Scranton, "was taken in by smooth talk" from the Arab leaders he met during his week-long Middle East tour, the London Times reported in a dispatch from Tel Aviv today. According to the Times, Mr. Scranton was asked whether he thought Arab statements that "convinced him of the Arab desire for peace contradicted the policy decision of the 1967 Arab summit conference at Khartoum which was "no peace, no negotiations, no recognition" of Israel. Mr. Scranton replied, "Insofar as they were interpreted to me by Arab leaders, I do not see any differences," the Times reported.

France Calls For Four Power Conference To Impose Middle East Settlement

PARIS, Dec. 11 (JTA)--A spokesman for the de Gaulle Government announced today that France has called for a Four Power conference on the Middle East and wants to start as soon as possible after the Nixon Administration takes office next month, to discuss implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Middle East resolution. The French move was announced officially by Minister of Information Joel le Theule following the weekly Cabinet meeting under the chairmanship of President de Gaulle.

The announcement capped a week of intense French diplomatic activity in connection with the Middle East crisis. Gen. de Gaulle met twice with Soviet Ambassador Valerian Zorin and they are known to have discussed the Middle East situation in detail. He conferred at the Elysee Palace Tuesday with United States Ambassador Sargent Shriver who had just returned from a brief visit to Washington where he met with President Johnson and President-elect Nixon. They were known to have discussed the Middle East. Mr. Shriver had been mentioned as the new U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

French diplomacy has also been active on lower levels urging the U.S., Russia and Great Britain to agree to a Big Four conference on the Middle East and to begin preparations for it immediately. According to French political circles, the response "has been...the most promising." It was believed here that Britain favored such a conference and that Russia had agreed tentatively. The only hold-out was Washington.

According to French circles there has been a "marked change" in the American attitude which they said "is drawing much closer to France's own views on the subject." Israeli circles here were concerned by the French initiative for a conference particularly because they were uncertain about what Middle

East policy will be followed by the Nixon Administration.

M. le Theule said that Foreign Minister Michel Debre reviewed the Middle East situation at today's Cabinet meeting and came to the conclusion that it was "most serious" and had deteriorated further in recent weeks. M. Debre said that the mission of United Nations peace envoy Gunnar V. Jarring "does not seem to be succeeding" and noted that "both the American and Russian governments are taking an ever closer interest in Middle East affairs." M. le Theule quoted M. Debre as saying that "in both camps (Arab and Israeli) the most extremist tendencies seem to have the upper hand." In view of the situation, according to Mr. le Theule, the French Government believed that the Middle East conflict can be solved "only through international action" and "as a first step in this direction, the Government calls for a Four Power conference."

Report Eban Aide Met With Jarring, Told Arabs Have Not Replied To Israeli Questions

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA)--A special emissary from Foreign Minister Abba Eban met with United Nations peace envoy Gunnar V. Jarring on Cyprus Sunday prior to Ambassador Jarring's departure for his Ambassadorial post in Moscow, it was learned today. Dr. Jarring will be absent from the Middle East for a month. Mr. Eban's emissary was his political secretary, Amos Ben Yohanan. He was reportedly told by Dr. Jarring that the Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers still have not replied to Mr. Eban's questions about whether and how they intend to establish peace with Israel. The questions were submitted to the Arab diplomats through Dr. Jarring at UN headquarters in New York last month. Dr. Jarring met with Mr. Eban on Cyprus 10 days ago and subsequently visited Amman and Cairo. Mr. Eban said in reply to a question in the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that no Arab Government has yet decided to promote an agreement or to make peace with Israel.

A meeting has been arranged between British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart and Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel, who will visit London this week. A meeting between Mr. Eban and Prime Minister Harold Wilson is "likely," the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told by a Foreign Office spokesman. Mr. Eban will address the inaugural dinner of the 1969 Joint Palestine Appeal Thursday.

Beigin Says Occupied Territories Part Of 'Jewish Homeland,' Should Be Kept

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, the Herut Party leader and Cabinet Minister Without-Portfolio, told a student meeting here yesterday that the occupied Arab territories are as much a part of the "historic Jewish homeland" as Israel proper and should not be relinquished because the Arab population will exceed the Jewish one. Mr. Beigin, a staunch advocate of annexation, declared that "no other nation in the world ever relinquished part of its homeland because of a so-called demographic problem." He said, "Our nation whose very soul has been bound up with the land of Israel down through the ages and through every danger cannot do that. Jericho, Hebron and Nablus are part of the homeland just like Jaffa, Lydda, Acre and Nazareth." He said the demographic problem could be solved by maintaining a large Jewish majority, partly by immigration.

El Fatah Terrorists Ousted From Courtroom After Creating A Disturbance

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Four El Fatah terrorists charged with grenade attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were removed from a courtroom here yesterday after creating a disturbance. Defense counsel and prosecution summed up their cases in the defendants' absence. A verdict was expected next week. The four are on trial for planting grenades that exploded in downtown Jerusalem two months ago and others that went off in the Tel Aviv bus terminal several weeks later. They demonstrated in order to read statements. The court permitted them to write their statements prior to the summation. One of the accused began to read a defamatory political statement. He was removed from the court. His three co-defendants rose, knocking over their bench and refused to be quiet or to sit down unless their comrade was returned. They were removed by the bailiff.

Handwritten Letter From Weizmann, Manuscript Of 'Babi Yar' Bought For Israel

LONDON, Dec. 11 (JTA)--A handwritten letter from the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel, to the late Samuel Landman, written in 1917, was sold at Sothebys today to a bidder who acquired it for Israel. Also acquired for Israel was the original manuscript of Yevgeny Yevtushenko's poem "Babi Yar." The purchase price of \$7,680 was donated by Leo Graham who bought the manuscript for the Hebrew University's committee for Soviet Jewry. There was no information about how the Yevtushenko manuscript reached London.

Jewish Agency Official Says Youth Aliya Seeks To Raise U.S. Orphans In Israel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA)--The treasurer of the Jewish Agency disclosed here yesterday that contacts have been made to bring the wards of Jewish orphanages in the United States to Israel for upbringing under the Youth Aliya program. Arye Dultzin said the initiative was taken by Yosef Kiarman, head of Youth Aliya. Mr. Dultzin also revealed that the Jewish Agency was considering charging immigrants from Western countries for part of their board and lodging at immigrant absorption centers. He said that the Western newcomers, as distinct from hardship cases, were usually able to pay for their own keep. He agreed with members of his audience who said it would be a pity to risk turning "good raw material into shnorrers (beggars) so early."

Heart Transplant Patient Remains In Coma, Wife Says He 'Looked Fine'

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Israel's first heart transplant patient, 41-year-old Itzhak Sullam, remained in a coma today for the sixth day since he underwent surgery at the Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah. A hospital bulletin reported that he spent a "quiet" night and that he was receiving food directly and his digestion was normal. His wife was permitted to see him briefly and said he "looked fine."

Beisan Valley Settlements Again Are Targets Of Mortar, Rocket Fire From Jordan

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Mortar and rocket fire flared along the Israel-Jordan demarcation line last night and this morning for the first time since Israel's air raid on Jordan-based Iraqi military concentrations a week ago. A military spokesman said Jordanians fired rockets at Kfar Ruppim in the Beisan Valley last night and later aimed mortar fire at Israeli positions near Umm Tutz and in the Neve Eitan sector. Israeli units returned the fire and silenced the Jordanian positions.

An Israeli border patrol was attacked near Geshar in the northern Beisan Valley this morning drawing return fire from Israeli forces including tanks. Settlers were forced to take shelter during the exchange. A military spokesman said no casualties were suffered in any of the incidents.

Israeli military sources had no comment today on claims from Amman yesterday that Israeli jets had attempted to raid the Jordanian town of Mafraq but were driven off by anti-aircraft fire.

President Of India Joins In Tribute To David Sassoon, Famed Jewish Philanthropist

BOMBAY, Dec. 11 (JTA)--The President of India, Dr. Zakir Hussain, and other Indian notables joined large numbers of Jews and non-Jews at memorial services today for the late David Sassoon, Indian-Jewish philanthropist and businessman of the 19th century. The services were held at Ohel David synagogue, named for its benefactor who is remembered for the hospitals he built in Poona State 100 years ago to serve persons of all races and religions. President Hussain lit a candle and placed a wreath on the tomb. He then toured the century-old synagogue observing old Torah Scrolls and religious antiques. A great grandson of the philanthropist, Albert Menashe, flew here from London. He recited memorial prayers and a prayer for the President's good health.

Bonn Recalls Envoy To Portugal To Face Charges Of Nazi Wartime Actions

BONN, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Willy Brandt has recalled West Germany's Ambassador to Portugal, Herbert Mueller Roschach as a result of an investigation of his activities in 1941 and 1942 when he served in the Jewish Department of the Nazi Foreign Ministry. The investigation disclosed that Herr Roschach had signed documents relating to the killing of Jews. The possibility of a trial had not been excluded, it was learned here. The envoy was recalled to Bonn last year when charges were made against him but subsequently returned to his post.

Ex-Member Says German National Democratic Party Is Financed By South Africa

BONN, Dec. 11 (JTA)--A former vice president of the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD)--Franz Florian Winter--claimed in a book published today that the party was financed by sources in South Africa. Mr. Winter quit the party long ago. His book is titled "I Believe in the NPD." The party's chairman in Bavaria, Benno Hermann, said Herr Winter's statement was completely untrue.

South Africa's Largest Jewish Newspaper Comes Under New Ownership

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Ownership of the South African Jewish Times, the largest Jewish newspaper in South Africa, has changed hands. Leon Feldberg, founder of the paper and its editor for 33 years, has sold his controlling interest to Felix Stark, managing director of a firm of trade publications which will affiliate with the company owning the Times. Mr. Stark will become editor-in-chief of all the firm's publications. Edgar Bernstein, assistant editor of the Times for 25 years, will succeed Mr. Feldberg as editor, and Arthur Markowitz, a Times senior editor for 25 years, will become assistant editor. Mr. Bernstein is the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's South African correspondent. Mr. Feldberg said in a farewell editorial that he intends to travel and will retain his association with the paper as a roving foreign editor.

Argentine Schools, Being Converted To All-Day Programs, Drop Yiddish Teaching

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Teaching of Yiddish in the Jewish schools of Argentina is facing a crisis as a result of the need to convert the Jewish schools here into full-day schools with both the official Argentine school curriculum and the Jewish educational program. Because of the time pressure created by the need to include Spanish language programs, many Jewish schools must decide whether to teach Hebrew or Yiddish. As of today, 14 Jewish schools which are converting from part-time to full-day operations have decided to teach Hebrew and give up Yiddish. Yiddish teachers are being left jobless. The crisis in the Jewish schools is a result of a change in Government educational policy. Public schools will no longer operate part-time, leaving the pupils free to attend religious schools for the rest of the school day, but will operate on a full-time basis. The Jewish schools, consequently have to go on a full-time basis and incorporate the public school curriculum, integrating it with Jewish studies.

French National Radio Opens Yiddish-Language Broadcasts To Eastern Europe

PARIS, Dec. 11 (JTA)--The State-owned French National Radio began a series of Yiddish language broadcasts yesterday beamed to Eastern Europe which are expected to contain material critical of anti-Semitic policies in Poland and Soviet Russia. The programs are written and edited by Jewish journalists who are not affiliated with the national radio but work in an independent capacity. This will preserve the Government's neutral policy. Sources here said that Communist authorities are not likely to interfere with reception because of the close relations France has with Poland and the USSR.

World Jewish Congress Human Rights Award Is Presented To Chilean Woman

SANTIAGO de CHILE, Dec. 11 (JTA)--The 1968 Human Rights Award of the World Jewish Congress was presented here last night to Mrs. Luise Schaeffer del Rio, president of the Chilean Organization for the United Nations, at a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the issuance of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, Justice Minister Jaime Castillo and Justice Osvaldo Illanes, president of the Supreme Court, were among those addressing the gathering.

JDC Executive Reports Agency Diverted \$400,000 To Meet Emergency European Needs

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--The executive vice chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee reported here today that the agency had to divert some \$400,000 from its programs to meet the emergency needs created by the Czech crisis and the spurt in Jewish emigration from Poland because of the anti-Semitic campaign there. Samuel L. Haber spoke at the closing session of the 54th annual meeting of the JDC. The 400 Jewish community leaders from the United States and Canada attending the session were also addressed by Mitchell I. Ginsberg, Human Resources Administrator of New York City and a top member of the Lindsay Administration, who said it was in the self-interest of the Jewish community to support an accommodation with underprivileged minorities in the urban conflict.

Mr. Haber said that the additional burdens placed on JDC by events in Eastern Europe and elsewhere resulted in some programs being "curtailed, postponed or eliminated." Despite this, he said, JDC provided some form of health, welfare, educational and rehabilitation service for more than 350,000 needy Jews in 27 countries in 1968 at a cost of \$22,842,000. He said the number aided included 93,000 in Israel, over 50,000 Jews in Arab and Moslem countries, 73,000 in Western Europe, about 40,000 in Rumania and Yugoslavia and another 5,000 in widely scattered areas such as Australia, India, China and Latin America.

He said that in Europe the two major areas of JDC operations this year were France and Rumania, while Vienna had become the focal point of Jewish refugees who left Czechoslovakia after the Soviet invasion last August. He said about 4,000 Czech Jews crossed the border, most of them into Vienna en route to other countries. About 3,000 were aided by JDC.

Mr. Haber reported that last summer's strikes and riots in France resulted in price rises and unemployment which required JDC aid to about 50,000 needy Jews, most of them newcomers from North Africa and Eastern Europe. The support they received was mainly welfare aid, job-finding and housing.

In Rumania, where JDC completed its first full year of operations after an 18 year absence, the agency provided cash relief for 4500 of the neediest among the 100,000 member Jewish community. Aid also included special winter grants for 6,000, food parcels for several thousand as well as Pass-over aid to over 6,000 and kosher canteens serving another 1500 persons, Mr. Haber said.

Referring to North Africa, the JDC official said that his agency was most active in Tunisia and Morocco. In the latter country the Jewish population has dwindled to 45,000-50,000, "less than one-twenty-fifth its size a decade ago." He said JDC supported programs aided about 20,000, mostly school children who received food, medical care and periodic clothing. In Tunisia the Jewish population has shrunk to about 16,000 and close to half are recipients of JDC aid. In Iran, JDC aided about 20,000 needy Jews, mostly children and teen-agers.

Mr. Haber said that JDC's major operation in Israel was Malben, an institution run jointly with the Jewish Agency to provide health, welfare and rehabilitation services for about 40,000 aged, ill and handicapped immigrants. "Care of the aged is high on Malben's list of priorities since its inception and accounted for a third of the \$6.5 million disbursed in 1968," Mr. Haber said. He reported that Malben operates 12 institutions for the aged with a bed capacity of 2,780. JDC aid in Israel also includes support of 121 yeshivoth with an enrollment of 17,000 students and support of the ORT vocational training programs.

Mr. Ginsberg, speaking on one of the most urgent problems facing American cities, warned that poor people and minority groups have been kept too long from a fair share of control of community institutions and are now demanding participation. He said, "When a society is gripped by divisiveness, Jews always take the biggest beating. Jews prosper in societies that give broad opportunities to all groups--when a society is repressive, Jews are among the most oppressed."

Miss Kelemen Named Director Of United Jewish Appeal's National Women's Division

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--Miss Anne Kelemen, former assistant head of the field service department of the National Council of Jewish Women, has been appointed director of the National Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal, UJA Executive Vice Chairman Herbert A. Friedman announced yesterday. Miss Kelemen will assist the women's divisions throughout the country in leadership training, campaigns, and fund raising. She was born in Vienna, educated in England and the United States, and has lived in Israel.

Audiences In Three Cities Buy \$2 Million In Israel Bonds After Hearing Golda Meir

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA)--A total of more than \$2 million in State of Israel Bonds was sold in three cities at dinners addressed by Mrs. Golda Meir, former Israel Foreign Minister. Mrs. Meir visited Chicago, Baltimore and Washington to urge the purchase of Israel bonds as the 1968 Israel bond drive entered its final weeks.

In her addresses, Mrs. Meir described war-like conditions prevailing in Israel today and told of the many Jewish settlements under daily enemy fire, with many of their residents, adults and children, forced to live in bomb shelters most of the time. "Israel wants peace more than anything else," Mrs. Meir said. "But it must be a peace that takes into account the security and the rights of the people of Israel."