

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Federation Announces \$200,000 In Emergency Grants To 3 Day Schools Hit By Vandals

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA)--The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies announced today emergency grants of up to \$200,000 to aid three vandalized Orthodox Hebrew day schools — the first financial grants to non-member agencies in the 51-year history of the Federation.

Samuel J. Silberman, Federation president, said the unprecedented action had been unanimously approved by the Federation board of trustees. The three schools to be helped in a two-stage program are the Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway, the Ahi Ezer Yeshiva and the Sharai Zedek Hebrew Academy, all in Brooklyn. They have an enrollment of 1,850 children. The Federation, which comprises 130 medical, health, recreational and social service agencies in metropolitan New York, distributes funds only to member institutions. Mr. Silberman explained that the problem was "an emergency, and a Jewish responsibility, that Federation cannot — nor would it want to — avoid."

In the first stage, he said, the Federation was appropriating \$50,000 to meet the needs of the three day schools for relocation of classes, rental of temporary quarters and replacement of books, sacred scrolls, ritual objects, equipment and other necessities, to enable the schools to resume full educational activities. The second stage will provide aid for rebuilding, repairing or renovating the damaged and destroyed facilities. Mr. Silberman said that after the schools have determined the extent and costs of their capital needs, the Federation will make a grant of 20 percent of the cost to a maximum of \$150,000. Officials of the schools had reported to the Federation that they were in serious financial difficulties, indicating that insurance had been minimal compared to the extensive losses. Two of the schools are in communities officially designated as poverty areas and cannot ask parents of students to carry the full financial burden. Many pupils are on scholarships. "In their hour of crisis, they have turned to Federation for assistance," Mr. Silberman said, adding that if the Federation did not help, the schools might not be able to resume full programs for some time. Total damages have been estimated to be at least \$750,000.

Mr. Silberman said the schools "were built, and have been supported, literally by the dimes and dollars of their adherents, all of whom are among the poorest members of our community." He added this was the third time this year that the Federation had appropriated grants from emergency funds for critical community problems. Last May, the Federation gave \$2,125,000, matched by an equal sum from its hospitals, to continue service to Medicaid patients when funds were cut off by New York State. At the start of the summer, the Federation gave special grants for programs for the city's underprivileged. Mr. Silberman said that the Federation, "faced with this new situation directly affecting our own people," sought to respond "with the same sense of responsibility" as in the other two actions. The vandalism and fires, which occurred in October and November, have been attributed to teenagers.

## Israel Plans To Send Cabinet Member To Confer With Nixon After Inauguration

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA)--A Cabinet member, possibly Foreign Minister Abba Eban, will go to the United States in late winter or early spring to meet with President Nixon and members of the new Administration, Government sources said today. They said nothing definite had been decided about the visit except that Israel's views should be presented authoritatively and at the highest level to try to forestall any new Middle East policy decision by the U.S. before Israel has presented its case.

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol had planned to meet the new President next April. However, the Cabinet believes that an earlier meeting is required. Contacts are expected to be initiated with the White House and the State Department soon after Jan. 20 when the Nixon Administration takes office. If a date can be set, a Cabinet member may go to Washington in February or March, the sources said.

Mr. Eban assured worried members of the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that the U.S. was not likely to alter its basic policy of support for Israel now or when the Nixon Administration takes office. He said, however, that it was too early to guess the details of Mr. Nixon's Middle East policy, adding, "In the meantime we are maintaining as close contact as possible with the new Administration."

Mr. Eban spoke in reply to questions by Avraham Verdiger of the Poalei Agudat Israel faction and Daniel Levi of the National Religious Party. They and other MKs expressed concern over the remarks of former Gov. William W. Scranton who toured the Middle East as President-elect Nixon's personal fact-finding envoy. Mr. Scranton said the U.S. should pursue a "more even-handed" policy in the Middle East and demonstrate its interest in the welfare of all nations of the region, not just one. Mr. Eban said that Gov. Scranton's views were not shared by Mr. Nixon or by President Johnson. He said that Israel accepted the statements made by Mr. Nixon during the Presidential campaign which supported Israel's stand for a negotiated peace with the Arabs and promised to maintain a margin of military superiority for Israel in order to deter aggression. Mr. Eban said also, "It is our impression that the present Administration has not changed its policies since election day." He said that President Johnson, President-elect Nixon and British Prime Minister Harold Wilson all support a Middle East peace attained through negotiations between the parties concerned and oppose a solution imposed from outside the region.

## **'Washington Post' Reports U.S., Egypt Moving Toward Resumed Ties**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA)--The Washington Post reported today that the United States and Egypt have tentatively agreed to resume diplomatic relations and will announce it simultaneously early next year. The Post's United Nations correspondent, Robert H. Estabrook, attributed the information to "an Arab source" and said that American officials have acknowledged that talks had been in progress. "While they did not confirm the details, they said an early resumption of diplomatic ties 'is not impossible,'" Mr. Estabrook reported.

"Other Western diplomats said Egyptian President Nasser had broached the matter most recently to President-elect Nixon's special envoy, former Pennsylvania Gov. William W. Scranton, while the latter was in Cairo two weeks ago," Mr. Estabrook wrote. "Whether Scranton committed Nixon is still in question. The Arab source said Scranton carried Nixon's approval for the resumption." According to the Washington Post, Gov. Scranton told Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Undersecretary Nicholas deB. Katzenbach that Col. Nasser had brought up the subject. The paper said however that top Administration sources saw little chance of a resumption of relations with Egypt during the final weeks of the Johnson Administration and knew of no such plans by Nixon.

## **Israel Jets Said To Have Attacked El Fatah Base In Jordan; Israel Is Silent**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets reportedly attacked an El Fatah base in Jordanian territory yesterday to silence guns and rockets that had been firing at Israeli troops and civilian settlements in the Beisan Valley. A house which El Fatah marauders used as a forward base when attacking Israeli patrols was destroyed and smoke was seen coming from other enemy positions. There were no Israeli casualties.

Israeli settlers in the area and Amman sources told of the air attack. Israeli defense officials, apparently pursuing a new policy of not reporting air assaults, said nothing. A Jordanian spokesman claimed in Amman that the jet strike was the sixth Israeli air raid on Jordanian soil this month and the "14th incident of violence."

An Israeli spokesman said there was persistent bazooka and automatic weapon fire today on Israeli patrols east of Kfar Ruppin where settlers were forced to take shelter. Jordanians attacked Israeli forces near the Allenby and Mandassa Bridges last night using small arms and mortars. The fire was returned and there were no casualties on the Israeli side. Four mines were discovered in the Beisan Valley today and were dismantled by sappers. Jordan radio claimed that Israeli forces opened fire with mortars and machine guns near the Allenby Bridge in an encounter yesterday that escalated into an artillery duel. Jordan claimed to have knocked out an Israeli observation post.

Two Israeli women were injured when explosives detonated under a car in the Gaza market place today and three other civilians were hurt when their car struck a mine in the Jordan Valley, a military spokesman reported. Two Gaza residents were also hurt in the explosion there. An explosion last night did slight damage to a small bridge near Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. The Jordan Valley incident was reported by a military spokesman who said a civilian car hit an anti-vehicle mine about 20 miles north of the Damiya Bridge.

## **'Al Ahran' Reports Egyptian Guerrillas Operating In Sinai**

LONDON, Dec. 18 (JTA)--The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahran claimed yesterday that an Egyptian guerrilla organization has been operating against Israeli forces in the Sinai Desert since shortly after the June, 1967 war and was responsible for blowing up ammunition dumps, in one instance allegedly killing 27 Israeli soldiers. According to the Al Ahran dispatch, the guerrillas have styled their group the "Organization for the Liberation of Sinai."

The Guardian said the Egyptian newspaper report was "probably a convenient fiction designed to keep Egypt within the letter of the cease-fire agreement." Its implication is that the group came into being independently and was a spontaneous movement on the part of young Egyptians living east of the Suez Canal. The new group calls itself fedayeen — the name used by terrorists active against Israel in the south in the 1960s.

## **Algeria Marks 'Palestine Solidarity Day,' Collects Cash For Fatah**

PARIS, Dec. 18 (JTA)--Algeria celebrated "Palestine Solidarity Day" yesterday with speeches, public demonstrations, fund-raising for El Fatah, the Palestinian terrorist organization, and calls for all-out war on Israel. According to reports reaching here various Cabinet ministers addressed large crowds, funds were contributed by Government bodies and the general public, and special taxes for El Fatah were imposed on movies and other places of entertainment. The occasion was marked by a call by President Houari Boumedienne for support of El Fatah and other "revolutionary Arab movements" in order to break down the "bastion of imperialism which is Israel." The President's appeal was published in the official publication, El Modjahid. Algeria declared war on Israel in June, 1967 and sent troops to Egypt, none of whom saw action in the Six-Day War. Algiers does not recognize the cease-fire agreements and does not approve of any contacts with Israel, even through the mission of the United Nations peace envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring.

## Report Soviets, Poles, East Germans Using Anti-Semitism As Weapon Against Czechs

LONDON, Dec. 18 (JTA)--The Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany are using anti-Semitism as a weapon against Czechoslovakian Communist leaders who are trying to salvage some small part of the liberal reforms that were aborted by the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia last August, the Institute of Jewish Affairs charged here today. The institute is the research body of the World Jewish Congress. The charge was documented in a pamphlet titled, "The Use of Anti-Semitism Against Czechoslovakia" which cited official papers, press reports and other data. The pamphlet also reported that Egypt, Syria and Iraq were following the lead of the Warsaw Bloc states in trying to foment anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia.

According to the pamphlet, the Czech Communist reformers are repeatedly attacked in Soviet, German and Polish propaganda media as "Zionists." Soviet authorities are also demanding the trial of prominent Czech-Jewish intellectuals, including the author and academician, Dr. Eduard Goldsteucker and Dr. Frantisek Kriegel, who was a member of the Czech Communist Politburo under the regime of Alexander Dubcek. Dr. Goldsteucker is teaching in England. Dr. Kriegel is still in Czechoslovakia. The pamphlet said that there has been no response so far among Czechs to the attempts to incite anti-Semitism among them. Mr. Dubcek has warned the population against "falling into this trap," the pamphlet said. It noted that over 3,000 of Czechoslovakia's 17,000 Jews had emigrated since the invasion for "fear of potential persecution."

## West German Cabinet Defers Decision On Seeking High Court Ban On Rightist Party

BONN, Dec. 18 (JTA)--The West German Cabinet has deferred a decision on whether to ask the Constitutional High Court in Karlsruhe to ban the extreme right-wing, reputedly neo-Nazi, National Democratic Party (NPD). State Secretary Gunter Diehl said at a press conference today that the Cabinet asked Interior Minister Ernst Benda to submit additional evidence to support a constitutional ban on the NPD. Mr. Benda's ministry recently completed an extensive study of NPD activities which he said turned up ample evidence to have the NPD outlawed as anti-democratic under West German law. Mr. Diehl said that Cabinet ministers were impressed with the evidence but that there were difficult juridical questions that must be examined further before a decision was taken.

The leader of the NPD has threatened to publish documents purporting to expose Nazi and Communist pasts of members of Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party unless they stop "defaming" the NPD as a successor to the Nazi Party. That characterization was applied to the NPD Sunday by Herr Benda. NPD chairman Adolf von Thadden said he wrote to Dr. Kiesinger warning him of the consequences of continued "defamation." The right-wing leader also said that his party rejected the candidacy of Minister of Justice Gustav Heinemann, a Social Democrat, for the office of President of the Federal Republic and would vote against him. The NPD was believed to be supporting the candidacy of Gerhard Schroeder of the CDU, an arch conservative. It was disclosed recently that in 1933 Herr Schroeder filed for membership in the Nazi Storm-troops. Herr von Thadden said he did not think the Constitutional High Court in Karlsruhe would outlaw his party if a ban was requested by the Government on constitutional grounds.

## Extremist Catholic Organization In Argentina Schedules An Anti-Israel Mass

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 18 (JTA)--An extremist Catholic organization, Unitas Argentina, has posted bills all over the capital announcing that a church mass will be held Dec. 22 "for the fallen in the fight for the liberation of Palestine and Arab refugee victims of aggression." The mass will be conducted by Father Julio Meinvielle, an anti-Semitic priest, and will be held in the Metropolitan Cathedral, an Argentinian national shrine.

Prominent Argentine writers, intellectuals and professionals have expressed solidarity with a resolution adopted by the Latin American Conference on Soviet Jewry in Santiago, Chile several months ago which demanded an end to the pression of the cultural and religious rights of Soviet Jews and their right to emigrate if they wish. The DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, reported today that it has received letters from many distinguished non-Jews supporting the Conference's stand which, the writers note, coincided with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations 20 years ago.

## Report Soviet Union Has Withdrawn Mediterranean Missile, Helicopter-Carrying Ships

LONDON, Dec. 18 (JTA)--Defense sources reported here today that the Soviet Union has withdrawn all of its missile and helicopter carrying ships from the Mediterranean although it has left behind a still formidable naval force that includes supply ships and a half dozen submarines, two of them believed to be nuclear powered. According to these sources, the fleet now in the Mediterranean permits Russia to maintain a posture of strength in that area but is less obviously intended as in the past, to intimidate Israel. The presence of supply ships permits the Soviets to reinforce their Mediterranean fleet if they should so decide, the sources said, adding that the Russians are deliberately keeping their naval strategy in the dark. About 30-35 Soviet naval craft remain in Mediterranean waters out of more than 50 that were sent there in a build-up of Soviet sea power after the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war. Among those withdrawn were destroyers, guided missile cruisers and the helicopter and troop-carrying cruiser Moskva.

## Young Israel President Says Lindsay Fails To Relieve Fear Of Anti-Semitic Outbreaks

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA)--The president of the National Council of Young Israel said today that his fears of further outbreaks of anti-Semitism in New York City had not been relieved by Mayor John Lindsay's responses at a meeting on the issue here yesterday. But he felt there had been a gain in that the Mayor had been given a better understanding of the reasons for Jewish concern. The meeting, attended by lay members and Young Israel rabbis, was convened by the National Council, according to Nathan Saperstein, the president, to impress on the Mayor that "the Jewish community is worried." The Mayor made a brief talk in which he denounced anti-Semitism and then answered questions from the religious leaders. One question was whether black militants would be able to fulfil their threats to take over real estate and businesses, many of which are owned by Jews, in ghetto areas. The Mayor replied that any person had the right to own business or real estate in the city. The Mayor also was asked what plans he had for "restoring the lost confidence" of the New York Jewish community. The Mayor replied that he did not think he had lost the confidence of New York Jewry but that if he had, he would try to gain it back.

## Hillel Director Warns On 'Confused Judgments' About Jews In New Left

GROSSINGER, N.Y., Dec. 18 (JTA)--The Jewish community was cautioned today against "confused judgments about Jewish college youth active in New Left campus movements." Rabbi Benjamin Kahn, national director of B'nai B'rith Hillel foundations, discussing the issue at Hillel's annual directors conference here, said recent expressions by many community leaders reflect an "excessive pre-occupation with the characteristics and proportion of Jewish youth engaged in political and social radicalism on the campus. This has been compounded by their inadequate understanding of the attitudes and convictions of Jewish youth in the New Left," Rabbi Kahn declared. He said "confused critics of campus trends lose sight of two salient facts: Not much more than five percent of the estimated 350,000 Jewish student enrollment is engaged in New Left interests; affiliation with the New Left does not necessarily mean a rejection of Judaism and Jewish identity." For every Jewish New Leftist, "there are dozens of other students equally committed to social concerns and change who have a positive response and loyalty to Judaism," Rabbi Kahn said.

The experiences of Hillel directors recounted in conference workshop sessions indicated that the sentiments toward Judaism of radical Jewish students are "more an attitude of indifference, not rejection." Because they are a group of "talent and leadership potential, the Jewish community cannot afford to lose them," Rabbi Kahn emphasized. "They can ultimately constitute a force in adult Jewish life to counteract the status quo and institutional conservatism." Hillel surveys show that much of the leadership and perhaps one-third of the ranks of the campus New Left are Jewish students. Many directors cited incidents of Jewish students in radical movements also campaigning on campus for credit courses in Jewish studies, support of Soviet Jewry and resistance to the anti-Israel stance adopted by some New Left elements. "The approach to students today," Rabbi Kahn said, "must be on multiple levels to meet the differing interests and concerns of both the accessible mass of Jewish students in the political center and to attract the radical minority without sensationalizing them or our efforts to retain their loyalties to Jewishness."

The 89 Hillel directors attending also endorsed a proposal presented by Dr. Alfred Jospe, Hillel's director of program and resources, to establish a special department for Israel programming and service. "In the light of heightened student and faculty interest and involvement in Israel-centered projects and activities since the Six-Day War," Dr. Jospe said, "there is need for a...coordinated effort on the college level to pull together the multiplicity of programs, strengthen and develop new projects, and receive and provide scholarships and educational resources to stimulate more effectively the continuing interest in Israel among Jewish students and faculty."

## Chanukah Torch Kindled In Israel, Flown To New York, Carried To Officials

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA)--A Chanukah torch kindled in Israel was presented to Mayor John V. Lindsay and Sen. Jacob K. Javits today at the Garment Center Congregation Synagogue in Manhattan. The torch, flown here from Israel, was carried in relays from John F. Kennedy Airport to the synagogue, 18 miles distance, by 100 boys and girls who are members of the Massada Zionist youth organization, an affiliate of the Zionist Organization of America.

The torch was handed to Mayor Lindsay by 19-year-old Cindy Wershals, of Rockville Center, Long Island. He passed it to Jacques Torczyner, president of the ZOA, who passed in turn to Sen. Javits; Israel Consul General Rehavam Amir; Murray Putterman, president of the congregation; and Rabbi Aaron Decter, its rabbi. Mr. Torczyner said the relay was held to symbolize Chanukah's message of freedom and to show Americans "a sign of Israel's desire to live in peace and security."

## Traditional Modin-To-Jerusalem Torch Ceremony Is Held

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (JTA)--A traditional Chanukah observance started in Israel today as runners carried torches from the gravesite of the Maccabees at Modin to Jerusalem and to the northern and southern regions of Israel. Runners, members of the Maccabee Sports Organization, brought a torch to the West Wall in Old Jerusalem where it was received by Mayor Teddy Kollek. It was then taken to the home of President Zalman Shazar. Another torch was brought to the grave of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first President.