

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Gromyko Reported To Have Come To Cairo In Effort To Prevent New Suez Clash

LONDON, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Speculation on the reasons for Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's surprise visit to Cairo, originally scheduled for two days but extended by the Soviet diplomat until tomorrow, narrowed today to indications he might be seeking to stave off another major Egyptian clash along the Suez Canal with Israel.

(The New York Times reported today from Cairo that there had been reports lately of movements of Egyptian military vehicles which could point to another Suez artillery duel. The United Press International reported that Egyptian troops along the Canal had been placed on full alert.) Gromyko, who arrived in Cairo Saturday, met with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad Saturday night for more than two hours and conferred for five hours yesterday with President Nasser.

The Daily Telegraph reported from Cairo that the Soviets wanted to reassess the Middle East situation before Richard Nixon assumed the Presidency next month. It cited also a report in Al Ahram, the Cairo daily which is close to President Nasser, to the effect that lack of success of political efforts — a reference to the work of Special United Nations Mideast emissary Gunnar Jarring — was "inevitably accompanied by an escalation of Arab commando activity."

(Observers in Jerusalem expressed the opinion today that the Soviet delegation, which includes Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Semyonov, might be pressing Egypt to be less intransigent in its attitude toward Dr. Jarring. The totally negative attitude shown by Egypt toward the Jarring mission, as reported to the Cabinet yesterday by Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban, was reported to be feared by the Soviets as possibly causing an end to the Jarring effort, leaving a political vacuum which none of the powers would want.

(The evening newspaper Yediot Achrona reported today in Jerusalem that Soviet diplomats were awaiting Israel's reaction to the secret talks three weeks ago in New York between Semyonov and Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the UN. The newspaper asserted that one of Semyonov's suggestions was that Israel should indicate willingness to consider opening of the Suez Canal as an issue separate from the general settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict.)

## Eban Says Egypt Response To Israel Probe Was 'Total Rejection Of Peace'

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Cabinet yesterday that Egypt's delineation of its stand on Middle East peace, made through United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring, was so rigid and so offensive in style that it precluded any reply by Israel. He said prospects for the Jarring mission depended on a change in the Egyptian position.

Mr. Eban also reported to the Cabinet on the recent meeting between Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yosef Tekoah and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Semyonov in New York. The Cabinet heard a detailed report from Defense Minister Moshe Dayan on his talk with President-elect Richard M. Nixon in New York last week. But it reportedly contained little information that Gen. Dayan had not already given to the press here and in the United States.

The Foreign Minister's reference to the document handed to Ambassador Jarring by the Egyptian Minister, Mahmoud Riad, was his most detailed report yet on Egypt's attitude. Mr. Eban has referred in public statements to increasing Egyptian intransigence. But the latest Riad document, replying to Israel's memorandum, submitted through Dr. Jarring, which asked Egypt what it considered a "just and lasting peace," was, according to Mr. Eban, a total rejection of peace. He told the Cabinet that it implied that: Egypt did not agree to sign a peace agreement with Israel; would not discuss recognized and secure borders; was not ready to observe Israel's right to navigation through the Suez Canal; did not agree to any permanent arrangement to ensure Israeli navigation through the Straits of Tiran; rejected Israel's independence and sovereignty and was not prepared to discuss any practical solution of the Arab refugee problem.

Mr. Eban said that Ambassador Tekoah had informed Deputy Foreign Minister Semyonov that Israel would not return to the pre-June 5, 1967 borders but that it was ready to negotiate with any Arab country on an agreement that would lead to secure, recognized boundaries and the cessation of all belligerence and hostile acts. The Government will consult further with Ambassador Tekoah and Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, later this month.

Both Mr. Eban and Gen. Dayan said they were unaware of any signs indicative of changes or new developments in United States policy toward the Middle East. Mr. Eban said that he himself and Israel Embassy officials in Washington have maintained contacts with members of the incoming Nixon Administration. The President-elect so far has given no new indications of the policy he will follow in the Middle East other than his remarks during the election campaign in October and November. At that time Mr. Nixon expressed support of Israel's view that a Middle East peace could be achieved only through negotiations between the parties to the dispute and maintained that Israel should have a margin of military superiority over the Arabs to deter aggression.

Political circles here stressed that while Israel's position for many years has favored improved relations between the U.S. and the Arab countries, it is believed that at the present time and under the present circumstances, a resumption of U.S. diplomatic relations with the Arabs could undermine Israel. They said this was so in view of the one-sided support the Arab states have from the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc countries.

## Police Seek Saboteurs Who Planted Grenades In Heart Of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Jerusalem police and security forces conducted today an intensive search for saboteurs who planted three grenades in a parking lot adjoining major public buildings in the heart of Jerusalem yesterday. Stricter security measures have been introduced to prevent a recurrence.

A hand grenade was thrown near a Gaza movie house last night but caused no casualties or damage. The Military Government nevertheless is considering re-imposing a night curfew on Gaza in view of the growing number of incidents there.

One of the grenades planted in Jerusalem damaged two private cars. While the damage was slight and no one was hurt, police took a serious view of the incident which they saw as an attempt by saboteurs to show that they could act with impunity in the center of Israel's capital. The grenades were planted in the Russian compound which houses Israel's Supreme Court, the Ministry of Labor, the Jerusalem municipality and police headquarters. The failure of two of the grenades to detonate was attributed to faulty timing devices.

## Egypt Has Opened Special Camp For Saboteurs, Captured Marauder Reports

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA)--A captured El Fatah saboteur has disclosed that Egyptian Army officers are training recruits to the guerrilla organization at a special training camp opened recently near Cairo, it was reported today. The saboteur, Ahmed Raddad, who comes from Amman, Jordan, said the camp was open to volunteers from various Arab countries. He said that after completing training there, his group was flown to Syria from where they were assigned to various guerrilla units. Raddad and six other El Fatah commandos were captured in a clash with an Israeli Army unit near the Jordan River several days ago.

Saboteurs captured last Friday and Saturday near Jericho have confessed that they were planning activities in Jerusalem during Christmas to frighten off tourists and pilgrims, a military spokesman said today. Pilgrims nevertheless are continuing to arrive at Lydda Airport aboard regular planes and on charter flights from Europe. A decrease was reported in the number of pilgrims from England this year which was attributed to that country's monetary regulations. But the usual numbers are arriving from France and other Catholic countries.

## Issue Of Arab War Dead Memorials In Jerusalem Passed To Government

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The controversial question of whether or not to permit Arabs to erect memorial monuments to Jordanian war dead in East Jerusalem has been passed on to the Government, Mayor Teddy Kollek, of Jerusalem, announced today. He said if the Government approved the monuments, the Jerusalem city council would endorse its decision.

He said the matter was turned over to the Government in view of the storm of opposition aroused when it was announced last week that Mayor Kollek had given his approval to the Waqf, the Moslem religious and charitable organization, to erect monuments to Jordanian soldiers who were killed during the June, 1967 war.

## East Jerusalem Liberator Kindles Eighth Chanukah Light At West Wall

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The Israeli general who liberated East Jerusalem in June, 1967, and the eight-year-old son of his deputy commander who was killed in action later, kindled the eighth and last Chanukah light yesterday in the huge silver menorah erected near the West Wall. The honor went to Brig. Gen. Mordecai Gur, commander of the paratroop brigade that drove Jordanian forces out of the city in a fierce battle which ended 19 years of Jordanian occupation. He was assisted by the son of the late Col. Moshe Peless who lost his life in a clash with Arab marauders.

## Report 65 Percent Of Newcomers Want To Settle In Jerusalem; Housing Lacking

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--A member of the Knesset (Parliament) disclosed here that 65 percent of all new immigrants to Israel want to settle in Jerusalem. But according to Mordecai Zar, who addressed a gathering of 300 newcomers, the city's economy is limited in the number of new settlers it can absorb.

Mr. Zar said Jerusalem can now absorb 150 new families a month economically but there is not enough housing for them. He said that only 700 new flats for immigrants will be completed by the end of 1970, judging from the present pace of building. Mr. Zar urged the authorities to do more for immigrants wishing to settle in Jerusalem.

## Israel Deposits Check Here For \$48,258,000 To Redeem An Israel Bond Issue

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The Government of Israel deposited \$48,258,000 with the Chase Manhattan Bank, its fiscal agent in the United States, today to pay an estimated 40,000 holders of the first Development Issue of Israel Bonds which will mature on Jan. 1, 1969. Pinhas Sapir, Minister-without-Portfolio in the Israel Cabinet, who deposited the check, said it was the largest sum ever paid out by the State of Israel in the U.S. for any purpose. Mr. Sapir was Israel's Finance Minister when the bonds were issued in January, 1954. They have paid 4 percent interest semi-annually during the past 15 years. He announced the record deposit at a dinner meeting of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization attended by more than 400 Jewish leaders from the U.S. and Canada. Present at the meeting were Abraham Feinberg, president of the Bond Organization, Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president, Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman and Henry Montor, first vice president.

## Britain Bars Asylum For Crippled Polish-Jewish Refugee But Extends Stay

LONDON, Dec. 23 (JTA)--British authorities have refused to grant political asylum to a Polish-Jewish refugee who spent two years in Polish jails as a political prisoner. But Home Secretary James Callaghan announced today that 28-year-old Nina Karsow, a writer and her blind husband, Dr. Szymon Szechter, may remain in Britain for 12 months. Their permit was due to expire on Saturday.

The case of Miss Karsow became an international cause celebre and drew widespread sympathy from Western writers and intellectuals, among them Bertrand Russell. His cabled plea on her behalf to Polish Communist Party chief Wladyslaw Gomulka was believed partly responsible for her release from prison last September. She was arrested in 1966 when police found an unfinished novel and other material deemed critical of the Communist regime in her room. Amnesty International, a privately sponsored humane society, designated Miss Karsow "prisoner of the year." She came to England with Dr. Szechter and a companion, Viktoria LeBlang, earlier this month to participate in Human Rights Day celebrations and applied for permission to remain.

Miss Karsow was crippled at the age of two when her mother leaped from a train carrying Jews to the Treblinka death camp. Her mother was killed but the child was rescued by a Polish resistance woman. Until recent years she did not know she was born a Jew. She was secretary to Dr. Szechter, a Polish historian and Soviet Army officer in World War II. He was arrested with her but never tried and his subsequent efforts focussed international attention on her case. She was tried in secret and for that reason refused to testify. Dr. Szechter said she was a victim of anti-Semitism and police brutality. He appealed to "men of good will" and named several Western writers to observe conditions in Poland as reflected in her case.

The Home Office's refusal to grant the couple's bid for political asylum came to light when Liberal Party leader Jeremy Thorpe and other friends protested. Mr. Thorpe asked for a meeting with Mr. Callaghan who he hoped "will show compassion in view of the history of this case." Under international conventions subscribed to by the British Government, a refugee is entitled to apply for political asylum in the first country reached after escaping. But authorities here said that Miss Karsow and her husband were not entitled to remain in Britain because this was not the first country or their only possible place of refuge. The couple went from Poland to Austria and could live in Israel. The Home Office maintained therefore that there was no question of being given asylum because their lives were not in danger.

## Rally For Polish Jews At UN Sends Petition On Their Behalf To Thant

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA)--A petition bearing 10,000 signatures and a demand that the Warsaw regime end its harassment of Polish Jews, especially the semi-secret trials of Polish Jewish students, was submitted to Secretary-General U Thant of the United Nations yesterday. The petition was circulated at a Chanukah rally at the Carnegie International Peace Center, opposite UN headquarters. The rally was addressed by Sen. Jacob K. Javits and Rep. William F. Ryan, of New York, who pledged to bring the plight of Polish Jewry to the attention of the State Department and the Polish Embassy in Washington. It was organized by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

The petition listed five demands. The first called for the immediate cessation of the trials of students, mostly Jewish, who were arrested last spring for allegedly fomenting riots in connection with demands for liberal reforms in Poland. The trials, which have been described as "show trials," are barred to the foreign press. The petition also demanded re-instatement and compensation for Jews dismissed from their jobs and evicted from their homes in Poland's continuing anti-Semitic campaign; an end to charges that Polish Jews are involved in an alleged "Zionist conspiracy" to subvert Poland; dissolution of the "Jewish Desk" in the Polish Ministry of Interior which is responsible for anti-Semitic propaganda and which tracks down the Jewish ancestry of Polish officials; and the right of emigration for Polish Jews without harassment of person or property.

## Former Youth Aliyah Ward In Britain Wins Chaim Greenberg Award

LONDON, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Karen Gershon, a 45-year-old poetess who came to Britain in 1938 as a Youth Aliyah ward, was presented with the Chaim Greenberg Literary Award for 1968. The award was created by the Pioneer Women of America in honor of the late American Yiddish and Labor Zionist leader. It is awarded annually to a woman writer in Hebrew, Yiddish or English and the award to Miss Gershon was the first presentation to a writer living in Britain. The award was presented at a meeting at the home of Baroness Burke. In her response, the awardee said she planned to settle in Israel soon with her husband and children.

## Baroness Alix de Rothschild Succeeds Mrs. Roosevelt As Patroness Of Youth Aliyah

PARIS, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The Baroness Alix de Rothschild has accepted an invitation from Joseph Klarman, member of the Jewish Agency executive and Youth Aliyah head, to serve as world patron of Youth Aliyah. The Baroness succeeds the late Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. The post has been vacant since Mrs. Roosevelt died. Mr. Klarman said he had discussed with Hadassah officials the question of filling the office during his recent visit to the United States. He said Hadassah, a major sponsor of Youth Aliyah, had enthusiastically endorsed the Baroness for the post.

## United Hias Service Honors Brazil's Foreign Minister For Refugee Aid

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Carlos Israels, president of the United Hias Service, presented a scroll of honor to Foreign Minister Magalhaes Pinto of Brazil, expressing appreciation for Brazil's generous reception of Jewish refugees. Government officials, United Nations representatives and Jewish community leaders attended the ceremony.

## Editor Defends Toronto 'Star' On Charges Of Biased Coverage On Israel

TORONTO, Dec. 23 (JTA)--An editor of the Toronto Star, Canada's largest newspaper, defended it today against charges by the Toronto Zionist Council that the paper was biased in its reportage on Israel. But Mark Harrison, editor of the Star's editorial page, conceded that some errors may have been made inadvertently in preparing some stories under the pressure of deadlines which made them appear to be slanted against Israel. Mr. Harrison spoke at a luncheon given by the Toronto Zionist Council which posed the question, "Is the Star Fair to Israel?"

Rabbi David Monsen, luncheon chairman, claimed the Jewish community was disturbed by reports and editorials in the Star in recent months. Some questioners complained of alleged bias in Star headlines. They referred to one over a Dec. 3 story which read "Israel War Planes Hit Jordanian Village — 25 Reported Dead." They said other local newspapers published the same story under unprovocative headlines. They also complained of a story on Sirhan Sirhan, following the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, which referred to the accused killer's deed as having been prompted by his having witnessed Israelis bayonetting Arab women in his childhood. (The same reference was contained in stories that appeared in many other papers, though it turned out later that Sirhan had never witnessed any fighting during his childhood in Jordan.)

Another complaint leveled against the Star concerned its publication of reports by the Rev. A.C. Forrest, editor of the organ of the United Church of Canada, whose views are notorious for their anti-Israel bias. The complainants said the Star failed to label them as opinion, not news. They also complained of "negative" material in dispatches from the Star's correspondent in Israel, Solomon Stockell. Mr. Harrison said that Mr. Stockell was a South African Jew living in Israel since 1948 and that his material, if examined dispassionately, was overwhelmingly "positive." He said that an inch-by-inch study and analysis of material appearing in the Star would prove that it was not biased but in fact always firmly defended Israel's right to survive free of harassment and always praised Israel's achievements. He referred to a story carried in 1933 as proof that the Star was the first newspaper in Canada to warn of the peril of Hitler and that its correspondents had been ejected from Germany by the Nazis.

## One Pueblo Crew Member Jewish; Parents Flying To San Diego For Reunion

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Steven Jay Robin, a 22-year-old member of the U.S.S. Pueblo crew released by North Korea yesterday was identified today as a Jew. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Robin of Silver Springs, Md., a Washington suburb, said they were "very, very happy" over the release of their son, a communications technician, and the rest of the Pueblo crew.

It was indicated here that the parents did not wish to call attention to their son's Jewishness during the nearly 12 months of captivity out of fears that the North Koreans might have singled him out for particularly harsh treatment, perhaps on allegations he was an "Israeli" or "Zionist spy," in addition to the other charges on which the Pueblo and its crew were seized last January. Crew members reported today that they had been severely beaten toward the end of their captivity.

The Government has provided air transport to the Robins so that they can meet their son in San Diego, Calif., to which the crew is being flown. First disclosure of the technician's Jewish identity was made by the Southern Israelite, a weekly published in Atlanta, with which his mother was at one time associated. Mrs. Betty Myers, the weekly's Tampa, Florida representative, is a sister of the sailor's mother.

## Kansas City City-Wide Church Group Forms Task Force Against Anti-Semitism

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 23 (JTA)--A city-wide church group representing Protestant and Catholic denominations has established a task force to study various aspects of anti-Semitism and combat them. The Metropolitan Inter-Church Agency (MICA) took the first step at a meeting of its cabinet to which Sidney Lawrence, director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau, was invited to describe those aspects of anti-Semitism of exclusive concern to Jews and those which impinge on issues of concern to the entire community.

Fourteen religious judicatories sent representatives to the organizing meeting and others not present may join the task force at a later date. MICA was organized to stimulate church concern with social issues and as issues are brought before its cabinet, task forces are set up to study them, take action and make recommendations. Mr. Lawrence will serve as consultant during the initial organizational stages of the task force on anti-Semitism.

He summarized the manifestations of anti-Semitism under five headings: Those relating to the Christian approach to Jews in religious textbooks; vulgar stereotypes, derogatory clichés and general accusations of "conspiracy" promulgated by extremists of the right and left; sophisticated anti-Semitism expressed in discriminatory practices in the "executive suite" and in social clubs; problems reflecting a lack of understanding of the role of Israel in Jewish life, the anti-Jewish propaganda arising from the Middle East conflict, the position of Jews in the Soviet Union and neo-Nazism in Germany; problems involving the polarization between Jews and the black community compounded by the publicity given to a small minority opinion which is viewed as anti-Semitism among Negroes.

## Complains To Rockefeller That No Jews Are Serving On Human Rights Review Board

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Alliance of America, an Orthodox group, has complained to Gov. Rockefeller of the "conspicuous absence" of a Jew on the State Human Rights Review Board. In a letter signed by Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, its president, the rabbinical group noted that "Jews constitute a large segment of the minority groups who often have serious problems in having their rights preserved." The letter asserted that "it would be in keeping with your enviable record of serving all groups that you fill the one remaining vacancy on the board with a representative of the Jewish community."