

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

Monday, December 30, 1968

No. 247

Report Angered State Department May Block Phantom Sale To Israel

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (JTA)--The Near East Division of the State Department was reliably reported today to be so displeased by Israel's reprisal raid on the Beirut Airport last night that an effort is being made to block plans to deliver 50 Phantom jet fighter-bombers to Israel. Sources here said that the Beirut raid, occurring within a single day of the announcement of final agreement on the Phantom transaction, ignored the latest United States advice and undermined pro-Western Arab governments.

Later today, however, State Department officials refused to say whether the proposed sale of the Phantom jets, on which final agreement was announced Friday, would be affected by the Beirut raid. The report that the Phantom transaction might be blocked emerged after the United States made an official protest in the "strongest terms" deploring the Beirut raid. Assistant Secretary of State Parker Hart, on personal instructions from Secretary of State Dean Rusk, summoned Israel diplomats to the State Department. Senior Israeli diplomats, Counselor Moshe Raviv and First Secretary Yosef Aharon responded. The State Department then announced publicly that a strong official protest had been made to them and that the American Ambassador in Israel, Walworth Barbour, had been instructed to call personally on either Premier Levi Eshkol or Foreign Minister Abba Eban to emphasize the gravity of United States reaction to the Beirut raid.

A White House adviser said today that President Johnson considered the Israeli raid "serious and unwise." Speaking on a nationwide television program, Walt W. Rostow noted that Israel regarded the attack on the Lebanese airport as a justified response to the Arab guerrilla attack on an El Al airliner at the Athens Airport Thursday in which an Israeli passenger was killed and two stewardesses wounded. However, Rostow said, the Beirut raid "is a move which in our judgment does not take us closer to a stable peace in the Middle East." He expressed the view that "beneath the surface in the Arab world and Israel," there was "perhaps more flexibility than we have seen, more realization that at the end of the road a stable peace is the only answer."

(The United Nations Security Council was called into emergency session at 6 p.m. tonight to consider a Lebanese complaint against Israel stemming from the raid against the Beirut Airport. Reports from Jerusalem indicated Israel would file a counter-complaint against Lebanon. Israel's UN Ambassador, Yosef Tekoah, who had reported to Jerusalem for consultations, was understood to be planning an immediate return to New York for the Council debate.)

The State Department's advice to Israel had been to refrain from reprisal actions because they might unify the growing Arab commando movement, destroy United Nations peace efforts and worsen the position of Arab governments responsive to American influence. The diplomats here said that the airport attack had made it almost impossible to visualize a previously conceivable accommodation by President Nasser of Egypt or King Hussein of Jordan on a compromise basis. State Department officials said they were angry because they had shared with Israel a sense of concern over the increase in dedication, popularity and effectiveness of the Arab terrorist movement and now visualized a Pan-Arab revolutionary front which crossed borders and threatened particularly the Arab governments still responsive to the United States.

A State Department position appeared to be emerging that Israel overreacted against Lebanon and that the airport raid would help rather than hinder the Arab terrorist extremists. Officials suggested that Israel, which they said had been helped by the United States to buy Boeing planes for the El Al airline and which is now seeking expanded landing rights in the United States, should have absorbed the two incidents against El Al -- the other referring to the hijacking of an El Al plane last July by guerrillas who flew it to Algeria -- without what was called here a disproportionate and "counter-productive response."

Israeli Sources Say Criticism Of Beirut Raid Had Been Expected

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Semi-official sources said here today that an outraged world reaction to Israel's commando raid on the Beirut Airport had been expected in Israel and taken into account. The view was expressed informally, as the Cabinet met to consider the agreement by the United States on the sale to Israel of 50 F-4 Phantom jets and the Beirut raid, that Israel was human, too, and that there were hostile acts Israel could not tolerate nor could Israel wait for the Big Powers to take action when they had demonstrated their "flagrant inability to do so."

An official communique issued by the Foreign Ministry today expressed the hope that the Beirut raid would put an end to sabotage acts against Israeli aircraft and to attacks on their passengers in any part of the world. The statement added that the Beirut airport had been chosen because the Athens airport attackers had come from there and lived there and because Beirut was the headquarters of the organization that sent them to Athens.

(The two guerrillas, Mahmoud Mohamad, 25, a Palestinian Arab, and Maher Suleiman, 18, a Libyan, were formally charged in Athens yesterday in the machinegun and grenade attack on the airliner. Nikolaos Stylianakis, Director of Greek Prosecution, ruled they had until tomorrow to prepare testimony in their defense after consulting with attorneys. They were formally charged with the premedi-

tated murder of Leon Shirdan, 50, the Israeli engineer, who was killed by four bullets which hit him in the attack. The charge involves punishment either of execution or life imprisonment. Other charges filed against the two guerrillas included attempted mass homicide, arson endangering human life, illegal possession, transport and use of arms and explosives, imperilling the safety of air traffic and damage to foreign property. The Times reported from Athens that the Lebanese Embassy there had asked the Greek Government to allow the two men to have lawyers hired by their organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and that the Greek Government had not replied immediately. After the hearing tomorrow, the case will be sent to the chief prosecutor who will make recommendations to a judicial council which will prepare and submit an indictment. Unless there is an appeal against the indictment, the trial could start in January.)

The Foreign Ministry communique reiterated that there was no basis for distinguishing between the terrorist organizations and the Arab states which armed, aided and abetted them. The statement asserted that the terrorists were merely the spearhead of an attack on Israel waged by all the neighboring countries.

(Among negative reactions reported today, in addition to the sharp U.S. State Department criticism, were statements from London, Warsaw, Moscow and Rome. The British Foreign Office said it "deplores all actions which tend to increase tension in the Middle East." The Polish Government newspaper, *Zycie Warszawy*, called the Beirut Airport raid "gangsterism." Tass, the Soviet news agency, described the raid as "another brazen provocation by the Israeli military." Italian Foreign Minister Pietro Neni called the ambassadors of Israel and Lebanon to express Italy's concern about the raid and about the guerrilla attack Thursday on the El Al plane in Athens.)

Jewish Groups Hit State Dept. For Criticism Of Israel, Silence On El Al Attack

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Jewish organizations issued statements today accusing the State Department of bias against Israel for condemning the Israeli raid last night on the Beirut Airport while remaining silent concerning the Arab guerrilla attack on an El Al airliner Thursday at Athens Airport. Among the protesting organizations were the Zionist Organization of America, the American Jewish Congress, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, the Rabbinical Council of America and the New York Board of Rabbis.

Jacques Torczyner, ZOA president, said that "silence toward the Arabs and criticism toward Israel" was hardly an example of "even-handedness." He charged that the State Department was trying to undermine the agreement for the sale of 50 Phantom jet aircraft to Israel, declaring that completion of the agreement was needed to reduce "the tremendous imbalance between Egypt's military airpower and that of Israel."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that "the proper function" of the State Department at this time was "to demand that the Arab Governments stop offering encouragement, hospitality and support of those terrorist forces whose wanton disregard for human life threatens to plunge the Middle East into still another round of war."

Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the UOJC, said that the State Department should show the same sensitivity toward dangers to Israel from the Arabs as it did for the feelings of the Arab rulers. Rabbi Zev Segal, president of the Orthodox rabbinical group, accused the State Department of lacking objectivity. He said his organization was "astonished" at the contrast between the quick condemnation of Israel and the silence on the Athens attack.

Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, said in a telegram to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, that the State Department was showing "incomprehensible bias" against Israel in the two incidents. Rabbi Klaperman said in the telegram that Israel could not continue to be "a sitting duck everywhere for terrorist activities while the nations of the world refuse to deal with the problem."

Report Israel Jets Make Day Flight Over Beirut Airport To Check Raid Damage

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Helicopter-borne Israeli commandos raided Beirut International Airport last night, destroying 14 Arab passenger planes and damaging airport facilities without either causing or suffering any casualties and without damage to the many non-Arab airliners parked at the airfield. A Government spokesman said the bloodless raid was in retaliation for last Thursday's Arab terrorist attack on an El Al airliner at Athens Airport Thursday in which one Israeli passenger was killed and two stewardesses wounded. Damage from the Beirut raid was estimated at \$100 million.

(There were reports late today in London from Beirut that two Israeli Air Force jets made a daylight reconnaissance of the airport, in an apparent check of the raid damage. It was reported also that no Lebanese planes were sent up to intercept the two jets.)

Details of the 45-minute night raid were disclosed by a military spokesman at a midnight press conference here from reports from the commandos, all of whom returned safely. The spokesman said the helicopters swooped down on the airport without detection. One group of commandos moved on the airport, another set off smoke bombs on the connecting highway to Beirut to block traffic or military reinforcements. The commandos singled out parked Arab planes and placed detonation charges, destroying nine jets and five turbo-prop airliners, including Boeings, Tavalles and Tridents. Seven belonged to Middle East Airlines, a Lebanese firm, three to Lebanese International Airways and two to Trans-Mediterranean Airways, a cargo operator. Middle East Airlines, one of the main Arab

passenger carriers, is partly owned by several Arab countries. A Pan-American Airlines Boeing jet and a British Overseas Airways Comet parked nearby were not touched.

The Israeli raiders were unopposed except for some sporadic shots, apparently from airport police. Using portable loudspeakers, the commandos warned people at the airport, in Arabic and in English, to take cover. The raiders also destroyed fuel dumps. One burning plane touched off fuel in an underground tank, which exploded, setting fire to a hangar. After making sure all explosive charges had detonated, the commandos left for their bases. The airport, one of the busiest in the Mideast, is about 100 miles from the Israeli border.

French Act To Protect El Al Planes At Airports And Israel Embassy In Paris

PARIS, Dec. 29 (JTA)--French police and security services have taken strict measures to protect El Al planes at French airports and to guard the Israel Embassy and other official buildings against possible attacks by Arab terrorists. The moves were made in the wake of Thursday's Arab terrorist attack on an Israeli liner at Athens and last night's Israeli reprisal raid which destroyed 14 Arab commercial airliners at Beirut International Airport.

Police have set up a special "operational headquarters" at Orly Airport to guard Israeli planes and to check all departing passengers and their luggage. The headquarters is in constant radio communication with police forces on the airfield, customs officials and fire-fighting brigades.

(The London Telegraph reported from Athens that both uniformed and plainclothes police were posted at the Israel legation and at the offices of El Al in Athens last night after anonymous telephone threats were received.)

Eshkol Warns Phantoms From U.S. Will Not Redress Mideast Arms Imbalance

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Premier Levi Eshkol said here yesterday that even with the receipt of the 50 F-4 Phantom jets which the United States has agreed to sell to Israel, "we are far removed from a true arms balance." He expressed satisfaction over the State Department announcement Friday of completion of the agreement and said it fulfilled "President Johnson's words to me during our meeting at the President's ranch in Texas last January." The agreement calls for the start of delivery of the supersonic fighter-bombers starting in 1969 and to be completed in 1970.

However, Mr. Eshkol said, the Soviet Union was "still supplying vast quantities of modern weapons to Israel's enemies" and Israel's defense and maintenance of peace "necessitate and compel us" to acquire more weapons at "tremendous" cost. The Phantom transaction reportedly involves at least \$200 million.

Deficit-Plagued Habimah Theater To Receive Aid From Israel Government

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Israel's national theater, Habimah, which has won international fame but whose fortunes have been at a low ebb in recent years, will be taken under the wing of the Government. A re-organization scheme was worked out at a meeting in the office of Kaddish Luz, speaker of the Knesset (Parliament), under which the Government will make up the troupe's deficit and accord the players civil servant status. The Government will assert a measure of control over the theater's administration through a new administrative board that includes the undersecretary of the treasury, the director general of the Ministry of Housing and the director of the national lottery. It will run Habimah until a permanent board of trustees is appointed.

American-Born Agency Head Settles In Israel, Urges U.S. Jews To Do Same

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29 (JTA)--The American-born head of the Jewish Agency's information department has urged all American Jews to "follow my footsteps" and settle in Israel because, he alleged, most Jews feel uncomfortable in America. Abraham Schenker arrived here with his family yesterday as a new immigrant. He said he found the situation in Latin America "even worse" than in the United States.

Mr. Schenker visited Latin America recently on behalf of the Jewish Agency executive. He said that Jews there "have become used to their position" and claimed that "they know nevertheless that their future is fraught with dangers and they are looking for ways to come to Israel."

Liner Sailing From Argentina To Israel Today With 170 Settlers

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 29 (JTA)--The Israeli liner Theodor Herzl will sail for Haifa tomorrow with more than 240 passengers bound for permanent settlement in Israel or for periods of work and study there under various programs. The olim (immigrants) number 170 including 19 under the auspices of Youth Aliyah, 12 members of various kibbutz movements and the rest families. Fifty youths are bound for a year of voluntary service in Israel under the "Shnat Sherut" program and 20 more will study at the Ben-Gurion College in Sdeh Boker. A group of young teachers are also sailing to attend the Greenberg and Gold teachers seminaries in Israel.

Rabbinical Council Announces First International Orthodox Rabbinic Group

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Council of America announced today formation of the first international agency of Orthodox rabbis with offices in New York City and London. The Orthodox group also announced the appointment of its president, Rabbi Zev Segal, as head of the new agency. Serving with him as co-chairmen are Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovitz, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, Haham Solomon Gaon, Chief Rabbi of Britain's Sephardic community, Rabbi Pynchas Brenner, Chief Rabbi of Caracas, Venezuela, and Rabbi Eugene Duschinsky of Cape Town, South Africa. A spokesman said a name for the new agency will be chosen soon and that Orthodox rabbis in Mexico, Australia, Belgium, Argentina and other countries were expected to join the agency, which will be an association of rabbis and not one of organizations of rabbis. He said it was expected that some 250 Orthodox rabbis throughout the world would join the new agency. The Rabbinical Council claims around 950 members in the United States and Canada.

Rabbi Segal said that the new rabbinic organization would help "to bind the relations of Jewish communities," and added that the "decimated European Jewish communities" were in great need of the backing of the "large, vital and dynamic Orthodox rabbinate" in this country. He said similar difficulties existed in many Latin American countries. He said another function would be to help meet the lack of rabbis in such countries as Greece, Japan, Norway, Finland and other nations.

Jewish Teenagers Appeal For Community Guidance On Draft Decisions

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--A majority of Jewish teenagers questioned at a convention in Chicago last week indicated they were uncertain about the options available to them in the draft laws and indicated differences of opinion about seeking deferment on grounds of conscientious objection to war. Many of the delegates participating in counseling sessions at the 18th annual convention of the United Synagogue Youth, a Conservative affiliate, expressed the wish to discuss these questions with their rabbis and teachers. Results of the interviews were made available here today.

A majority of the 100 young people questioned said they had discussed such issues with their parents but only ten said they had received advice from their rabbis. They asked for more direct counseling from Jewish organizations and spiritual leaders. Two thirds of those questioned said they opposed the draft because of United States involvement in the Vietnam war. The delegates ranged in age from 14 to 17.

Rabbi Saul Teplitz of New York, chairman of the USY commission, said greater effort should be made by the Jewish community to help teenagers on matters of conscientious objection and attitudes toward pacifism. He noted that while Judaism has always been a religion committed to peace, it has found situations — such as World War II against Nazism and the Israel Arab conflicts — "where the struggle for justice demands war."

Anti-Semitism Of Black Militants Viewed As Real Danger By Jewish Leader

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--A Jewish community leader has warned of rising political anti-Semitism among Black Power militants who, he suggested, might eventually muster the support of the white establishment to the detriment of Jews. The opinion was expressed by Earl Raab, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco in an article in the January edition of Commentary magazine, titled, "The Black Revolution and the Jewish Question."

Mr. Raab, a former sociology professor at the University of California and San Francisco State College, said that while a majority of Negroes may be opposed to the anti-Semitic behavior of the militants, few are willing to do anything about it lest they seem to be attacking the militant movement itself. "This reaction throws another light on the ability of a movement to be anti-Semitic without a corps of anti-Semites," Mr. Raab wrote.

He termed "obsolete" the Jewish belief that anti-Semitism is obsolescent as a cultural form in America and that the general American population was unwilling to engage in it. He claimed that black militants could find potential allies among politicians willing to pacify extremists at the expense of the Jewish community. The writer contended that some see "the edge of this possibility...actually peeking out in New York." In what appeared to be a reply to Jewish leaders who see black anti-Semitism as being confined to only a small radical fringe, Mr. Raab wrote "such questions ignore the fact that this movement has already succeeded in reintroducing political anti-Semitism as a fashionable item in the American public arena — with what consequences no one can yet tell."

Body Of Chaplain Killed In Vietnam Being Flown To Israel For Burial

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--The body of the Jewish chaplain of I Corps area in Vietnam, who was killed Dec. 17 in a plane crash while on a mission to conduct Chanukah services for his troops, was flown today from Dover, Delaware, to Frankfurt, for transport from there to Tel Aviv for burial in Israel.

In announcing plans Friday for the Israel burial of Capt. Morton M. Singer, 32, Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, chairman of the Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of the National Jewish Welfare Board, said the U.S. Army planned to provide a chaplaincy escort for the chaplain's body. A commission spokesman, in reporting the arrangements today, said the burial services would include military honors. The chaplain was one of 14 Americans killed when a U.S. Air Force Transport plane crashed shortly after take-off in South Vietnam.

The chaplain, who is survived by his widow and two daughters, was educated at City College of New York and at Teachers Institute of Yeshiva University. He was ordained in 1965 by Yeshiva Tifereth Yerushalym in New York City and came to Vietnam as a military chaplain last November.