

JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXVI - Fifty-Second Year

Friday, January 3, 1969

No. 2

Soviets Press For Big Four Meeting On Mideast In Washington, Paris, London

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The Soviet Union pressed in three major capitals today its campaign for a Big Power conference to ease mounting Middle East tensions as new fighting was reported on two of Israel's three fronts. In a significant related development, Pope Paul declared in a rare newspaper interview today that intervention by the major powers might be necessary to bring peace to the area.

The Soviet ambassador to Britain, Mikhail Smyrnovsky, conferred in London for 30 minutes today with Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart. Valerian Zorin, the Russian envoy to France, met for nearly an hour with President Charles de Gaulle. Yuri N. Cherniakov, the Soviet Charges D'Affaires in Washington, met with Undersecretary of State Eugene Rostow for a further discussion of Soviet proposals for a Middle East settlement. Cherniakov on Dec. 19 submitted to the State Department a memorandum on Soviet peace proposals but the United States is still pondering a reply.

After the Smyrnovsky-Stewart meeting, British Government sources insisted that there was no basis for reports that the Soviets had asked for a Four Power Conference on the Middle East. The sources said the Soviets had never made such a proposal but they admitted that representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France had been in contact in New York recently but they insisted also that the discussions there concerned only "ad hoc" issues of the Mideast conflict.

Sources in Paris said Zorin had presented to Gen. de Gaulle a Soviet proposal in support of the French plan for a Four Power conference. The Soviet envoy said after the meeting that "The position of the USSR is now nearly identical with that of the French." French sources said that preliminary talks for such a conference could begin within a few days with the participation of the Johnson Administration and added that they understood that sources close to Richard M. Nixon believed that the President-elect was willing to continue such talks after Jan. 20 and to accept commitments made before the changeover in Washington, if the talks did get underway. Israeli circles in Paris reportedly were bitter over Gen. de Gaulle's surprise denunciation, at his New Year reception to the diplomatic corps in Paris, of Israel's raid last Saturday night on the Beirut Airport. The Israelis emphasized that in none of his recent speeches has the French President made any reference to the possibility of associating Israel, Jordan and Egypt with the proposed Four Power talks, as French Foreign Minister Michel Debre had done in proposing such talks on the Middle East.

Despite the general Western denials, reports persisted that the Soviets wanted four-power agreement on an imposed settlement to end the danger of a possible new war in the Middle East. British sources said Britain remained committed to the peace-seeking mission of Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring under a United Nations Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967. It was generally believed that the Soviet plan calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as the first step in implementing the Council resolution. Israel has made it plain it will not accept such an approach.

The Pope made his suggestion in an interview published today in the Turin newspaper, La Stampa, in which he said, in reference to the Beirut raid that "we passed a really dark day" and that peace in the Middle East could be born "only from generosity, from the general will to interrupt the chain of violence, perhaps from the agreed intervention of the Great Powers."

Rusk Tells Jewish Leaders Basic U.S. Policy On Israel Unchanged

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Secretary of State Dean Rusk assured American Jewish leaders today that basic American policy toward Israel remains unchanged. Mr. Rusk conferred for 80 minutes with a delegation representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations which called on him to express concern over the State Department's alleged "one-sided" reaction to Israel's retaliatory raid on Beirut Airport Dec. 28.

The delegation expressed the view that the State Department had "over-reacted" in its criticism of Israel for the raid "which gave rise to widespread fears of an erosion of America's positive position toward Israel." They said another concern was that "the United States might be moving toward a collaboration with the Soviet Union in the latter's attempt to force an imposed solution, short of peace and prejudicial to the security and survival of Israel."

On emerging from the meeting, the delegation issued a statement saying that it was "assured" by Mr. Rusk that "the policy of the U.S. Government has not changed in any respect from the clear five-point program announced by President Johnson on June 19, 1967, and which was later embodied in the United Nations resolution of Nov. 22, 1967." The State Department declined to comment on the meeting but indicated that Mr. Rusk would hold a press conference tomorrow where he might be questioned on Mideast policies.

The delegation was headed by Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Presidents' conference and included Jordan C. Band, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council; Irving Kane, chairman of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee; Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress and Rabbi Zev Segal, president of the Rabbinical Council of America. Eugene V. Rostow, Undersecretary of State for political affairs, participated.

Israel Cabinet Reviews Security Situation; Eban Assails Security Council

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--An Israeli Air Force jet went into action today to strike at saboteurs attacking Israeli settlements and military positions from inside Jordan in a continuation of a new technique aimed at silencing such guerrilla bases with swift air strikes. On another front, Egyptian forces opened fire today on an Israeli patrol moving along the east bank of the Suez Canal. A military spokesman said the patrol returned the fire and that there were no casualties.

The new fighting was the background for a special session of the Cabinet which met to hear a report on United States-Israel relations from Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to the United States, who reportedly said that the United States strategy in the Middle East was based on the premise that a strong Israel was in the best interests of the United States. He also was understood to have added the warning that genuine concern existed in Washington over the possibility of a new Middle East war that might lead to a Soviet-American confrontation. Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported on the international situation, in the wake of the Israeli raid last Saturday night on the Beirut Airport and the Security Council's unanimous condemnation of that raid. Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar Lev, Chief of Staff, reported on the most recent border incidents, including the shelling from Lebanese territory of Kiryat Shemona in the upper Galilee.

Mr. Eban disclosed later that Israel was preparing a letter of protest to the Security Council over the bombardment of Kiryat Shemona which cost the lives of three civilians. Mr. Eban added that he did not expect "much response" from the Council, noting that seven of the 15 member nations did not have diplomatic relations with Israel and that several had refused to recognize Israel. Denouncing the Council's resolution on the Beirut raid, he said it was "morally outrageous" that the resolution "contained not a single word" about the slaying of an Israeli citizen in the Arab terrorist attack on an El Al airliner in the Athens Airport on Dec. 28.

He said that Israel had framed its requests to the new Nixon Administration on the assumption that it would continue the Mideast policies of prior administrations. He said Israel wanted to get enough weapons to maintain the Mideast arms balance, that Israel wanted the United States to prevent intimidation of Israel by any other Big Power and to continue to back Israel's stand against withdrawal from Arab-held areas in the absence of a peace treaty.

The policy of using aircraft to hit saboteurs was disclosed in a New Year's Day television interview by Gen. Bar Lev. The jet in action today fired at Arab marauders who shot bazooka shells at an Israeli patrol in the Beisan Valley. Later another plane silenced an artillery post in Jordan which had been dueling with Israeli artillery across the Jordan River.

Rabbi Nissim Assails Pope Paul For Criticism Of Israeli Reprisals

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Itzhak Nissim, attacked Pope Paul VI today for his implied criticism of Israel's reprisal raid on Beirut Airport and accused the Pope and the Vatican of conducting a "general campaign" against the Jewish religion and the Jewish people. The Chief Rabbi alleged that the Pope was not moved by the lives lost in the terrorist bombing of the Machane Yehuda market place in Jerusalem last month "but he hurried to console Lebanon after the destruction of a few planes without loss of life." Rabbi Nissim claimed that Jews have known for some time of the Pope's allegedly one-sided attitude "but until now we have kept silent because of the Pope's high office."

Latest Mideast Violence Gives President Johnson 'Great Concern'

SAN ANTONIO, Jan. 2 (JTA)--President Johnson views the newest violence in the Middle East with "great concern," Presidential press secretary George Christian reported today at the Texas White House. He also said the United States continued to support the mission of United Nations emissary Gunnar V. Jarring as "the most appropriate way" to seek Mideast peace. It was indicated that the latest White House evaluation was that the Arab-Israeli situation "tends to be quite critical in the sense of the events that have transpired in the last few weeks."

Mr. Christian added that the President was worried about the "tensions, hostilities, and the absence of peace" in the Middle East. He stressed that "we have always looked to the United Nations for a solution."

UN Condemnation Of Israel Assailed By Jewish Organizations As 'One-Sided'

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The Security Council's condemnation of Israel for its reprisal raid on the Beirut Airport, for which the United States joined with the Soviet Union in approval, drew sharp criticism today from Jewish organizations. The theme of the complaints against both the United Nations and the United States was the fact that Israel's critics had failed to condemn the Arab terrorist raids which provoke Israeli reprisals.

The B'nai B'rith deplored the Security Council resolution for "failing to distinguish between provocation and retaliation." President William A. Wexler also called approval of the resolution an "encouragement to further Arab terrorism," and a "denial of United Nations principles of peace and justice." He added "that the hard-rock issue of which side wants peace and which side promotes hostility goes unnoticed at the United Nations." Previously, B'nai B'rith sent telegrams to President Johnson, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and United States envoy Russell Wiggins, urging the United

States to oppose the Council resolution as "one-sided" and "unjust." The United Synagogue of America, the central agency for Conservative congregations and the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut, placed substantial advertisements in the New York Times to convey those views. Other organizations protesting the criticisms of Israel and silence on the Arab terrorists included the National Council of Young Israel, which sent telegrams to President Johnson, President-elect Richard M. Nixon, and Mr. Wiggins, condemning the State Department criticism of the Beirut raid as "incomprehensible and immoral;" and the National Council of Jewish Women, which denounced the "double standard of international justice" it said was implicit in the Security Council resolution. The Jewish War Veterans denounced "the vehemence and severity of the State Department and other diplomatic attacks" on Israel for the Beirut raid.

Special Precautions Reported For Protection Of Israel Planes, Embassies

BONN, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Officials here today said that special measures were being taken to guard Arab and Israeli airplanes at all West German airports, especially at Frankfurt, West Germany's biggest airport and the main intercontinental stopover. Israeli and Arab planes are placed far away from each other and airport security men carefully check identity papers of each visitor. At Munich, where no Arab planes normally stop, similar measures are being taken and policemen guard Israeli aircraft.

A spokesman for Lufthansa, the German National Airlines, which serves as host to El Al passengers at West German airports, said that it was not possible to take government action to prevent attacks on Israeli planes. He explained that control of passengers, freight and luggage would make it impossible to continue air traffic. Nevertheless, he said, planes from the Middle East will be watched carefully.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Dutch authorities disclosed today that special precautions had been taken at Schipol Airport and that additional security measures had been taken for El Al planes. They said the El Al office in Amsterdam received a number of anonymous telephone threats.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The Metropolitan Police has ordered special security precautions to protect the Israel Embassy because of the spread of Arab terrorism, authorities said today. A permanent police guard has been established at the Embassy and radio links established with police vehicles.

Hadassah Medical Ethics Conclave In New York Will Study Talmudic Sources

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--A conference on medical ethics according to the Talmud and in light of modern scientific and technological discoveries will be held in New York next month under the sponsorship of Hadassah, the women's Zionist Organization of America, it was announced here today by Hadassah president Mrs. Faye Schenk. She said the conference would be attended by leading non-Orthodox and Orthodox medical scientists and doctors.

Mrs. Schenk also announced that a 30-foot statue by Jacques Lipschitz will be erected on the grounds of Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus as a memorial to Jewish generations, beginning with the Patriarchs. The sculptor will contribute the statue without fee, Mrs. Schenk said. An American donor has contributed the money necessary to erect it on its 10-foot pedestal, she said.

TV Set In Knesset Lounge Proves Too Great A Distraction For Deputies

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--A television set installed in the members' lounge of the Knesset (Parliament) was removed after less than a week because it precipitated quarrels among members and further reduced the often meager attendance at Knesset sessions. A committee of the House decided to donate the set to the soldiers' welfare committee because of arguments over who would turn it on or off and whether it should be kept on while the Knesset was meeting.

Ashdod Dockmen's Slowdown Over New Demands Hurting Citrus Exports

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2 (JTA)--A work slowdown by longshoremen at Israel's new port of Ashdod at the height of the citrus export season is causing serious economic losses and has disclosed a rift between the local labor council and Histadrut, Israel's powerful labor federation. The slowdown, now in its third day, has caused the diversion of a number of ships to Haifa. But longshoremen there, embroiled in a dispute of their own with the Port Authority, have decided not to load or unload vessels originally destined for Ashdod.

Gen. Chaim Laskoff, head of the Ashdod Port Authority, demanded that Histadrut order the longshoremen to resume their normal work schedule in accordance with their contract. Histadrut gave the order but the workers did not comply. As a result, Ashdod is operating at 50 percent of capacity. The local trade union originally signed a contract but later reneged on it and submitted new demands that were rejected.

'Kitchen Dollar' Campaign Aids Vandalized Day School In Brooklyn

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The dean of a Brooklyn yeshiva that was severely damaged by a fire attributed to vandals last Thanksgiving Day described today how a "kitchen dollar" campaign started by the mother of two students has mushroomed into a nationwide drive to help the school rebuild its damaged classrooms and other facilities.

According to Rabbi Meilich Silber of the Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway, more than \$4,000 was raised in the first ten days of the campaign. The yeshiva is seeking \$200,000 to restore its building. He said that the mother, a New York public school teacher, approached fellow teachers with the request, "Give me a dollar — just one dollar" to rebuild the school. Teachers — Jewish and non-Jewish, white and black — responded, Rabbi Silber said. The campaign was taken up by the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers in New York and later by the principals of a half dozen schools who organized Chanukah campaigns to raise funds for repairs. Through Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, director of Torah Umesorah, the national society for Hebrew day schools, the fund-raising campaign was extended to other states and to Canada, Rabbi Silber said. He said that in many instances kindergarten children have joined in.

The Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway is one of three Orthodox Jewish day schools damaged by suspicious fires in recent months that are beneficiaries of a special \$200,000 grant from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

Employees Of American Jewish Congress In N.Y. Strike In Wage Dispute

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Clerical and professional employees of the American Jewish Congress went on strike today in a dispute over wages. Members of Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees, an affiliate of the State, County and Municipal Employees Union (AFL) began picketing AJCongress headquarters in Manhattan after negotiations with management ended in a deadlock. There are 60 employees in the local.

According to Roger Englander, an employee of the AJCongress publicity department, the strike was voted 54-4 on Monday but negotiations continued after the employees' contract with the AJCongress expired on Dec. 31. The union is demanding wage increases of \$12.50 per week for clerical employees and \$1,250 per year for professional employees.

Sen. Goodell, Nathan Report Plans For Large Shipment To Biafra

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Sen. Charles E. Goodell, New York Republican, and Abie Nathan, the Israeli peace pilot, have announced that a ship will sail from New York harbor about Jan. 11, carrying some 3,000 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies for residents of the breakaway Biafran province of Nigeria. Mr. Nathan said he had collected funds in the Netherlands to charter the ship which will arrive in New York on Saturday.

Ida Kaminska To Tour U.S., Canada With Yiddish Programs Under JWB Aegis

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA)--Ida Kaminska, the former director and star of the Yiddish State Theater in Poland, will tour the United States and Canada in January and February in a series of Yiddish stage presentations sponsored by the lecture bureau of the National Jewish Welfare Board, the JWB announced.

Miss Kaminska, who exiled herself from Poland because of the official anti-Semitic campaign of the Warsaw regime, will appear with five members of her old troupe in scenes from various plays which were presented in Yiddish on Broadway and in monologues and songs. She will visit Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore.

N.Y. Chaplain, Killed In Chanukah Crash In Vietnam, Buried In Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2 (JTA)--A United States Army chaplain killed in a plane crash in Vietnam last month, was buried on a hillside near Jerusalem today in accordance with his last wish. The body of Rabbi Morton M. Singer, 32, was laid to rest at Har Hamenuhot, a cemetery for the fallen of the Six-Day War. Funeral services were attended by the chief chaplain of the Israel Army's Jerusalem area command, the military attache of the U.S. Embassy and relatives who live in Cholon, near Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Singer, a New Yorker who was educated at City College and Yeshiva University, had planned to settle in Israel with his wife and two children when his tour of duty in Vietnam ended. Before the Six-Day War he had served as a volunteer in the Bikur Holim general hospital in Jerusalem. He was one of 14 victims of the crash of a U.S. Airforce transport plane in Vietnam on Dec. 17. At the time he was on his way to conduct Chanukah services for Jewish servicemen.

American Friends Of Hebrew U. Sets Up Library Advisory Council

NEW YORK, Jan. 2 (JTA)--The establishment of a Library Advisory Council of the American Friends of the Hebrew University was announced today in a joint statement by Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Samuel Rothberg, chairman of the University's board of governors and of the American Friends. The Council will be comprised of experts in the literary field, scholars and clergymen who will aid the American Friends in its work for the Jewish National and University Library and the special textbook project. The Library Advisory Council will be under the chairmanship of Charles E. Feinberg, of Detroit.