

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

Wednesday, January 8, 1968

No. 5

See French Embargo On War Materiel As Move To Weaken Israel, Win Arab Favor

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Foreign Ministry circles today unofficially interpreted the French Government's total embargo on shipment of arms and military spare parts to Israel, announced yesterday, as an attempt to impair Israel's defense capability and win Arab favor. One authoritative source said France's stand "now approaches open enmity toward Israel and in turn encourages enmity by the Arab states." The Defense Ministry was silent on President de Gaulle's decision to ban shipments of spare parts for already purchased French-built Mirage V fighter-bombers, backbone of the Israel Air Force, and for helicopters. The embargo, which began Jan. 4, also applies to ammunition and "certain naval equipment."

An embargo on delivery of Mirages was imposed by Gen. de Gaulle following the June, 1967 Six-Day War, and 50 Mirages bought and paid for by Israel more than a year ago are still held in a French warehouse. That embargo did not include spare parts for the repair and maintenance of the aircraft.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said the measure had been taken as "a warning to Israel in view of Israel's aggressive acts, especially the recent raid (Dec. 28) on the Beirut International Airport." The spokesman said the ban had been ordered because the reprisal raid "threatened to enlarge the area of the conflict." In the Beirut raid, following an Arab terrorist attack on an El Al plane in Athens, Israeli commandos destroyed 13 commercial planes including several in which France reportedly had a 30 percent investment.

The consensus among diplomatic observers here was that while the embargo was officially announced to be a consequence of the reprisal raid, Gen. de Gaulle may have contemplated it earlier when agreement was announced in Washington for the sale of 50 F-4 Phantom jets to Israel. The French leader was believed to have concluded that the Phantom deal would strengthen Israel's insistence on a negotiated peace treaty with the Arabs. France's official stand is that only prior Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in the June, 1967 war will solve the main problems of the Middle East, observers said, and Gen. de Gaulle was said to be determined not to support Israel's position even at the cost of millions of dollars in hard currency that Israel would pay for armaments and that France needs.

Semi-official Israeli sources said the latest de Gaulle move fits in with France's Middle East policy which is to court oil-rich Arab countries to win oil franchises in order to become less dependent on British and American oil companies. The Middle East supplies about one-third of France's oil needs and France is irked by the near monopoly enjoyed by British and American firms in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and the Persian Gulf oil shiekhdoms, they said.

A spokesman at the Israel Embassy in Paris said the embargo caused a "dangerous situation" and could ground the Israel Air Force within "a matter of months." Spare parts inventories for the French aircraft were understood to have been well stocked in Israel in advance in anticipation of a possible embargo. Since the embargo placed on the 50 Mirages last year, Israel has been seeking alternative sources of supply. Some of the Phantom jet fighter-bombers to be sold to Israel by the United States, will be delivered this year. (Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told Israel's Parliament today that the Beirut raid would not interfere with delivery of the Phantoms.) Israel's Air Force is made up of Mystere, Mirage and Vautour fighters, as well as American-made Skyhawks. The \$200 million Phantom deal, announced Dec. 27, includes spare parts and crew training.

Some diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said the French move places Paris squarely behind the Arabs and loses for it any standing as a possible intermediary in the Middle East dispute. The "total embargo" announcement shocked Israel as there had been no hint that such action was contemplated. But diplomatic observers believed that while Jerusalem-Paris relations would be frigid they would not be broken.

Editorial comment was bitter. The independent daily Haaretz declared: "We will never forget de Gaulle's hostile intention to make us surrender. But we will not surrender."

(Paris newspapers, with the exception of the Gaullist La Nation and the Communist Humanite, severely criticized the French Government for its "total embargo." Le Figaro termed it a "further escalation of France's anti-Israel attitude." L'Aurore called the de Gaulle decision a "breach of honor." Several prominent French political personalities also criticized the de Gaulle move, among them George Duhamel, president of the Independent Party, and Daniel Mayer, president of the French League for the Rights of Man.)

State Department Officials See Embargo Inhibiting Policy Of Reprisals

WASHINGTON, Jan 7 (JTA) -- High-ranking officials of the Johnson Administration said today that French termination of shipment of all military hardware and spare parts to Israel might achieve the "good result" of inhibiting Israel's reprisal policy. While not approving the decision by President de Gaulle, the officials said it might serve a "constructive purpose" by setting limits upon Israeli behavior.

Congressional Sources Report Nixon Will Name Keating As Ambassador To Israel

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Congressional sources said today that President-elect Nixon will name New York State Judge and former U.S. Senator Kenneth Keating as the new Ambassador to Israel, succeeding Walworth Barbour. The same sources said that Mr. Nixon intends to appoint millionaire publisher Walter Annenberg as Ambassador to Britain. He would be the first Jew in American history to receive that post. There was no comment from Nixon aides on either of the assignments. Judge Keating, a Republican, was a leading advocate of Israeli causes when he served in the Senate. Mr. Annenberg, a personal friend of Mr. Nixon, publishes the Inquirer and the Daily News, two Philadelphia dailies, as well as the mass circulation magazines, TV Guide and Seventeen.

Aiken Raps Pro-Israel Statement By 16 Senators, Regarding It As Possible Incitement

WASHINGTON, Jan 7 (JTA) -- Sen. George D. Aiken of Vermont, ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, took issue today with a bi-partisan statement by 16 Senators urging United States support of Israel in the Middle East conflict. Sen. Aiken said the U.S. should be "very cautious about taking positions in the Middle East" and warned that the Senators' statement yesterday could "fan the flames of war, rather than quiet them down." He said that "with a new Administration coming in within three weeks we would be well advised to wait until President Nixon takes office and gives us a thorough report on the situation." He said he would oppose a move to introduce the statement as a "sense of the Senate" resolution. The statement, signed by eight Democrats and eight Republicans, criticized the Security Council's censure of Israel for its Dec. 28 reprisal raid on Beirut Airport as "one-sided" in failing to condemn Arab acts of terrorism. It also urged, among other things, that the U.S. aid Israel in maintaining a balance of military strength with the Arabs.

Jordanians Blow Up Part Of Damiya Bridge, 1 of 3 West Bank Links With Their State

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Israeli officials reported today that Jordanians have blown up the Damiya Bridge across the Jordan River, one of the last three road links between Israel and Jordan. They said explosives destroyed most of the Jordanian side of the span and that Jordanians fired artillery and mortars at Israeli forces in the vicinity.

Explosives planted by saboteurs severely damaged the north wall of the Monastery of St. John the Baptist near Jericho last night. The monastery is property of the Greek Orthodox Church. An explosion that blew up an empty house in a Jerusalem suburb last night caused no other damage but rattled windows all over the city. Ten residents of Gaza were injured today, four seriously, when a hand grenade thrown at an Israeli pick-up truck missed its mark and exploded in a crowd.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told the Knesset (Parliament) that 470 saboteurs were killed last year but that terrorist activities against Israel have not increased. He denied an Egyptian claim that a new sabotage band was active in the Sinai.

A military tribunal in Tulkarem sentenced a 24-year-old El Fatah commander to life imprisonment and 10 years at hard labor today. The prisoner, Abu Nabil, confessed that he entered Israel with orders to kill Jews and Arab "collaborators" and that he had fired on Israeli soldiers. The indiscriminate nature of terrorist activities was brought out yesterday at a trial in Lydda of four Arabs accused of planting a bomb in the Merkaz movie house in Tel Aviv last May. One defendant confessed that he and his companions intended to blow up the offices of the newspaper Yediot Achronot, but were frightened off by activity there and decided to blast the movie house instead.

Diplomats Call Big 4 Conference 'Impractical' And Imposed Settlement 'Inconceivable'

LONDON, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Western diplomatic sources indicated here today that a Four Power conference on the Middle East crisis would be "impractical" and any move by the United States and the Soviet Union to impose a peace settlement on the area would be "inconceivable." France has been lobbying strenuously for a Four Power parley in which it would participate along with the U.S., Russia and Britain. The USSR has been sounding out the U.S. on a plan of its own which would be guaranteed by the Four Powers in their capacity as permanent members of the Security Council. Diplomats here say the U.S. is cool to the Big Power proposal and Britain is reserved. "Both countries believe however that as members of the Security Council, the Big Powers should help speed a Middle East settlement."

Diplomatic sources said that an attempt to impose a peace settlement worked out jointly by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. would not work and might harm chances for peace in the long run. They said such an attempt could turn the Arabs and Israelis against their respective patrons without settling their own quarrel. Doubts were also voiced about the practicality of a Big Power guarantee of a Middle East settlement. Critics argue that it could set the Big Powers against each other should any unforeseeable emergency arise. Israel has categorically rejected the reported Soviet peace plan on grounds that it would force Israel to withdraw from Arab territories without any guarantee of peace from the Arabs.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad arrived in Belgrade today, apparently to drum up support for the Soviet proposals. The semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, warned today that Israel's rejection of the Soviet plan "would drive the situation to the explosion point."

The Soviet Union, which is rapidly becoming a major naval and merchant marine sea power, is vitally interested in a speedy reopening of the Suez Canal, observers here said. The waterway has been closed since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Russia needs it for the immediate transportation of supplies to North Vietnam and, in the long run, to maintain the Soviet posture vis-a-vis Red China.

West German Press Raps Law Passed Quietly Exempting 'Desk Killers' From Prosecution

BONN, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The West German Press disclosed today -- and sharply criticized -- the fact that an amendment to the law on prosecution of Nazi criminals had been quietly approved by the West German Parliament to exempt "desk killers" of the Nazi regime from prosecution for war crimes. The classification denotes officials of the Hitler era who approved orders to kill Jews and other victims of the Hitler genocide program without personal participation in the murders.

The amendment provides that any official of that period who took part in the mass murder program "but not from personal motives," cannot be brought to trial or charged by state prosecutors as of 1965. The effect of the law is to exempt many former top Nazis who gave orders to kill Jews on instructions from Hitler and other Nazi leaders. Official juridical circles responded to the press criticism with the assertion that the amendment had been made law and that "nothing can be done about it."

U.S. Nazis' Anti-Israel Telephone Campaign Draws Congressional Request For Probe

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A telephone campaign by the National Socialist White Peoples Party, formerly the American Nazi Party headed by the late George Lincoln Rockwell, has embarked on such extreme denunciations of Israel that a Congressional request for an investigation was made today. Following the United States and United Nations condemnations of Israel for the Dec. 28 reprisal action at Beirut airport, the rightists recorded a telephone message assailing Israel and the Jewish people. By dialing a widely advertised number, the caller would hear a spokesman for the party state that "a hydrogen bomb on Tel Aviv right now would be an excellent and a just way of settling the entire Middle Eastern problem." The message charged that the "Politicians who run the United States . . . are totally under the influence of the enormously powerful and well organized Jews in this country." It said that after "a timid slap on Israel's wrist, our Government will deliver to the Jews still more military equipment including 50 Phantom jet fighters to be used for further Jewish aggression against the Arabs." The Nazis stated in their recording that by the reprisal at Beirut, "the Jews once again displayed their colossal arrogance and total contempt for all the non-Jewish peoples of the world -- or 'goyim', as they sneeringly call us." Citing Israel's justification for the Beirut action, the Nazis said, "By this kind of reasoning, the U.S. would have been more than justified in wiping Israel off the map with hydrogen bombs in June, 1967, as the Jews made their murderous attack on the USS Liberty deliberately killing 39 American sailors."

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, said today that "such racist incitements appear to violate Federal regulations governing public utilities and interstate communications." He said that he is requesting the appropriate Federal agencies to determine whether Government - licensed telephone facilities can be "used for the irresponsible dissemination of slanders, racist incitements, and such flagrant appeals to anti-Semitism". A tape recording system is used to reply to the callers who telephone the advertised number. The matter is under investigation by the regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

CBC Official Says Appearance Of Moseley On TV Was Result Of Poor Judgment

TORONTO, Jan. 7, (JTA) -- The general manager of the publicly-owned Canadian Broadcasting Corp. has conceded that its decision to permit the recent appearance of the British Fascist leader, Sir Oswald Moseley, on a television show was a "bad error in judgment" and "inappropriate." The CBC official, Eugene Hallman, wrote to Louis Herman, chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress - B'nai B'rith community relations committee, in reply to a telegram from the latter which had called the Moseley appearance "disgraceful." Mr. Hallman wrote that CBC was "naive and misguided" to "assume that Moseley's recent book and public appearances in the United Kingdom would result in anything but an effort on his part to justify his record as a Fascist." But Mr. Hallman took exception to part of Mr. Herman's telegram which accused the CBC of having given "aid and comfort to purveyors of hate" in the past and urged it to "immediately review program policies to eliminate publicity and platforms for racists." The CBC official wrote that he would not wish to bar from the air individuals whose records or views may be considered reprehensible to many Canadians. "We cannot impose a kind of self-censorship on our media without putting into jeopardy the right of all significant points of view to be heard and discussed, popular, unpopular and sometimes profoundly distasteful," he said.

Brussels Archbishop Orders Removal Of Cathedral Paintings Offensive To Jews

BRUSSELS, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Archbishop Malines of Brussels has ordered the removal of several paintings from St. Michel Cathedral which depict a 14th Century incident in a way likely to arouse hostility toward Jews. The paintings, and a number of stained glass windows and tapestries, illustrate an event that occurred in 1370 when the Jewish community of Brussels was punished for committing an alleged "eucharistic profanation." The removal of the paintings, ordered after consultations with local Jewish authorities, was based on the Vatican Council's declaration of 1965 which called on Christian communities to take a fraternal approach toward their Jewish neighbors. In addition, the Archbishop ordered the posting of explanatory comments near the tapestries and windows not removed so that viewers may understand the incident to be depicted in the context of the time when it took place.

Marvin Mandel Named Maryland Governor, Replacing Agnew; Active In Jewish Community

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A Jew was named Governor for the first time in the history of Maryland with the election today of Marvin Mandel, Baltimore Democrat, by the State Senate and house of Delegates to succeed Vice President Elect Spiro Agnew. Mr. Mandel received more than the necessary two-thirds votes of the State Legislature. He served previously as speaker of the House of Delegates. A leader of the Baltimore Jewish community, Gov. Mandel is very active in the Associated Jewish Charities, the Israel Bond campaign, synagogue groups, the Menorah Lodge of B'nai Brith, and other Jewish organizations. He is Maryland's 56th governor.

Arrangements Nearly Complete To Provide Kosher Food In New York Municipal Hospital

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) - An Orthodox leader reported today that arrangements were virtually complete for the first kosher food service for Jewish patients at a municipal hospital, the Coney Island Brooklyn hospital. William Ciner, a former president of Young Israel of Bensonhurst, a section of Brooklyn, said that a number of Orthodox Jewish organizations had been negotiating with city officials for some time on the problem of providing kosher meals for Jewish patients in city hospitals. The Coney Island Hospital plan was worked out by Mr. Ciner, a former manpower consultant for the New York City Human Resources Administration. It will provide for about 1,000 kosher meals a week for patients at the Brooklyn hospital. Cost of the meals, as well as additional serving and heating equipment and added hospital staff help, will be covered by the city.

Mr. Ciner said that when Hospitals Commissioner Joseph V. Terenzion was approached, he endorsed the proposal and suggested that two dietary aides be added to the Coney Island hospital staff for the kosher food program and that the city buy 200 new cups for use by the Jewish patients. Mr. Ciner added that the project had the blessing of Mayor John V. Lindsay and that it would be submitted soon to the city budget commission for expected approval.

The Young Israel leader said that he had pointed out to Mr. Terenzion and Sid Davidoff, an assistant to Mayor Lindsay, that some 90 percent of all private hospitals and those of all religious denominations had arrangements to supply kosher food to Jewish patients on request and that the 18 city hospitals did not have such arrangements. He explained that because the meals will be pre-packaged, complete with cutlery, there will not be any cooking involved and therefore no need for a resident rabbinical supervisor. He added that if the pilot program at Coney Island Hospital works out, it was expected that the same service would be provided in all city hospitals.

U.S. Mint Will Strike 100,000 Commemorative Silver Coins For Israeli Anniversary

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The United States Mint will strike 100,000 commemorative silver Israeli coins to be issued in connection with the 21st anniversary of Israel's independence which falls on April 23, 1969, according to the January issue of the "Journal of Israel Numismatics" published here. The coins will be of 10 Israel pound denomination, the equivalent of \$3.50 and 30,000 of them will be in proof condition, the magazine said. The minting of Israeli coins abroad is not new, Fred Bertram, editor of the numismatics journal said. Previous Israeli silver commemorative coins have been struck by the mints of The Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy. The minting of the coins in the U.S., which is the biggest market for Israeli commemoratives, will save time and transportation costs, Mr. Bertram said.

In a related development, pre-holiday sales of Israel coins were an unprecedented success for both old and new issues. Joseph Milo, assistant trade commissioner for Israel, reported here today. He said many banks declared a "sellout" shortly after the start of Israel Coin Week which ran from Dec. 9 to 16, 1968. According to Mr. Milo, heavy demand for the coins was registered by some 4,000 banking offices all over the world. He said that profits earned from the sale of Israel coins are earmarked for the restoration and preservation of historic sites in Israel.

Urging Support Of Projected Maine Bill To Act Against Private Club Discrimination

PORTLAND, Maine, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League here is urging state legislators to support a bill to be introduced by State Sen. Peter Mills that would act against discrimination by private clubs. Sen. Mills intends to introduce a measure which would deny to a private club a state liquor or food license if the club bars members on religion or race grounds. Dr. Benjamin Zolov of Portland, ADL area chairman for Maine and vice chairman of the New England regional ADL board, said the organization had investigated and found private clubs in the Portland area which discriminate.

ADL has sent telegrams to the legislative leadership urging bi-partisan support of the projected Mills bill. The Portland B'nai B'rith sent letters to local organizations urging that in selecting meeting places they exclude from consideration any club or facility which "erects racial or religious barriers." The Portland Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has voiced support for the proposed bill.

AJ Congress Strike Settled, Contract Called Most Costly In Organization's History

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The first strike of clerical and professional employees of the American Jewish Congress, which began last Thursday, was ended today by agreement on a new two-year contract, according to an AJ Congress spokesman. The 60 members of Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees (AFI) returned to their jobs this afternoon. The spokesman said that the new contract provided for an increased \$8.50 a week for the clerical employees for the first year and an additional \$5 per week for the second year. Professional employees will receive an increase of \$900 for the first year and \$500 more for the second year, the spokesman said. He called the agreement the most costly labor contract in the organization's history. Howard M. Squadron, co-chairman of the organization's governing council, negotiated the new agreement with the local.

Surface Mail, Parcel Post For Israel Not Being Accepted During Longshoremen's Strike

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The Post Office Department has announced that surface mail and parcel post will not be accepted for ports in Europe, Africa or the Middle East, including Israel, because of the longshoremen's strike that has tied up Atlantic and Gulf coast shipping.