

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

Monday, January 13, 1969

No. 8

American Jews Angered By Embargo; Apparent Boycott Movement Growing

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA)--American Jews -- at least those represented by major organizations-- are infuriated by the French boycott of arms and spare parts to Israel and are mounting counter-measures designed to hurt France's troubled economy. Official Jewish groups have already brought to the attention of a French diplomat in Washington the "mood of deep resentment" that prevails among their members. But they took pains to stress that it is directed against President Charles de Gaulle, who made the embargo decision without consulting his government, and not against the French people.

Some 200 members from 156 of the Metropolitan Region, United Synagogue of America Conservative congregations declared at an emergency meeting here today that they would "marshal all of the forces at our command to achieve effective reaction against French trade, commerce and travel" until the embargo is lifted. A boycott seems to be developing among some Jewish groups against travel to France or the use of French carriers. The immediate victim appears to be Air France, a major international airline that serves Europe and Israel as well as such nearby winter resorts as Mexico and the Caribbean. Unconfirmed reports say that numerous cancellations have hit Air France since the de Gaulle embargo was announced last week. The B'nai B'rith travel service is discontinuing French tours previously offered, and other Jewish organizations that sponsor group tours to Europe and Israel have reportedly eliminated France from their itineraries.

A delegation representing major American Jewish organizations visited the French Ambassador, Charles Lucet, in Washington on Friday. The group, headed by Herman Edelsberg, director of B'nai B'rith's international affairs department, said the groups were not sponsoring a boycott of France but had no interest in suppressing it. M. Lucet reportedly indicated surprise at the intensity of feeling reported by the delegation. He was told that the latest embargo against Israel would not only be a disservice to the cause of peace but promoted the Soviet role in the Middle East. The group said that American Jewry still regarded the French people as sincere friends but that Gen. de Gaulle's policies had strained feelings toward France as a nation. The delegation included representatives of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., the American Jewish Committee, Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform), National Council of Jewish Women and American Jewish Congress.

Israel Recalls Ambassador To France For 'Consultations'; Cabinet Meets Monday

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA)--Israel has recalled its Ambassador to Paris, Walter Eytan, for "consultations," Government sources said today. He was expected to be present at Monday's Cabinet session, that will be devoted to French-Israeli issues. The Cabinet may decide whether to press for a \$60 million cash refund for 50 Mirage jets embargoed by President Charles de Gaulle during the Six-Day War. It was expected also to consider whether to seek repayment of \$40 million for military equipment and airplane spare parts embargoed by Gen. de Gaulle last week.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban said on Friday that if France refused to deliver planes and military equipment purchased by Israel and also refused to refund payments made, such action would constitute a breach of all accepted international relations. Mr. Eban commented on a statement by a French Government spokesman that France would neither supply the equipment nor refund the \$100 million paid by Israel to cover the orders. The spokesman had said the equipment would be held on French soil for Israel. Mr. Eban said that President de Gaulle's embargo action was a consequence of his refusal to recognize Israel's right to act in self-defense in June, 1967.

Meanwhile, sources said there would be no change in the location of the Defense Ministry purchasing mission in Paris. Mordechai Limon, mission head, returned today to Paris, headquarters of all Israel defense purchasing operations in Europe. He had rushed to Israel for consultations when the latest embargo became known. Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan was expected to report to the Cabinet Monday on the implications of the embargo on the State's military strength and posture. Army branches have been instructed to provide estimates of the situation.

The embargo was imposed Jan. 4 by Gen. de Gaulle in angry response to the Dec. 28 Israeli commando raid on the Beirut International Airport that destroyed 13 commercial airliners, including several in which Air France had a 30 percent investment. Israel used French-built helicopters in the attack, which cost no lives and was a reprisal action for the assault on an El Al airliner in Athens on Dec. 26 by two Arab terrorists who came from Beirut and who killed one Israeli, injuring two.

French Government Apparently Divided on Question of Repayment of Israeli Funds

PARIS, Jan. 12 (JTA)--The Israel Embassy here issued a statement Friday that Israel had not applied to France for a refund of money paid for weapons and spare parts embargoed last week by President de Gaulle because it continued to demand that France supply the Mirage planes and equipment "ordered and paid for." The statement came as two French Cabinet members expressed differing views on whether Israel had rights under international law to demand a refund and as the political controversy over the embargo continued to rage throughout France. In a radio interview in which he

rejected charges of anti-Semitism which have been levelled against Gen. de Gaulle in the spreading uproar, Foreign Minister Michel Debre said that any Israeli claim for repayment would "be dealt with in normal commercial ways." But Defense Minister Pierre Messmer asserted that the embargo was "an act of Government" and that no French courts had ever accepted jurisdiction in such disputes. He also told a press conference that the Government would not allow the Israelis to claim the money in a French court. He said it was "an old French tradition that no courts, either civil or administrative, would agree to sit in judgment on decision taken as an 'act of Government' in cases of national necessity."

Meanwhile, members of the Government majority, both Gaullists and the minority Independent Republicans, joined in increasing numbers to protest the embargo, demanding that Ministers Debre and Messmer explain the reasons for it. Observers said that a serious rift could develop between the Gaullists and the minority party and even raised the possibility of a split developing in the coalition. Some Gaullist deputies sought to organize a minority faction to bring pressure to bear on the French Cabinet to rescind the embargo. The Socialist Party also denounced the embargo and said it would try to take action when the Parliament convened later this month.

The anti-Semitism issue touched on by M. Debre involved a statement by Information Minister Joel Le Theule, apparently echoing remarks Gen. de Gaulle made at a Cabinet meeting this week, that "certain Israeli influences had become apparent in circles close to information media," a charge which infuriated a number of press and radio editors who immediately demanded that the Government identify the accused media. When the question was raised during the Debre interview, he replied by implying that many leading Frenchmen who had assailed Gen. de Gaulle and favored Israel in the embargo controversy had been collaborators with the pro-Nazi Vichy Government during World War II. In criticizing pressure groups, he also said that there was nothing defamatory in saying that such groups sometimes served a foreign government.

He insisted that France had supported Israel, "when Israel needed French help" but that now, when Israel's neighbors are in danger of their very security, France has had to "reverse this policy." He insisted that "Israel's security and prosperity have always been close to Gen. de Gaulle's heart and the General has never weakened on this point." He asserted that the embargo was necessary to force the Big Four to assume "their responsibility for world peace and to try to work out a solution for the Middle East crisis." He was asked whether there was a possibility that the unilateral embargo act might postpone Mideast peace and replied that French actions "should serve as an example to all countries." However, he refused to discuss that point further.

Opposition To Embargo Grows; De Gaulle Criticized; Many Urge Revocation

The de Gaulle decision was under strong attack all weekend by political groups, civic organizations, and Jewish and non-Jewish politicians and personalities in various fields. Despite the President's tough anti-Israel stand since the Arab-Israel War, the French public continues to be strongly sympathetic to the Jewish State. A statement by Grand Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of Paris was read in synagogues throughout the country. It voiced "profound sadness at seeing the Government...taking it upon itself to sap the defense potential of Israel against those who multiply their attacks." Rabbi Kaplan said that Israel had "narrowly avoided the threat of genocide" and the fate of the Nigerian secessionist province of Biafra, afflicted by mass starvation and death. Prof. Rene Cassin, 1967 Nobel Peace Prize winner and a longtime de Gaulle follower, told an audience in Nice that "France is not on the side of justice" and voiced hope that the embargo would be revoked. Jewish organizations, linked within the framework of the Coordination Committee of Jewish Organizations of France, urged nullification.

The Committee for French Solidarity with Israel, headed by Gen. Pierre Koenig, military commander of the Free French Force in World War II and a national hero, urged the country to sign a petition condemning the embargo. The committee declared that Israel "has the right to obtain arms necessary for her safety." It accused the Government of aggravating the Middle East situation and jeopardizing France's role as a peace mediator. Andre Monteil, president of the French Senate's Foreign Affairs Commission, told a meeting of the Solidarity Committee that he and fellow Senators will seek to have the embargo rescinded. Foreign Minister Debre has been asked to appear before a special session of the commission to explain the embargo decision.

Former Information Minister Georges Gorse was in Lebanon yesterday as personal representative of de Gaulle to provide fresh assurances that France would support Lebanon in its differences with Israel. Meanwhile M. Messmer will soon visit Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, it was announced. Both Arab states have voiced a desire to buy French arms.

Israel On Its Way To Becoming Self-Sufficient in Production of Arms

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA)--Israel is well on the way to self-sufficiency in the production of arms. It is already manufacturing spare parts for its French-built jets, will soon turn out complete engines, and will eventually build its own fighter planes of exclusively Israeli design, according to reports by Israeli military-industrial leaders over the weekend.

The disclosures of progress made by Israel's arms industry, hitherto veiled in secrecy, was seen as an attempt to allay public fears that the country might be left high and dry by France's embargo on military equipment and airplane spare parts to Israel. The backbone of Israel's Air Force has been the French Mirage and other French transport and trainer aircraft. Israel's aircraft industry has

adapted rapidly to make up for the loss of France as a source of spare parts, officials said. Production schedules have been agreed upon by defense officials and industry leaders. The latter are convinced that their plants can assume the added burdens without restricting production for export or slowing down the development of prototype commercial and military aircraft of Israeli design.

The Franco-Israeli jet engine plant at Beth Shemesh, near Jerusalem, will start production of spare parts this month and will be turning out complete jet and turbo-prop engines for military and civilian planes within a few years, according to Aharon Nachshon, plant director. The Beth Shemesh works is a subsidiary of the Turbomeca engine plant in France, owned by the French-Jewish industrialist Joseph Shidlovsky. It is Israel's largest aircraft parts manufacturer, employing 300 workers, some of whom have been trained in France. It plans to build engines for the French Fouga Magister jet trainer, British-made Handley-Page executive aircraft and the Nord 262 transport. Another firm, Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd., is already assembling foreign-built aircraft and is developing the Arava, a locally designed Stal (short-take-off-and-landing jet) for civilian use that Israeli engineers plan to evolve into the first all-Israeli jet fighter plane.

Itzhak Ironi, director-general of the Defense Ministry's military industries department said in a television interview yesterday that local industries are also producing all types of guns and ammunition now used by the Air Force which were imported from France until recently. He said military aircraft parts such as fuel tanks, bomb bays and rocket-holders are all being manufactured locally as are tank guns and ammunition. According to Mr. Ironi, Israel's military industries are producing more than the country's armed forces require and the surplus is exported. "As a matter of fact," he noted, "France was one of our customers and we have not yet declared a counter-embargo." Israel has long produced its own basic infantry weapon, the Uzzi submachinegun, which it has also become standard equipment in the armies of West Germany, The Netherlands and Iran.

U.S. Will Reply to Soviet Mideast Peace Plan This Week and Will Seek Clarification

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA)--The Johnson Administration will reply tomorrow or Tuesday to the Soviet Union's reported peace plan for the Middle East by requesting clarification of ambiguities and contradictions in the proposal, sources said today. The purported main points of the plan were published in Arabic in the Lebanese newspaper Al Anwar Friday in what informed diplomats said was a fairly accurate version. Adumbrated versions of the plan, said to omit key points, appeared in the press in Cairo, Damascus and other Arab capitals. Israel's United Nations Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, said Friday the Soviet proposals "smack of a Middle East Munich" and declared that Israel "will not become the Czechoslovakia of the Middle East." The reported American reply prepared by the State Department for President Johnson's approval was not a reaction to the Soviet plan but a list of questions, the answers to which Moscow will have to give the Nixon Administration.

State Department and foreign service officials appeared to be split in their reactions. Some were said to feel that the Soviet initiative represented the first really serious effort by Moscow to come to grips with the Middle East conflict and reflected Kremlin concern over a new outbreak of war and a possible U.S.-Soviet confrontation. These officials insisted that the Russians were demonstrating a sincere desire for a political solution and pointed to an enlarged role the UN peace envoy, Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring would purportedly have under the Soviet plan. Other officials however share the Israeli view that the Soviet proposal was designed wholly to satisfy Russia's Arab clients by returning the Middle East to the status quo ante of June, 1967 with no peace treaty, no secured boundaries and no guarantees to Israel. Key operative points in the Soviet plan, according to the Beirut account, called for:

Israeli withdrawal from all of the territories occupied in 1967, preceded by a preliminary withdrawal of Israeli forces some 30-40 kilometers East of the Suez Canal, upon which Egyptian forces would enter the Canal zone to clear the waterway for navigation; return of Arab Army and police forces to the occupied areas during the second stage of the Israeli withdrawal and the stationing of UN forces near the June 5, 1967 lines, in Sharm el-Shiekh, commanding the Straits of Tiran, and in the Gaza Strip; a Security Council resolution calling for the dispatch of United Nations forces to guarantee freedom of navigation to ships of all countries in the Tiran Strait and Gulf of Aqaba; an agreement to be reached through the mediation of Dr. Jarring on such points as agreed and secure boundaries, freedom of navigation in the region's international waterways, a just solution of the refugee problem, and assurances of the territorial integrity and political independence of each state by such means as establishment of demilitarized zones; documents to be signed by all parties and deposited with the Security Council, ending the state of war and recognizing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state in the region, such documents to become operative following Israeli withdrawal and to be guaranteed by the Security Council or its four permanent members -- the U.S., Britain, France and Russia.

According to informed sources, the U.S. note will ask the Soviet Union: Whether the Russians see Israel and the Arab states negotiating new boundaries as part of a peace settlement; whether they envisage Israel's use of the Suez Canal as part of that settlement; the exact role they have in mind for Dr. Jarring. These points, American officials said, were vague, ambiguous or contradictory in the Soviet note. On the Suez Canal issue, the Soviets nowhere stated explicitly that Israeli ships and cargoes should be allowed transit through the canal although one point on which agreement would be sought through Dr. Jarring is "freedom of navigation in the region's international waterways." Another paragraph stated that one point to be agreed upon is "secure and recognized boundaries accompanied by relevant maps." But the preceding paragraph mentioned only "a peaceful settlement

through withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories." The U.S. also wants to clarify the role of the Big Four envisaged by the Soviets. The Russian note insisted that all points be mediated through Dr. Jarring. But it left many steps in the process up in the air and did not say who was to draw up the plan to be agreed upon by the parties under Dr. Jarring's aegis. Finally, the Soviet reference to a Security Council--or Big Four--guarantee of Israel-Arab borders appeared to some officials to point to an imposed settlement, not one hammered out by both parties through Dr. Jarring with Big Power aid.

Ambassador Tekoah and other Israeli officials claimed that the Soviet Plan would strengthen one party at the expense of the other with a "Nasser-Soviet axis" assuming hegemony in the Middle East. They warned that the Soviet plan, if implemented, would lead to war. Informed sources at the UN said yesterday that Dr. Jarring will await results of the Soviet move before resuming his peace mission. They said he would postpone making a new round of Middle East capitals for about a week. He had been scheduled to start in the middle of this month.

Israeli Jets Smash Saboteur Positions Inside Jordan Following Bazooka Attack

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets smashed saboteur positions inside Jordan today following a bazooka attack from Jordanian territory on an Israeli border patrol near Geshar in the Beisan Valley. Military sources made no mention of the air strike, but Kibbutz Geshar residents said jets streaked overhead. Israel recently put into effect a policy of striking Arab marauders from the air before they can escape but the air attacks are no longer mentioned in public announcements of military activities. A military spokesman announced the ground attack on the border patrol which, he said caused no casualties.

AJ Committee Official Charges Arab Campaign Threatens U.S. Interfaith Harmony

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA)--The head of the American Jewish Committee's inter-religious affairs department charged today that a well financed Arab propaganda campaign in this country "threatens to undermine interfaith harmony and imperils the already heavily strained civic peace of the United States." Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum said, at a luncheon meeting of the AJ Committee's New York Chapter, that the Arab propagandists had made inroads in Catholic and Protestant church circles in a campaign that was not only anti-Israel but resorted to the crudest and most virulent forms of anti-Semitism.

According to Rabbi Tannenbaum, the Arabs recently distributed a four page leaflet containing a Moslem version of the medieval ritual blood libel charge against Jews and a rendition of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a notorious 19th Century anti-Semitic forgery. He said the current Arab bid to influence Christian opinion in this country was much better organized than previous propaganda campaigns. "There is clear evidence that Arab information specialists operating out of Arab countries, and especially from Beirut, Lebanon, have moved massively to gain Christian support from the Arab league nations in their anti-Israel policies," Rabbi Tannenbaum said. The propaganda pamphlet, entitled "The Secret of the Blood Practices Israel is Enjoined to Observe," attributed to Ibrahim Saada, asserts that Jews in Arab states kidnap "children in Syria and Lebanon for the purpose of sucking their blood on the Jewish Passover."

Federal Agents, Army Experts Probe Explosion That Destroyed Washington Area Synagogue

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (JTA)--Federal agents and Army experts called in by local police were trying to determine the type of explosive that virtually destroyed Congregation Shaare Tikvah, a Conservative synagogue in the Washington suburb of Oxen Hill, St. George's County, Maryland last night. The blast caused an estimated \$200,000 damage to the two-year-old structure which may have to be entirely rebuilt.

No one was injured by the explosion which neighbors said sounded like a giant airliner crashing. Doors were blown across a field and smoke and flames burst from the windows. Police called in the FBI and Army bomb squad experts from Fort McNair, Va. Dr. Isaac Frank, executive director of the Greater Washington Jewish Community Council, was consulting with police officials about the incident. Some authorities feared the explosion might have been a local manifestation of the recent rash of synagogue burnings and vandalism in New York City. Residents of the modest, middle-income suburb said there was no previous record of anti-Semitism there.

Kiesinger, Heinemann Say Statute of Limitations Issue Must be Settled Before Election

BONN, Jan. 12 (JTA)--West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Minister of Justice Gustav Heinemann said in separate interviews today that the question of the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes prosecutions will have to be settled before the elections to the Bundestag (Lower House) next September. The statute, to take effect on Dec. 31, 1969, will bar trials of war criminals involved in murder. There is a large body of opinion in Germany and abroad favoring abolition of the statute or postponement of its effective date. Dr. Heinemann said any person who aided in mass murders under the Nazi regime will continue to be prosecuted despite a recent amendment to the law which exempts so-called "desk killers"--those who signed documents which sent Jews and others to their death but did not participate directly in their execution.

Meanwhile, the State Prosecutor announced today that an investigation will begin into the war-time activities of Herbert Muller Roschach, West Germany's Ambassador to Portugal, who has been accused of having signed documents relating to the deportation of Jews when he was a high official of the Jewish section of the Nazi Foreign Ministry. The probe will seek evidence of alleged perjury by Herr Roschach when he swore at the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf von Beckerle that he was unaware of the mass murder of Jews, the prosecutor said.