

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## U.S. Will Advise Kremlin Of Its Mideast Peace Ideas, Seek Answers On Russia's

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey announced today that the State Department was preparing a reply to communications from the Soviet Union on the Middle East conflict. He said the reply will communicate the American ideas on the situation and seek clarification of Russian suggestions. The American reply was expected to be made later this week. "We will be communicating our own ideas and seeking clarification from the Soviet Union on several points," Mr. McCloskey said. State Department sources said that Washington was particularly interested in the question of boundaries and what, if any, territory Israel could be expected to retain under the Soviet proposals. Moscow has said nothing on the subject of Jerusalem or on transit rights for Israel through the Suez Canal.

Officials here questioned interpretations of the Soviet position offered in a press conference Monday by Ambassador J. R. Wiggins who is shortly to retire as United States representative to the United Nations. Mr. Wiggins asserted that the Soviet proposals went beyond previous Soviet positions by referring to withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories as a concurrent step, rather than a precondition, in a settlement. He also said that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister V. S. Semenov, in diplomatic discussions at the United Nations in November, had acknowledged that Israel's borders prior to June, 1967 were subject to negotiation. Ambassador Wiggins explained the absence of reference in the Soviet proposals to navigation rights for Israeli shipping in the Suez Canal as "a matter of language" which the Russians would be willing to work out.

(The Russian Communist Party organ, Pravda, in a long review of the Middle East situation Monday, said there could be no settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute without the prior withdrawal by Israeli forces of the areas they occupied in the Six-Day War. "The point is that there is no and there can be no peace in the Middle East without the pull-out of the Israeli troops," Pravda asserted. "The Arabs will never reconcile themselves to the loss of part of their territory as a result of the Israeli attack on them. This just position of the Arab states is undoubtedly backed and will be backed by their sincere friends.")

Ambassador Wiggins said the Soviet note to the State Department of Dec. 30 called for withdrawal "to the pre-June 6, 1967 lines" but he said that this "does not reflect the Russians' own thinking." He said the Dec. 30 note was "better than previous ones" in that it referred to "peace" and envisaged the Israeli withdrawal as part of an overall arrangement. He expressed the belief that the Soviet Union "is almost as worried as we are about the risk of a major explosion" and that, therefore, he doubted that recent Soviet diplomatic activities on the Middle East situation were only undertaken for propaganda purposes. Mr. Wiggins said that there were elements in the Soviet proposals that United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring should explore. He said the envoy should take the initiative and sound out the Arab states and Israel on the Soviet proposals.

State Department officials, making no attempt to conceal their displeasure over the endorsement given the Soviet proposals by their representative at the UN, likewise made no secret of their feeling that Israel continues to evade possible avenues toward a settlement. They complained that Israel maintains that Moscow categorically insists on prior withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the occupied areas and that Israel refuses to discuss various alternative concepts that have been advanced. But some State Department officials conceded that even if Israel accepted a compromise peace formula, the Palestine Liberation Movement might reject it. It was noted here that this movement has gained in strength and must be considered a factor. Some State Department officials charge that Moscow was seeking a diplomatic victory as an advocate of peace. But they were nevertheless pleased that the Russians are willing to work through the UN, which Washington regards as the proper instrumentality for seeking Middle Eastern peace.

In a related development, David Packard, Deputy Secretary of Defense-designate in the new Nixon Administration, was disclosed today to have told a California newspaper that he considered the Arab-Israeli problem the most dangerous facing America and to have criticized the Dec. 28 Israeli reprisal raid on the Beirut Airport. The multimillionaire electronics executive is a controversial appointee because of his personal financial involvement in the defense industry. He was interviewed by the Times of Palo Alto, where his firm has headquarters.

(In Jerusalem today, Foreign Ministry officials declined to comment on the Wiggins press conference and his assertion that the Soviet proposals offered the basis for a settlement. It was pointed out that Israel has completely rejected the Soviet proposals because they do not provide for negotiations on agreed boundaries and for a treaty of peace.)

## Israel Fails To Confirm Egyptian Report Of Delay In Jarring Return

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA)--There was no confirmation here today of Egyptian press reports that Dr. Jarring had postponed the continuation of his mission to February so that the Big Powers could try to reach agreement among themselves on a solution for the Arab-Israeli dispute. Dr. Jarring,

the Swedish Ambassador to the Soviet Union, was scheduled to return to the Middle East this month for another attempt at bringing Israel and the Arab states together to negotiate a settlement. The newspaper Al Ahram, regarded as an official mouthpiece of the Egyptian Government, had reported that Dr. Jarring would delay his return to the Middle East for at least another month. It said that when he returned, he would find a changed situation. The attitude of both sides has hardened, the paper said, and Big Power attempts to agree on a solution appeared to have little chance of success. The paper said Dr. Jarring was delaying his return to see what the outcome would be of international discussions of the Soviet plan for a settlement.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that press reports in various Arab capitals that Israel was massing troops for an attack on Jordan and Lebanon were "fabrications as malicious as they are unfounded." Political circles said the rumors were part of a new Soviet-Arab propaganda line designed to increase tensions and thereby create a climate favorable to the Soviet peace proposals recently circulated to the Western powers. The Israel Government said the Soviet Middle East peace plan was intended to promote the Russians' own interests.

### Dayan, Hussein, On Separate Segments Of A BBC-TV Program, Say Mideast Peace Remote

LONDON, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Gen. Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister of Israel, and King Hussein of Jordan appeared on separate segments of a British Broadcasting Corp. television interview program yesterday and indicated to an estimated 20 million viewers that peace in the Middle East was more remote than ever. They voiced contrary views on how peace could be achieved. Gen. Dayan maintained that it could be realized only through negotiated agreements between both parties and rejected any solution imposed by outside powers which, he said, would not be a real solution. King Hussein welcomed cooperation of the Big Powers in finding a solution but said it was not likely at this stage because Israel refused to accept the Nov. 22, 1967 United Nations Security Council resolution that called for its withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Gen. Dayan insisted that in any settlement Israel would have to retain control of the Straits of Tiran, that the Jordan River must remain Israel's security border, and that Israel would never accept internationalization of Jerusalem. King Hussein was equally adamant on Jerusalem. He said the city could become a battleground if Israel claimed all of it and said that Jordan would never give up its rights there. Gen. Dayan did not think a new war would break out this summer, but said that if the Arabs were to attack they would be beaten again. He did not consider the French embargo on arms and spare parts to Israel a disaster. He said Israel would have to find other sources of supply and produce more military hardware itself. On the Arab refugee problem, he suggested the establishment of an international commission to try to find an objective solution. He said the commission should visit Israel, Iraq, Syria and Jordan and recommend where it would be most feasible to resettle the refugees. Israel could do little because it could not absorb a larger Arab minority than it already has, he said.

King Hussein, asked whether he could halt guerrilla activities against Israel from Jordanian territory, replied that he did not wish to take any such responsibility. Questioned about Israel's alleged capability to produce nuclear weapons, the Hashemite ruler said, "We've always thought they had that capability and it is, I think, quite feasible."

### Eshkol Assails De Gaulle Embargo, Asserts It Damages Prospects Of Mideast Peace

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol today delivered a strong attack on President Charles de Gaulle of France for his one-man embargo on arms and spare parts shipments to Israel. Mr. Eshkol told the Knesset (Parliament) that Gen. de Gaulle's embargo "runs counter to all common usage in inter-state relations." The embargo, he declared, "resembles the case of a man tying the hands of one of the partners to a conflict while the other one remains free to hurt or hit without hindrance. Anybody trying to handicap our strength is actually hurting the prospects for Middle East peace," he said. The embargo violated normal inter-state usage because agreements were arbitrarily set aside and funds already paid for arms were not returned, he said. He praised the French people for standing by Israel in its darkest hours and said that previous French Governments had helped strengthen Israel to safeguard peace in the region.

Observers here expressed some surprise at the vehemence of Mr. Eshkol's attack on Gen. de Gaulle. He challenged the French President's claim that he embodied the true nature of France. "We feel certain that the French Government will yet find an expression for the sentiments of the French nation in this matter for the sake of its own glory, greatness and conscience," he said.

Mr. Eshkol singled out for criticism Gen. de Gaulle's assertion that France had helped Israel until she became the aggressor by attacking first in the June, 1967 war. Mr. Eshkol said the embargo was likely to escalate the Middle East situation to the point of renewed warfare by the Arabs.

### Ambassador Believes Britain Would Respond Favorably To Arms Bid

LONDON, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to Britain, Aharon Remez, said on a Kol Israel radio interview from here yesterday that he had reason to believe that Britain would respond favorably to an Israeli request for arms or spare parts to replace those embargoed by France. And reports that Israel could obtain the parts from a factory in Belgium were disputed by a spokesman for the manufacturer. The London press reported yesterday that the French manufacturer of Mirage

jets, Marcel Dassault, had purchased a controlling interest in a Belgian aircraft company which could supply Israel with spare parts, thereby circumventing the embargo. A spokesman for the Dassault firm said in Brussels that the French and Belgian Governments had signed an agreement when Dassault moved into Belgium last year forbidding the sale of Mirages to third countries without France's approval.

The Mirage has been the backbone of Israel's Air Force. During the Six-Day War, Gen. de Gaulle embargoed 50 ordered — and since fully paid for — by Israel. They are in a French warehouse and the Paris Government has indicated that under embargo custom it need not refund the money.

#### Report Embargo Has Revived Enmity Of High-Level Army Officers Who Are Pro-Israel

PARIS, Jan. 14 (JTA)--President de Gaulle's embargo has revived the enmity of high-ranking Army officers still bitter over withdrawal from Algeria in 1962 and pull-out from the military structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the newspaper France-Soir reported today. The report was the latest to indicate widespread unrest in the French Army brought about by Gen. de Gaulle's unilateral action against Israel. Gen. de Gaulle conferred with Defense Minister Pierre Messmer today and reportedly discussed the turbulence generated by the embargo and M. Messmer's forthcoming visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Several newspapers said the trip was intended to boost French arms sales to Arab countries, an allegation denied by French officials.

The French military has been at odds with Gen. de Gaulle ever since he gave Algeria independence after seven years of bloody warfare. It has remained aloof to his efforts to improve France's relations with the Arab world and has been generally pro-Israel. Observers noted that relations between Israel and the French high command became very close in 1956 when Israel launched the Sinai campaign and France joined Britain in an abortive attempt to seize the Suez Canal which President Gamal Abdel Nasser had just nationalized.

#### French Sources In Washington Discount Report Of Promised Troop Aid To Lebanon

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (JTA)--French diplomatic sources here today discounted a report from Beirut asserting that President de Gaulle promised to send French troops and planes to protect Lebanon if Israel attacked again. Informed circles said that even if the report were true, leftist Arab elements in Lebanon would never permit a return of French "imperialism" and "colonialism," despite an avowed anti-Israel aim. Lebanon was once under French mandate.

French quarters said also that Gen. de Gaulle would face intense domestic opposition at home if he dispatched forces to oppose Israel. The Beirut newspaper Al Anwar claimed that assurances of support "without limitation" were conveyed by Georges Gorse, former French Information Minister, to President Charles Helou of Lebanon. The reports followed a meeting of the two. Al Anwar attributed its information to informed political quarters.

Gen. de Gaulle's anti-Israel policies were denounced today in a massive demonstration within sight of the White House. Leaders of 50 Jewish organizations took part and laid a wreath on a statue memorializing the Marquis de Lafayette, the French general who aided George Washington, in order to contrast Gen. de Gaulle's actions against Israel with France's traditional support of causes of justice and liberty. Louis C. Grossberg, president of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, declared in an address that Gen. de Gaulle had betrayed the Lafayette tradition.

(In Buenos Aires, a survey of travel agencies by JTA disclosed a number of cancellations of Air France reservations in recent days. Travellers switched to other airlines in reaction to the French embargo.)

#### Johnson Says In State Of Union Message That UN Must Be Chief Peace Instrumentality

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (JTA)--President Johnson said today in his last State of the Union message to a joint session of Congress that the quest for peace in the Middle East must go on with the United Nations Security Council as the instrumentality. The President said that for the future, the search for peace required that "we seek areas of agreement with the Soviet Union where the interests of both nations, and of world peace, are served."

Mr. Johnson said, "The quest for stable peace in the Middle East goes on in many capitals. We fully support the unanimous resolution of the UN Security Council (of Nov. 22, 1967) which points the way. There must be a settlement of the armed hostility that exists in the region today. It is a threat not only to Israel and the Arab states, but to the entire world."

#### Williamsburg Demonstrators At UN Denounce Israel, Beirut Raid, Criticism Of De Gaulle

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 14 (JTA)--More than a hundred bearded, kaftaned Jews demonstrated in front of United Nations headquarters Tuesday against the State of Israel, its retaliatory attack on Beirut Airport and its criticism of Gen. de Gaulle of France. The demonstrators came mainly from the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, home of extreme Orthodoxy. A spokesman said the demonstrators belonged to no particular organization. Leaflets were signed "The Voice of Torah Jewry." They charged that "the State of Israel is founded on the concepts of utter contempt of the Torah" and asserted that Israel "is not and cannot be a Jewish State."

## Graduate Students Studying Effects Of Teachers' Strike On N.Y. Jewish Attitudes

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Two Yeshiva University graduate students are conducting a study of the effects of last fall's New York City teachers' strikes on the middle class Jewish community in certain sections of the city. James Statman, 25, and Robert A. Klein, 28, are working under a grant from the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues to see whether "the Jews felt more Jewish, whether a strong Jewish cohesiveness developed" as a result of the prolonged school shut-down.

The strike involved the predominantly Negro Ocean Hill-Brownsville experimental school district and the United Federation of Teachers whose leadership and membership are largely Jewish. It generated bitter recriminations from both sides and resulted, according to many experts, in polarizing the Jewish and Negro communities and seriously damaging racial harmony in the city.

The two students, who are doctoral candidates in the social psychology program at Ferkauf Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Yeshiva University, are studying the attitudes of middle class Jews to see if they held to past beliefs, if some had become liberals or conservatives and whether they were now anti-union or pro-union.

In a related development, a community relations consultant of the American Jewish Committee warned here that Jews must align themselves with moderate Negro leadership in order to dampen the effects of Black militants. Israel Laster, a specialist for ethnic and minority programs of the AJ Committee, spoke at Yeshiva University's alumni mid-year conference. He said, "The absence of a continuing moderating effort on the civil rights effort could lead to a dangerous stalemate between the two communities so important to each other." Mr. Laster warned that the burden of the moderating role will fall on Orthodox Jews because Conservative and Reform Jewry generally is not located in the urban ghettos. "It is imperative for the Orthodox community to actively concern itself with the plight of the ghetto dweller," he said.

## Abie Nathan On Brooklyn Dock As Freighter Sails To Biafra With Food He Helped Get

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA)--Abie Nathan, Israel's peace pilot, was on the docks in Brooklyn yesterday when the chartered Norwegian freighter Forra, sailed with some 900 tons of food and medical supplies for Biafra that he had helped to collect. Mr. Nathan, a Tel Aviv restaurateur who became an international figure by virtue of his two private "peace flights" to Egypt, has been in the forefront of efforts to aid the starving, disease-ridden civilian population of Biafra, the secessionist eastern province of Nigeria. He said a week-long food drive in New York yielded 550 tons which were loaded aboard the Forra despite the current longshoremen's strike. The ship, chartered after a fund drive in The Netherlands headed by Mr. Nathan, carried an additional 347 tons of foodstuffs and medicine contributed by Israel, Britain and Holland.

## Yeshiva Professor Says Yiddish Is Far From Dying, Cites Growth Of Culture

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA)--A teacher of Yiddish claimed today that the old language of Eastern European Jewry "is currently experiencing a dramatic resurgence due to the American Jews' new longing for Jewish identity." Dr. Mordekhe Schaechter, visiting assistant professor of Yiddish at Yeshiva University, said, "All this talk about a dying language is cruel and misinformed. A language with eight dailies published on three continents is not dying."

In support of his thesis, Dr. Schaechter cited among other things the publication last summer of the late Dr. Uriel Weinreich's "Modern English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English" dictionary and the founding of the Benyumin Shekhter Foundation for the Advancement of Standard Yiddish in which he was instrumental and which he now heads. He also credited the Broadway play, "Fiddler on the Roof" and the literary works of Isaac Bashevis Singer, Abraham Sutzkever and Chaim Grade for having stimulated the growth of Yiddish culture among Jews "who were previously interested only in their Biblical past but who have now turned to their immediate past."

## UAHC Announces Affiliation Of American Conference Of Cantors, Mostly Reform

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA)--The Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform) has announced the affiliation of the American Conference of Cantors, an organization of 160 members, 90 percent of whom serve in Reform congregations. Earl Morse, chairman of the board of trustees of the UAHC, said the application for affiliation was approved at the last semi-annual meeting of the board. Application was made in a letter to Mr. Morse by Cantor Alex Zimmer, Conference president, who said it could "best serve the cause of Jewish music by being an integral part of the Reform Jewish movement. All of the members are graduates of the School of Sacred Music of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion or have been certified by it."

## Los Angeles Synagogue Marks 106th Birthday, Started As Orthodox But Now Reform

LOS ANGELES Jan. 14 (JTA)--A pioneer Los Angeles synagogue which was started as an Orthodox congregation in 1854 and grew to become one of the largest Reform congregations in the world, marked its 106th birthday here last Friday. Dr. Edgar F. Mangin, senior rabbi of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, celebrated the occasion at special services. Rabbi Mangin has been with the congregation for 54 years. He is assisted by Dr. Alfred Wolf, Dr. Maxwell H. Dubin and Dr. Henri E. Front who took his post recently. The congregation was established as B'nai B'rith Congregation by a handful of Jews when Los Angeles was a small village and California was recovering from the "gold rush" fever. Its first rabbi was Joseph Newmark who volunteered his services. Dr. Georg Piness, president of the Temple, presided at the anniversary celebrations.