

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## American Jewish Leaders Ask United Nations To Intercede For Condemned Iraqi Jews

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Secretary-General U Thant, of the United Nations, was asked today to investigate reports that three Iraqi Jews have been sentenced to death in Baghdad for allegedly spying for Israel "and in the event they are correct, to take every possible step to halt a perversion of justice." The request to Mr. Thant was made in a telegram from Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Rabbi Schacter said the reports also revealed that four other Jews are on trial for their lives and 12 more have been arrested on the same charges. "It goes without saying that if these reports are correct, they constitute a very serious challenge to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at a time when the United Nations has just completed a year of rededicating itself to the protection of human rights," Rabbi Schacter said.

## French Senate Committee Calls For Rescinding Of Embargo On Supplies To Israel

PARIS, Jan. 15 (JTA)--The Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Senate voted overwhelmingly today to reject the Government's explanation of the embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel and demanded that Prime Minister Maurice Couve de Murville rescind it at once. The vote was 19-four, with six abstentions. Only Gaullists and Communists voted in opposition. The vote was taken after a three-hour questioning of Foreign Minister Michel Debre who tried to justify Gen. de Gaulle's embargo decision.

The French Government's embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel and its increasingly anti-Israel, pro-Arab stand appeared today to be flying in the face of French public opinion. A poll published by "Sud Ouest," a leading provincial newspaper, showed that 97.3 percent of Frenchmen opposed the embargo. The poll was the latest manifestation of widespread opposition to President de Gaulle's move which has been overwhelming in the press, in non-Gaullist political circles, among French industrialists and in the Army itself. Gen. de Gaulle, who failed to consult with his own Cabinet before announcing the embargo, had apparently discounted this. His Government moved yesterday to align itself more firmly with the Arab camp in the wake of Israel's Dec. 28 reprisal raid on Beirut Airport.

## French Foreign Office Says France Prepared To Act If Lebanon Is Threatened

The French Foreign Office said in an official statement last night that "should Lebanon be threatened, France, in the name of the friendship which binds us to Lebanon, will not remain indifferent." Unofficially, Government circles intimated that France was "prepared to act with all the means at its disposal" should Lebanon be threatened. It was hinted in some quarters that France, at "very short notice" could fly a combat-ready force to the Middle East "to protect Lebanon." A company of French paratroopers of the 11th Light Intervention Division was reported today to be stationed at Toulouse military airport ready for such a contingency. French circles also said it was "highly likely" that a major French naval unit might pay a courtesy call to Beirut.

These broad hints of possible French military intervention if Israel attacked Lebanon seemed to bear out a report to that effect yesterday in the Beirut newspaper, Al Anwar. The paper claimed that the former French Information Minister, Georges Gorse, currently visiting Lebanon on a ceremonial mission, assured President Charles Helou and other Lebanese leaders that "they can count to the utmost on Gen. de Gaulle's support."

But the hints of possible French intervention, dropped by various Government officials, were viewed by many observers here as intended to serve only as "advance warning" to Israel not to strike another blow against Lebanon. They said the French gesture was a "purely prestige operation" because Gen. de Gaulle is well aware that Israel has no intention of occupying any territory of Lebanon. The warning however serves a diplomatic purpose in that France can later claim that she was responsible for deterring a new Israeli attack, they said.

## Thousands In Paris Hear Anti-Israel Embargo Denounced As 'A Stab In The Back'

A crowd estimated in the thousands, as many non-Jews as Jews apparently among them, jammed Paris' largest meeting hall, the "Salle de la Mutualite," Tuesday night, to denounce President de Gaulle's embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel and demand that it be lifted. The mass rally was organized by Gen. Pierre Koenig, World War II French resistance leader, in his capacity as president of the Franco-Israel Alliance. The hall was decorated with huge French and Israeli flags and enlarged posters containing Gen. de Gaulle's toast of only a few years ago: "To Israel, Our Friend and Our Ally."

The audience was addressed by leaders of non-Gaullist political parties, among them Michel Poniatovsky, leader of the junior coalition party, the Independent Republicans; Jean Lacannuet, a former Presidential candidate, and the Socialist Senator, Pierre Giraud. M. Lacannuet, who had come

from Rouen expressly for the meeting, declared that de Gaulle's embargo decision "has made all of us lose some more of our illusions about the French President." He charged that Gen. de Gaulle "seems to have different scales to judge different cases. He has forgiven and forgotten Russia's invasion of Czechoslovakia but has proclaimed Israel's raid on Beirut Airport a major crime." Sen. Giraud called the embargo not a warning to Israel "but a stab in the back."

### National, Local Jewish Organizations To Picket French Consulate in New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA)--National and local Jewish organizations will join in a picket-demonstration tomorrow in front of the French Consulate here to protest President de Gaulle's embargo on military equipment and spare parts for Israel. The demonstration will enlist members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, a coordinating group, plus other organizations on the national and local scene. Many marchers will be college students, members of the North American Jewish Youth Council, which is co-sponsoring the demonstration. Spokesmen for the organizations joining the protest will meet with Jacques Lundi, acting Consul General, to present written statements with a request that they be forwarded to President de Gaulle.

The American Zionist Council today charged President de Gaulle of France with pursuing war aims in the Middle East. The Council's chairman, Rabbi Israel Miller, said in a statement that Gen. de Gaulle's military equipment embargo "unmasks the true character of the man who, instead of seeking Middle East peace, aims to start another conflagration there in order hopefully to inherit the fruits of whatever ashes may remain."

(In Toronto, about 400 students from the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation on the campuses of the University of Toronto and York University picketed the French Consulate in downtown Toronto today in an orderly demonstration against the embargo.)

### Arab Newspapers Continue Charging Israel With Troop Build-Ups, Predicting Attack

LONDON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Arab newspapers continued today to allege heavy Israeli troop build-ups along the cease-fire lines and predicted that an Israeli attack was imminent. President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt conferred with the Lebanese and Jordanian ambassadors on the purported Israeli build-up. The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram claimed that Israel rushed five brigades to its cease-fire line with Jordan in the last few days and was also reinforcing its troops along the Suez Canal, it was reported here.

According to Al Ahram, the Israelis were arresting Bedouin tribesmen in the Sinai Peninsula and were clearing civilians out of Sinai towns from Kantara to El Arish. (Israel announced last week that it had evacuated the remaining civilians from Kantara to El Arish for their own safety because Egypt refused to agree to their repatriation. Kantara has been hit frequently by shells during artillery duels.)

(Prime Minister Levi Eshkol said in the Knesset (Parliament) in Jerusalem yesterday that the Arab reports of Israeli troop build-ups were a dangerous "concoction" and likened them to the false rumors of May, 1967 which prompted Egypt to concentrate its forces in Sinai "and dragged the entire region into the abyss of war." A statement issued by the Israeli Foreign Ministry several hours before Mr. Eshkol addressed the Knesset called Arab reports that Israel was planning to attack Lebanon and Jordan "utterly groundless." Impartial observers in Jerusalem agreed that there was no evidence of an impending Israeli attack. Israeli sources said such a move was out of the question, militarily and politically.)

(In Cairo, Egyptian Government spokesman Dr. Mohammed H. el-Zayyat told a press conference that President Nasser would be obliged to take some action if Israel developed a nuclear bomb. He did not specify what kind of action, however. Israel last week denied reports that it had developed or was developing a nuclear bomb.)

### Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Reaffirms Halachic Position On Question Of Who Is A Jew

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi, Isser Untermann, cited Biblical sources yesterday to bolster the chief rabbinate's position on the question of who is a Jew, which, the rabbis insist, can be only someone born of a Jewish mother, in or out of wedlock, or who has undergone conversion rites. Rabbi Untermann addressed more than 1,000 Orthodox rabbis and judges of religious courts from Israel and several foreign countries who gathered at a conference to uphold the Orthodox tenet that Halacha -- Jewish religious law -- must prevail in determining who is a Jew. A case that may decide that issue for Israelis is presently before the Israel Supreme Court.

Rabbi Untermann claimed that a child of a non-Jewish mother had no "child-father" relationship to his natural father nor did he have a brother or sister relationship with children born to the same father by a Jewish woman. As an "example," he cited the Biblical story of Amnon and Tamar, children of King David, who were not forbidden to marry, according to the scholars, because Tamar was conceived before her mother converted and was therefore not the sister of Amnon. The Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Itzhak Nissim, who addressed the conference yesterday, insisted that no distinction could be drawn between religion and nationality which, in the context of Israeli law refers to ethnic origin. But such a distinction is the nub of the case of Lt. Commander Benjamin Shalit, an Israeli naval officer who is suing to have his Israel-born children registered as Jews by nationality even though their mother is non-Jewish and professes no religion. The Ministry of Interior, which has jurisdiction over birth registration and identity papers and is headed by a minister of the Orthodox religious bloc, refused. Commander Shalit brought his case to the Israel Supreme Court which currently has it under consideration.

**Report El Fatah Has Emissaries in Latin America Training Arabs For 'Urban' Terror**

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA)--El Fatah, the Palestinian Arab terrorist organization, has emissaries in Latin America who are training young men of Arab origin in "urban" terrorist tactics and have declared war on the local Jewish communities supporting Israel, a Mexican news agency reported from Caracas, Venezuela last month. The report was brought to the attention of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Sergio Nudelstejer, representative of the American Jewish Committee in Mexico City. He said the news agency "Amex" and its correspondent who sent the story were "completely reliable."

Mr. Nudelstejer reported however that neither the Israel Embassy in Mexico City nor the one in Caracas had any knowledge of El Fatah activity in Latin America and were unable to confirm the authenticity of the Caracas report. The Mexico City Embassy said it has informed the Israel Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem of the news agency report and has alerted other Israeli embassies in Latin America.

Mr. Nudelstejer provided the JTA with a translation of the "Amex" dispatch which described an interview with an El Fatah leader at a secret hideout in Caracas. The alleged commando claimed that his group was responsible for the Dec. 26 attack on an El Al airliner at Athens in which an Israeli passenger was killed. He said the attack was not a simple act of terrorism but an operation to eliminate an Israeli agent and was successful, despite the arrest of the two Arab terrorists, the report said. (Credit for the Athens attack was claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Beirut-based group that is a rival of El Fatah.)

According to the news agency, El Fatah groups were training in Venezuela and elsewhere in Latin America to "act against Hebrew elements" who send money to Israel to purchase weapons to wipe out the Palestinians. The alleged El Fatah leader also reportedly said that another purpose was to "unmask" Israeli agents who have infiltrated public, military and economic activities in Latin America.

Mr. Nudelstejer said the Arab League had increased its propaganda activities in Mexico which included dissemination of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a 19th Century anti-Semitic forgery. He said portions of the "Protocols" have been published, along with anti-Israel and anti-Jewish material, in "Criterio Continental," a Mexican magazine with a circulation of about 15,000 which reaches Government officials, clergymen and business executives.

**Israel Grants Entry Visas To Soviet Delegation To Attend Convention Of New Communists**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Israel has granted entry visas to a three-man Soviet delegation to attend the convention of Israel's New Communist Party here, the Foreign Ministry disclosed today. The delegation applied for the visas at The Netherlands Embassy in Moscow which has been handling Israeli affairs since the USSR broke diplomatic relations after the June, 1967 war. Ministry officials said there was no policy against granting visas to visitors from Eastern European countries which have broken diplomatic relations with Israel. It was noted here however that a Soviet journalist who had published bitter attacks on Israel in the Soviet press was refused a visa several months ago.

**Nephew Of Heroic Pastor Martin Niemoller Arrives In Israel As West German Attache**

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (JTA)--A nephew of the famed Pastor Martin Niemoller, the former Bishop of Essen, who was one of the few German clergymen to publicly oppose Hitler during the height of Nazi power in the 1930s, arrived here yesterday to take up his new post as cultural attache at the West German Embassy. Dr. Christopher Niemoller previously served as German Consul in Zurich. He visited Israel eight years ago and spent two months working at a kibbutz. He speaks some Hebrew. Dr. Niemoller succeeds Dr. Gisela Rheker.

**Hebrew University Warns It Will Expel Students Found Using Drugs**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--The Hebrew University said yesterday that it will expel any student found to be using drugs. The statement, issued by the rector's office, was made in the wake of a report in the student newspaper which alleged that about 1,000 university students were users, mainly of hashish, although some took methedrine, LSD, and a few grew marijuana plants in flower-pots in their dormitories. The newspaper claimed that almost all of the users were foreign students and contended that there was no drug cult among Israeli students.

**Jewish National Fund Plants 100,000 Trees On Mount Of Olives To Protect Forest**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund announced that it has planted 100,000 trees just east of the Mount of Olives in a forest that was started some time ago by the Jordanian forestry department. The JNF said the forest had been threatened because of sparse planting and the development of numerous bare spots.

**Molotov Cocktail Hurlled At Buenos Aires Community Building; Nobody Is Injured**

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 15 (JTA)--A Molotov cocktail -- a gasoline bomb -- was hurled at the door of the Buenos Aires Jewish community building Friday night but hurt no one and caused little damage. The building houses the offices of the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry. Community leaders informed the chief of police and requested a meeting with him.

## Survey Finds Most Sephardic Jews In Buenos Aires Lack Higher, Jewish Education

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 15 (JTA)--A great majority of Buenos Aires' Sephardic (Oriental) Jews lack higher education and Jewish education among them is meager, in most cases not being continued beyond the primary school level, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from a survey. The survey, as yet unpublished, was made by the Asociacion Comunidad Israelita Sefaradi de Buenos Aires in cooperation with the Latin American department of the American Jewish Committee. It contained the results of interviews with 2,177 families of association members and 500 families of non-members in Buenos Aires and its environs. According to the survey, 95 percent of those interviewed received some sort of formal instruction and about half completed primary school. Only six percent of the parents and 13 percent of the younger generation over 24 years of age completed university studies.

The survey showed that 86 percent of the families in the medium-income bracket had 2.3 children. Only 28 percent of the association members and 13 percent of the non-members were born abroad, mostly in Turkey and other countries with large Sephardic communities. A survey of their means of livelihood disclosed that 40 percent of the parents and 15 percent of the sons over 24 were in business or industry, eight percent of the parents and 13 percent of the sons were professionals, and 20 and 13 percent respectively were employed by others.

## Arab League Hires London Public Relations Firm To Improve Image In Britain

LONDON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--The Arab League has retained a British public relations firm to improve the Arab image in this country and counteract the unpopularity of the Arab countries since the June, 1967 war. The firm, Michael Rice and Co. numbers several prominent public figures on its board of directors, among them Patrick McNair Wilson, a Conservative Member of Parliament, and Sir George Middleton, a former British Ambassador to Cairo, who is chairman of its overseas subsidiary. Mr. Rice refused to disclose the fee his company is being paid. He said, "The Arabs feel there has been a very definite shift of opinion in Britain in favor of Israel's position because of the failure in communications between themselves and the West."

## Dutch Rabbi Will Teach Talmud In 2 Roman Catholic Theological Academies

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 15 (JTA)--A Dutch rabbi, Itzhak Ashkenazi, has agreed to teach Talmud at two Roman Catholic theological academies in Holland. The 42-year-old spiritual leader of the Liberal Jewish community of Arnhem will lecture at institutions in Amsterdam and Utrecht. He studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

## United States Awards \$34,000 In Contracts To Technion For Research Projects

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Two United States Government agencies have awarded \$34,000 in contracts to the Israel Institute of Technology (Haifa Technion) for research projects in medical and metallurgical fields, it was announced here. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command has assigned \$14,000 to finance the work of Dr. Mordehai Rubin, an associate professor in the Technion's chemistry department, who is searching for new drugs to combat virulent strains of malaria encountered in the tropics. Dr. Rubin is studying the photochemistry of anti-malaria drugs.

The National Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce has awarded \$20,000 for research to be carried out by Dr. Moshe Ron, of the Technion's physics department, on the atomic structure of metals. Dr. Ron is engaged in a year-long study of Mossbauer spectroscopy for carbon steels, a process by which a metal specimen subjected to gamma radiation is analyzed by the resulting resonance.

Dr. Rubin is studying various compounds which show promise in treating malaria but cause severe rashes, sores and other symptoms after the patient has been exposed to sunlight. He is trying to isolate components of the drugs that become toxic when exposed to light.

## Mrs. Kaminska To Appear In Carnegie Hall, First U.S. Appearance As Refugee

NEW YORK, Jan. 15 (JTA)--Mrs. Ida Kaminska, the first lady of the Yiddish stage in Poland, will appear at Carnegie Hall with her troupe on Feb. 9 in a program of drama, poetry readings and songs. It will be her first professional appearance since she came to the United States last year after leaving Poland because of the anti-Semitic campaign there. Mrs. Kaminska formerly headed the Yiddish State Theater in Warsaw.

## Los Angeles Pen Club Holds Literary Evening As Memorial For Ezekiel Bronstone

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15 (JTA)--The Los Angeles Pen Club held a Yiddish literary evening here last week in memory of the late Ezekiel Bronstone, a Yiddish author and editor, who was killed in an automobile accident last month at the age of 70. Mr. Bronstone was the writer of 13 published volumes of poetry and essays. He was co-editor of the Yiddish quarterly "Heshbon."

## New Jersey Rabbi To Teach Jewish Course Through Visual Arts At Catholic University

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., Jan. 15 (JTA)--A rabbi will introduce a new course on "Jewish Ideology Through Visual Arts" at Roman Catholic Seton Hall University on Jan. 29, the university announced. The course will be conducted by Rabbi Reuben R. Levine of Temple Beth Ahm, Springfield, N.J. It will offer three credits and will be open to visitors and non-matriculated students as well as to regular students at the university. Rabbi Levine described the course as "a captivating pictorial journey through the artifacts, symbolism and structures which surround our observance and worship." He said it was initiated because of the rising interest in the Judaic origins and influences in Western religions.