

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVI Fifty-Second Year

Wednesday, January 22, 1969

No. 15

Foreign Ministry Official Says Nasser Speech Proof Of Cairo Links With Terrorists

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- A hard-line speech by President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt in which he extolled Arab guerrillas and pledged them all-out support was cited by an Israeli official today as proof -- "if further proof were needed" -- of his Government's links with Palestinian terrorist groups.

Gideon Rafael, director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, said on a radio interview that Col. Nasser's speech reflected and exposed the "helplessness" of his domestic situation and the "dead end" toward which Egyptian foreign policy was leading.

President Nasser, addressing the new Egyptian National Assembly yesterday, claimed, "We are not war-mongers---we are working for peace." But the Egyptian leader declared that his country will never "sit to negotiate with an enemy who is occupying our territory" and that it would fight before it agreed to "cede an inch." Although he made no mention of the United States, his remarks were believed to constitute Egypt's reaction to the United States note to the Soviet Union which proposed an Israeli withdrawal, but not to the borders of June, 1967, and urged Moscow and other capitals "to use all their influence to stop the grave increase of Arab terrorist operations" against Israel. The text of the note, which had been made available to Egyptian officials, was published in the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram and received an angry reception. Al Ahram is known to reflect President Nasser's views.

(In Washington, U.S. officials expressed surprise at the vehement reaction of Egypt to the Johnson Administration's note to Moscow which they considered to be fairly balanced between the Israeli and Arab positions. The note was in reply to Moscow's Dec. 30 proposal for a Middle East solution based on a phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories and declarations of non-belligerency by both parties. The U.S. note called for an ultimate Middle East settlement "based on agreement" between Israel and the Arab states and withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories to secure, recognized frontiers "which should not reflect the weight of conflict." Officials in Washington believed the latter phrase went a long way toward meeting Arab demands although it would not have Israel withdraw behind the borders that existed before the June, 1967 war.

(The U.S. note also called for Arab-Israeli negotiations under United Nations auspices, demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula and limits on arms shipments to the Middle East. The Egyptian reaction was viewed as a "good-by-kick" to the Johnson Administration which has been accused in Cairo of anti-Arab bias. President Nasser's words were believed intended primarily for President Richard M. Nixon to whom the Arabs look for changes in American Middle East policy favorable to them.)

Col. Nasser said in his Cairo speech that the only way to force an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories was by fighting. He claimed that his forces were much stronger than before the 1967 war and hinted that they were bolstered by contingents from Kuwait and Algeria. He paid tribute to Soviet help. But the loudest applause in the National Assembly came at the mention of President de Gaulle, of France, who Col. Nasser called "one of the greatest men of our century."

Britain's views on Soviet peace initiatives on the Middle East coincide with those of the United States, but Britain so far has not made any formal reply to Russia, much to Moscow's annoyance, London sources reported there was no official explanation for Whitehall's delay. The U.S. position, as stated in a note to the Soviet Government, placed emphasis on an Arab-Israeli agreement through the mediation of United Nations envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. The Foreign Office was said to be making further diplomatic soundings before replying to the Kremlin.

Dayan Pays Visit To Family Of Arab Woman Killed By Israelis In Gaza Strip Town

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA)-- Israel's Defense Gen. Minister Moshe Dayan paid a personal condolence call on the family of an Arab woman killed by Israeli soldiers yesterday in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah and visited nine other Arab women recovering from wounds in the local hospital. Gen. Dayan promised compensation but said that Israel would exercise its full power to maintain order and prevent incidents of sabotage and terror that have plagued the Gaza Strip in recent weeks. An explosive charge was hurled from a speeding car at the wall of the Military Governor's headquarters in Gaza today but did little damage. The car disappeared in traffic. A search was started for the occupants.

Six Arab saboteurs were killed last night in two encounters with Israeli forces in the Negev, halfway between the Dead Sea and the port of Eilat. There were no Israeli casualties, a military spokesman said.

The Gaza military government announced meanwhile that it was investigating the death of the Arab woman and the wounding of nine others by machine gun bursts fired by Israeli soldiers trying to disperse a group of demonstrators in Rafah. A curfew was imposed on the town yesterday but was lifted this morning. The demonstration, by Arab women, erupted as Israeli forces rounded up 16 suspects in a recent rash of sabotage and hauled them off to a detention camp for questioning. The women, apparently incited by Cairo radio broadcasts claiming successes for Ei Fatah terrorists, started to march on

the camp. They were blocked by Israeli guards who fired warning shots over their heads. But one burst was low and sprayed the crowd.

A military spokesman said last night's clashes in the Negev occurred northeast and south of Ein Yahav, a settlement near the Dead Sea. In the first encounter, five saboteurs were killed and two escaped across the Jordanian border. In the second, a band of three saboteurs was wiped out. Both groups were believed to have been attempting a coordinated attack on an American farm, Ovot, near Ein Yahav. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized, including Russian-made Kalatchnikof rifles, hand grenades and explosives.

An exchange of mortar fire between Israeli and Jordanian forces was reported last night near Neot Hakikar, south of the Dead Sea. There were no casualties.

ISRAEL NEWS ROUND-UP

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The original manuscript of the famed poem "Babi Yar" by Yevgen Yevtushenko has been deposited for safe-keeping with the Jewish National and University Library here by the man who purchased it recently from a London gallery for \$7600. The poem described the murder of Russian Jews in the Babi Yar ravine in the Ukraine by the Nazis during World War II and protested the manner in which their deaths were subsequently ignored and forgotten by their fellow countrymen.

The poem bought fame to its author when it was first published in a Soviet literary magazine in 1961. But it was subsequently banned and has not been printed in Russia since then. The manuscript reached London under mysterious circumstances and was acquired by Sotely's gallery. It was purchased at an auction by Leo Graham who decided that the safest and most appropriate place for it was the Jerusalem library. It will be put on public display shortly.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Israel's state-owned radio broadcast its first German language play today, apparently ending what has been an almost total ban on the broadcasting of German language script and songs in existence since Israel was established. The play selected was "Andorra," an anti-Nazi piece by Max Frisch which was recorded by the Zurich Playhouse Ensemble. The play was substituted for a previously scheduled program indicating to observers here that it was a deliberate gesture in response to reports that West Germany had made a gift to Israel of large quantities of arms.

The ban on German language material was relaxed somewhat in recent years. Brief passages from German plays and excerpts from speeches by German statesmen have been broadcast from time to time by Kol Israel. The ban, however, was mainly symbolic since a large segment of Israel's population is German-speaking and German is second only to Hebrew in certain Israeli commercial and shipping enterprises.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Minister of Justice Yaacov Shapiro will recommend the appointment of an Arab judge to the Jerusalem District Court, it was learned from ministry sources today. The ministry did not confirm reports that the candidate selected was an East Jerusalem lawyer. Arab lawyers on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem have been on strike for more than 18 months on order from the Jordanian Government not to practice under Israeli occupation. Several however have resumed their practices.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol reported in the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that more than 30,000 tourists visited Israel during December, 1968 -- a 14 percent increase over December, 1967. He said the total was considerably greater than the number of non-Arab tourists who used to visit Jordan in December, the month of traditional Christmas pilgrimages.

HAIFA, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The Israeli passenger liner Theodor Herzl arrived here from South America with 550 immigrants, mostly young people. The newcomers comprise 115 families, among them "yordim" -- Israelis who once emigrated. The Jewish Agency will provide them with all facilities granted new immigrants.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Foreign Ministry sources yesterday corrected a statement made last week that three Soviet citizens had been granted visitors' visas to attend the convention of the Moscow-oriented New Communist Party. The ministry said the visa applications were still under consideration. The evening newspaper Yediot Achronot reported that an Israeli physicist from the Haifa Technion had been refused entry to the Soviet Union to attend a scientific meeting sponsored by an international body.

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- A cornerstone has been laid for a 10-room clinic at the Sdeh Boker school. The occasion was the first anniversary of the death of Mrs. Paula Ben-Gurion, wife of Israel's former Prime Minister, who makes his home in the tiny Negev settlement.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The coat of arms of the Spanish town of Tudela was affixed yesterday to the facade of a house on the Jerusalem street named for Benjamin de Tudela, the 12th Century Jewish traveller and chronicler, at ceremonies attended by the Spanish Consul General, Alberto Pasqual Villar. Senor Villar spoke in Spanish and translated his own remarks into Hebrew.

British Board Of Deputies Appeals To World Public Opinion To Help Save Iraqis

LONDON, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews has urged that world opinion be brought to bear on the Baghdad Government to save Iraqi Jews facing execution on what it said were false charges of espionage for Israel. In a statement, it declared that the charges must be false since the Jewish defendants had been under arrest since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war and could not have engaged in spying. Eight Iraqi Jews were being tried, two of them in absentia, by a military tribunal which has met in camera except for a public session Jan. 4 when the prosecutor demanded the death sentence. The 11 other defendants are Moslems and a Christian.

(In Buenos Aires, the Sephardic (Oriental) Jewish community of Argentina urged United Nations Secretary General U Thant to intercede with the Iraqi Government on behalf of the accused Iraqi Jews. The appeal was contained in telegrams to Mr. Thant and to the International Red Cross in Geneva. It was signed by Adolfo Tesone, president, and Ramon Juegati, secretary of the organization, which represents 50,000 Argentinian Jews.)

Syria Complains To General Assembly, Security Council Of Golan Settlements, Cites JTA

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Syria complained here today in a letter to the Security Council and the General Assembly against what it called a "flagrant violation" by Israel "of the elementary norms of international law and civilized behavior and of scores of United Nations resolutions" by allegedly planning to colonize the occupied Golan Heights. The letter described the heights as "Syrian territory."

According to the Syrian Ambassador to the UN, George Tomeh, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency carried a Jerusalem report on Jan. 13 under a headline "Jewish Agency Plans 22 Additional Golan Heights Settlements, Bringing Total to 32." Through such a plan, the envoy declared, "the Israeli occupying authorities have recently decided to intensify and widen further the scope of their predatory designs in the Syrian occupied territories." The letter cited an entry in the American Jewish Yearbook allegedly showing that the Jewish Agency was interested in "development and colonization." Mr. Tomeh asked in his letter that "the necessary steps be promptly taken to ensure the inviolability of the Syrian territory and of the liquidation of the consequences of Israeli aggression."

See Israel-Lebanon Wrangle In ICAO Session Called As Result Of Beirut Raid

MONTREAL, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- An Israel-Lebanon wrangle was expected today in the second meeting of a special session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) called by Lebanon as a result of Israel's Dec. 28 commando raid on Beirut Airport. The session was called unprecedented by observers here.

The Lebanese delegate to the 27-member council, Dr. Assad Kotaite, demanded yesterday that Israel be punished by sanctions-- he did not specify what kind--for the attack, which destroyed 13 commercial airliners. Dr. Shabtai Rosenne, representing Israel, asked that the agenda also include the Dec. 26 attack on an El Al airliner in Athens by Arab terrorists, which triggered the reprisal attack, and the hijacking of an El Al Boeing 707 airliner to Algeria by terrorists last year. His move was opposed by Dr. Kotaite. The Israeli delegate's motion, supported by the United States, Britain, the Scandinavian countries and The Netherlands, was defeated, having failed by two to get the necessary 14 votes.

The Lebanese also demanded that Israel be expelled from the ICAO which has a membership of 116 nations and is based here. It is a special agency of the United Nations. He contended that Israel should be "drummed out" of the agency for jeopardizing civil aviation. In his presentation, Dr. Rosenne argued that the ICAO should concern itself with questions of safety and security of aviation in all countries and not turn those questions into a political debate here. The safety of all civil airlines is in danger, and definite measures to stop terrorist attacks should be taken at once, he said.

Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen Will Be Candidate Again For National Assembly

BUCHAREST, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, who has held elected office in Rumanian legislatures for the past 13 years, will be a candidate for the National Assembly (Parliament) in the next elections to be held March 2. Rabbi Rosen, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Rumania, will run from a district of Bucharest. He joined with Rumanian officials and Israel's Minister Eliezer Doron to honor a Latin American visitor, Dr. Tobias Kameszain, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Argentina. Dr. Kameszain and his wife were reciprocating a visit paid to Argentina by Rabbi Rosen last year.

Protest Pending Visit To Australia Of Sir Oswald Mosley, 1930s Pro-Hitlerite

MELBOURNE, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- A storm of protest aroused by the scheduled visit here next month of Sir Oswald Mosley, the pro-Hitler British Fascist leader of the 1930s, has given the Government second thoughts about whether to admit him. The protests came from veterans' organizations, the executive council of Australian Jewry and other groups. Newspapers have been flooded with letters opposing the visit. The Immigration Minister said, in reply to criticism in Parliament, that the 72-year-old Mosley was "a spent force." Sir Oswald, who lives in Paris, said in a broadcast message to Australians that he had given up political life and wanted to visit Australia as a private individual to promote sales of his autobiography, "My Life."

Shazar Sends Congratulations To Nixon, Praises His 'High Ideals Of Peace, Justice'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- Israel's leaders conveyed their warm wishes and congratulations to President Richard M. Nixon on the occasion of his inauguration yesterday as the 37th President of the United States. President Zalman Shazar, in an official message, declared: "Your high ideals of peace and justice for all and co-existence throughout the world are a source of renewed hope for your own great nation, for the freedom-loving people of the world and for my own country in its quest for peace with its neighbors."

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, attending an inauguration day reception of the American-Israel Society proposed a toast to the new President and declared that Israel and the United States were linked by their common belief in the freedom of man and by their large Jewish communities. Mr. Eshkol also congratulated U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour for being "the seventh career Ambassador," a position of seniority in the State Department hierarchy. The reception was attended by Minister-Without-Portfolio Joseph Sapir; Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces; and Dr. George Wise, president of Tel Aviv University and chairman of the American-Israel Society.

The Jerusalem Post praised Mr. Nixon's predecessor in an editorial today. The English-language daily said, "When Lyndon Baines Johnson handed over the reins of Government to Richard M. Nixon, he could reflect with much satisfaction that despite the bitterness of the past two years, he had left his mark on the history of his great nation. We shall not forget his encouragement, his simple, humane approach and his support."

Reform Judaism Asks Lay, Rabbinic Leaders To Help Provide Balanced Mideast Picture

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The means by which American Jewry can present a balanced picture of the mounting Middle East crisis and offer informed views to Government officials, the public media and the public at large was spelled out in a memorandum distributed yesterday to all lay and rabbinic leaders of American Reform Judaism. The document was sent out by I. Cyrus Gordon, of Rockville Center, L.I., chairman of the commission on social action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

He said, in an accompanying letter, "While American Jews are not obligated to explain or defend Israeli actions, non-Jews may be turning to the American Jewish community for their view of what happened. We therefore urge our lay and rabbinic constituents to take advantage of their warm relationships with local churchmen and church members to enter into serious conversation about the present situation."

Mr. Gordon noted, "One can detect not only increasing criticism of Israel's action at Beirut (the Dec. 28 airport attack) but also a renewed general sympathy for the Arab cause." He observed, "Ultimately U.S. foreign policy is dependent on public opinion...hence, it is of great importance for rabbis and lay leaders to state the facts at every opportunity, to follow carefully and to respond where necessary to editorials, letters to editors, and to radio and television commentaries; to communicate with President Nixon and the Secretary of State William P. Rogers; to maintain close contacts with religious and civic leaders and to educate your own congregants."

James Farmer Says Negro Community's Anti-Semitism Is 'Greatly Exaggerated'

BALTIMORE, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- A Negro civil rights leader told a Jewish audience here yesterday that the extent of anti-Semitism in the Negro community has been "greatly exaggerated." James Farmer, former national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said that Negro anti-Semitism was only one manifestation of growing anti-white sentiment in the black community that is directed "against whites who are the most obvious and visible." Sometimes this happens to be Jews and at other times different ethnic groups, Mr. Farmer said in a speech at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. "There is no more anti-Semitism in the black community than in the white community," he added.

Manager of New York Radio Station Rejects Shanker's Charge On Poem

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA) -- The manager of a local radio station has rejected charges of anti-Semitism leveled against it by Albert Shanker, president of the United Federation of Teachers, in connection with an anti-Jewish poem read by a controversial Negro school teacher on a program broadcast last Dec. 26. Frank Millspau, of the listener-supported WBAI-FM, said yesterday that there was anti-Semitic feeling on the part of some Negroes and anti-Negro feeling in the Jewish community. He said it was "the responsibility of the news media in general and WBAI in particular to make a full disclosure of these biases and to fully explore their depths and their origins."

The poem, purportedly written by a 15-year-old Negro school boy, was read on the air by Leslie R. Campbell, an advisor to the Afro-American Teachers Association and a teacher at Junior High School 271 in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville school district. The poem, dedicated to Mr. Shanker, began with the verse, "Hey, Jew boy, with that yarmulka on your head/ you pale-faced Jew boy, I wish you were dead." The UFT has lodged a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission charging anti-Semitism. It is also demanding the dismissal of Mr. Campbell who was suspended for allegedly harassing white teachers during the recent New York City teachers' strike but was recently reinstated when a state panel found insufficient evidence against him. Mr. Millspau accused Mr. Shanker of trying to get support for an unpopular strike by raising fears of anti-Semitism.