

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

Thursday, January 23, 1969

No.16

ADL Says Anti-Semitism Reaches Crisis In Schools; Hits Black Extremists, Officials

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith charged today that "raw, undisguised" anti-Semitism had reached a crisis level in New York City public schools where it has been "perpetrated largely by black extremists." The ADL said its growth "has been aided by the failure of city and state public officials to condemn it swiftly and strongly enough, and to remove from positions of authority those who have utilized anti-Semitism." Because the anti-Jewish manifestation is of such a violent and immediate nature, Dore Schary, ADL national chairman said, the organization conducted a special study of the situation.

In addition to its indictment of black extremists fomenting anti-Semitism and city officials who "do not recognize or know how to handle even that anti-Semitism which is open," the survey charged that "anti-Semitic material has been produced, in at least one instance, by a publicly-funded anti-poverty unit." It warned that "there is a clear and present danger that school children in the city have been infected by the anti-Semitic preachings of black extremists who, in some cases, are teachers and to whom these youngsters increasingly look for leadership." The survey noted that "such infection is not contained when members of the Establishment--including, for example, officials of the Metropolitan Museum of Art--either fail to see the anti-Semitism or attempt to explain or condone it on one ground or the other."

Thomas P.F. Hoving, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, apologized Tuesday to "all persons who have been offended" by a catalogue for the museum's exhibit on life in Harlem which contained an introduction that had been condemned as anti-Semitic. He explained that when he approved the introduction "many months ago, I wholly failed to sense the racial undertones that might be read into portions of it. I now fully recognize that her (Candice Van Ellison the Negro schoolgirl whose essay was used) essay was not appropriate as an introduction to the catalogue and should never have been used as such." Last Friday the Museum placed a disclaimer of "racist" intent in the catalogue. Mr. Hoving said a second disclaimer will also be inserted in the hard-cover edition published by Random House.

(The New York Times said in an editorial today that the catalogue's introduction, "blatantly offensive to Jews," was "made more rather than less offensive by the subsequent insertion of an explanation that the anti-Semitic statements are intended to reflect 'socio-economic realities,' not racism." The Times accused Mr. Hoving of having approached the Harlem exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum "with as little sensitivity as if it were just another of the carefree 'happenings' he used to arrange in the parks.)

Mr. Schary denounced "the growing tide of indulgence in anti-Semitism on the part of black extremists and the passive attitude of many whites." He pledged that ADL would continue in the struggle for black opportunity "but we will not tolerate the anti-Semitism which we now see before us." Arnold Forster, general counsel of ADL, who conducted the investigation, said that open anti-Semitism exists "in an amount and intensity unlike anything New York has seen in recent decades." He charged that the "negligence of local authorities has permitted the growth of the bigotry now clouding New York." The ADL official accused John Doar, president of the New York Board of Education, Rev. Milton Galamison, its vice-president, and former president Lloyd K. Garrison of "passivity in the face of outrageous bigotry--when forceful action is the only appropriate response." He denounced the City Commission on Human Rights for having "a false and limited view of its function that, apparently, excludes countering anti-Semitic activities in the city."

The report named two Ocean Hill-Brownsville teachers, Albert Vann and Leslie Campbell, and Luis Fuentes, recently reinstated as a school principal in that district, of anti-Semitic words and actions, along with a number of other Negro extremist leaders and organizations. It also detailed a series of anti-Semitic incidents before and during the school strike last fall.

Mayor John V. Lindsay disclosed Tuesday that he had asked the Board of Education to "take appropriate action" against Mr. Campbell, who had read an anti-Semitic poem over a local radio station, and Mr. Vann who had accused the Mayor of seeking "to appease the powerful Jewish financiers of the city" by ordering an investigation of the Campbell incident. Mr. Lindsay told an audience of 700 at the Bayside, Queens, Jewish Community Center that his administration "will permit no city official, high or petty, to engage in racial or religious slurs - white or black, Jewish or gentile." He denounced both anti-Semitism and reaction against Negroes and warned of "the kind of fear" that equated support of school decentralization "with a program of racial isolation and race hatred."

Report Jews In Slovakia Under Pressure, Anti-Semitic Slogans Painted In Bratislava

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Jews in Slovakia appear to be caught in a squeeze between resentment of the Soviet invasion and Communist Party leader Gustav Husak's determination to obey the Russians to the letter, according to a Washington Post dispatch from Bratislava today.

Correspondent Dan Morgan reported that slogans were chalked on billboards in the city's main square alleging that "the Jews are with the Russians" and urging Slovaks to "unite against the Jews." Soldiers washed off the inscriptions as some spectators cried, "shame," Mr. Morgan wrote. On the other hand, "Slovak intellectuals have been concerned over what they fear is an anti-Semitic tone" in the speeches of Mr. Husak.

See Israel Adopting Policy Rejecting Inimical Security Council Resolutions

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Israel has apparently written off the 15-member United Nations Security Council in its present composition as a body from which it can expect fair treatment. The Government may announce shortly that it will not carry out Security Council resolutions that are contrary to Israel's interests, it was reliably learned here yesterday. This position was believed to have been taken following consultations in the Foreign Ministry with Israel's chief representative to the UN, Ambassador Yosef Takoah.

It was pointed out that six of the Security Council's present members have no diplomatic relations with Israel. It was noted further that any anti-Israel resolution can automatically count on getting eight votes and only nine are required for passage.

Israel however is expected to continue utilizing the UN and its agencies as a meeting place for bilateral diplomatic activities and a world forum for its views.

Two of the five permanent members of the Security Council do not have diplomatic relations with Israel--the Soviet Union and Nationalist China. China never recognized Israel, which recognized Communist China but has never had diplomatic relations with it. The Soviet Union, which has a veto power, broke off relations with Israel during the Six-Day War. One member of the Security Council--Algeria--observes a state of belligerency against Israel. It participated in the Six-Day War, still has military units serving with the Egyptian forces on the west bank of the Suez Canal, and refused to agree to the cease-fire which ended the 1967 war. The other three Security Council members which do not recognize Israel are Hungary, which followed the Soviet Union's lead in severing relations; Pakistan, a Moslem state which never recognized Israel; and Spain, which became a member of the Council on Jan. 1. Spain has never had diplomatic relations with Israel but there was some cooperation between the two countries a year ago in opposing Common Market restrictions on citrus imports from non-members of the European Economic Community.

(During the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee questioning this week of Charles W. Yost, subsequently confirmed by the Senate as President Nixon's Ambassador to the United Nations, he said the U.S. would not refrain from using its Security Council veto if it ever was confronted with a resolution endangering the "national interest." The veto has never been used. He was asked by the Committee's newest member, Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, why the Soviet Union uses its veto on any resolution affecting the Arabs, but the U.S. does not to the same on behalf of Israel. Mr. Yost said, "There is no official policy against using the veto." He said that it has not been exercised to date because the Council had not voted a resolution "we thought sufficiently dangerous to block." A veteran diplomat, Mr. Yost has served on the U.S. delegation.)

State Dept. Official Sees No 'Dramatic Forward Movement' Soon In Mideast Struggle

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- The first indication of the Nixon Administration's Mideast policy emerged today when Parker T. Hart, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, told Congress not to expect "any dramatic forward movement" in the Arab-Israeli situation in the near future. Mr. Hart testified before the Near East Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. After the secret session, he revealed to newsmen that he felt calm and patience were now required in the Mideast situation. He saw a need for time in finding a solution. He stressed that a "time of danger" existed and said that "we hope that aggravating incidents will be kept down." Mr. Hart envisaged an opportunity for settlement in the efforts of United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring.

Ambassador Jarring has been utilizing the temporary resumption of his regular post as Swedish Ambassador to Moscow as a cover for continuing his Middle East peace-seeking mission without attracting attention. Washington Post correspondent Robert H. Estabrook reported from the UN today. Mr. Estabrook reported that Dr. Jarring met secretly with Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban in Switzerland earlier this month. Soviet Middle East peace proposals contained in Moscow's Dec. 30 note to the United States and other Western Powers, were presumably discussed with Mr. Eban at the meeting, Mr. Estabrook said.

U.S. officials acknowledged yesterday that President Nasser, of Egypt, wrote to President Nixon last week "hoping for better things." Officially, the State Department said only that a letter from Col. Nasser had been received involving the Middle East situation and that there had been no reply as yet. The letter was believed to have reviewed past Egyptian-U.S. relations and indicated that Col. Nasser sought an improvement but did not ask for a resumption of diplomatic relations which Egypt broke after the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the Post said.

(In Cairo today the official Egyptian spokesman, Dr. Mohammed Hassan el Zayyat, told a news conference that Egypt wants the U.S. to move away from its position of favoring direct Arab-Israel negotiations as expressed in the American note replying to the Soviet Union's recent peace proposals. He said that if Washington adheres to that position it would represent a "veto on international action" and would "undermine the possibility of a peaceful solution.")

(A report from Cairo said that the El Fatah terrorist organization rejected Soviet proposals for settlement of the Mideast crisis and announced it would accept the "unconditional" aid offered by President Nasser on Monday. The commando group announced a 10-point program reiterating its determination to fight Israel "until there was full liberation" of Palestine.)

(Foreign Minister Abba Eban said on a television interview yesterday that President Nasser's speech pledging all-out support to terrorists would be taken up with United Nations peace envoy, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, when the latter resumes his mission in the Middle East next month.

West German Government Will Consider Ban On Extremist National Democratic Party

BONN, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- A West German press spokesman said today that the Government would discuss the entire question next week of seeking a ban on the extremist National Democratic Party, which has been widely denounced as neo-Nazi. The spokesman made the announcement at a press conference in reply to a question from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's coalition Government is divided on the advisability of such action.

The spokesman and a representative of the Interior Ministry denied that the Ministry's State Secretary Heinrich Koppler said last week that the NPD should not be prohibited. Prohibition will be sought, he said, if a Government decision to that effect is finally taken, by an effort to obtain a Constitutional court ruling that the party is unconstitutional.

In another development, Dr. Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union's parliamentary group decided today to introduce the issue of extension of the present statute of limitations for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals into Parliamentary debate as soon as possible. If no action is taken, the statute will go into effect next December 31, barring the start of any new prosecutions as of that date.

Franco-Israel Relations, Though At All-Time Low, Are Not Being Written Off

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Indications were given here today that Franco-Israeli relations, though at an all-time low as a result of Gen. de Gaulle's embargo and pro-Arab policies, were not being written off and are believed capable of improvement. One was a speech delivered by Foreign Minister Abba Eban at the cornerstone laying of "France House," a student dormitory and French cultural center built with contributions from the French Society of Friends of the Hebrew University. The other was an announcement by the Prime Minister's office that Israel has just ordered \$10,000 worth of French-made fireworks to be used in its 21st anniversary Independence Day celebrations next May. The order was placed after Gen. de Gaulle announced his embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel. A spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said that fireworks from other countries had been tested but were not up to Israel's safety standards.

The cornerstone ceremonies were attended by the French Ambassador, Francis Hure, Baron Guy de Rothschild, Prof. Jean Roche, rector of the Paris Sorbonne and members of a United Israel Appeal mission from France. Mr. Eban said, "With all her cultural richness, Israel is not in a position to forego what France can contribute in all fields." He said Israel did not regret the investment it made in spreading French culture here. "Our feelings," he went on, "are made up of both satisfaction and bitterness--this because of France's recent blow, the blow of a country long considered friendly. However, the memory of years of friendship remains and the flags of Israel and France which fly together here may also be a symbol of what the future holds."

Lebanon's Premier Karami Says His Country Will Accept French Military Assistance

PARIS, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami declared in an interview published by the newspaper Le Monde today that Lebanon would accept all French military aid, including troops and advisers on its territory. The French Government offered such aid to Lebanon following expression of fears by Lebanese leaders that Israel might attack that country from which intermittent shelling has been aimed at Israeli settlements near the border. Israel has formally denied such intentions.

Premier Karami also said that consultations between France and Lebanon on such aid had already started. He said also that Lebanon was in such a difficult situation "facing an implacable enemy" that it was "prepared to accept French military aid under all its forms."

Students Protest French Embargo At Embassy In London, Amsterdam Consulate

LONDON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- A group of 200 students, including several visiting French collegians, demonstrated for an hour today in front of the French Embassy here in protest against French President Charles de Gaulle's action in clamping an embargo on shipments of weapons and spare parts to Israel. The demonstration was organized by the Inter-University Jewish Federation and was joined by the Ad Hoc Committee for Peace in the Middle East.

At the end of the demonstration, a letter of protest was handed to Embassy officials by Allan Baker, federation chairman, who also gave the officials a similar message from the Union of German Students, which was rejected by the French Post Office. The cable then was re-routed to London and to the Federation. Embassy officials said the protests would be given to the French Ambassador who would decide on whether to transmit it to his Government. The placards carried by the demonstrating students denounced Gen. de Gaulle but not France.

Two hundred Jewish students and members of Dutch Jewish youth organizations marched to the French Consulate in Amsterdam today in a similar protest. A consulate official refused to admit a delegation or accept a letter of protest. The students affixed their letter to the wall of the Consulate building and gave a copy to the press.

In Geneva, the Swiss-Israel Association adopted a resolution condemning President de Gaulle's embargo as "a unilateral sanction which cannot achieve its alleged purpose of pacification in the Middle East because other powers, including France, continue to deliver arms to the Arab states."

JWV Commander Says Members Mailing Croix De Guerre, Legion Ribbons Back

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- National Commander Charles Feuereisen of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. disclosed today that a number of men honored for wartime military service in France have mailed Croix de Guerre medals, Legion of Honor ribbons, and other decorations back to the French Government in protest against the anti-Israel policies of the de Gaulle Government.

Max Fisher Honored At Private Reception Tendered By Nixon's Associates

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Leaders of the new Administration yesterday honored Max Fisher, of Detroit, Mich., considered the Jewish personage closest to President Nixon, at a private reception tendered by Warren Adler, of Washington, and Martin Pollner, of New York, both of whom directed Republican efforts to gain Jewish support in the recent election. Mr. Fisher, in addition to serving as chairman of "Concerned Citizens for Nixon," raised over \$1 million among Jewish leaders for the Nixon campaign. He was greeted by Gov. Ronald Reagan, of California, by Mr. Nixon's former law partners and by many prominent personalities of the new Administration. James Lovell, the astronaut, attended. Another important Jewish supporter of President Nixon at the reception was Joseph Meyerhoff, of Baltimore, a leading philanthropist.

JNF Official Says Organization Will Send First Study Mission To Israel

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Dr. Milton Aron, the executive vice president of the Jewish National Fund of America, announced today that the land reclamation agency would send its first study mission to Israel. It will be composed of JNF leaders from all parts of the United States. Dr. Aron just returned from Israel where he inspected reclamation projects recently begun in outlying areas. One of them, he said, was a major development program for the entire region from Dan at the northeastern tip of Israel to the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee.

During his stay in Israel Dr. Aron conferred with representatives of the Jewish Agency and consulted with top officials of the Keren Kayemeth (JNF) in Jerusalem. He reported to them that the JNF national assembly held in New York last October stimulated renewed American Jewish support for the agency's land development and afforestation projects. Dr. Aron said he was planning to visit JNF regions throughout the U.S. to deliver personally reports of new developments in Israel. He said he would report on his recent mission at tomorrow's meeting of the JNF board of directors here.

Iraq Radio Claims Jews On Trial Were Part Of Spy Ring Based In Iran

LONDON, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- The trial in Baghdad of Iraqi Jews accused of espionage took on new international ramifications today when Baghdad radio claimed the alleged spy ring had been based in neighboring Iran. According to the radio broadcast, two of the Jews on trial "confessed" to having undergone a three-week training course in espionage and sabotage in the Persian Gulf oil town of Abadan. The Iraqis were alleged to be operating an Israeli spy ring in Iraq.

Allon Announces Resignation From Committees, Prompting Political Speculation

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon announced today that he has resigned from several important ministerial committees in order to devote his full time to the affairs of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption which he heads. He has requested that his colleague of the Ahdut Avodah faction, Minister of Transport Moshe Carmel, be assigned to his seats on the ministerial committees for occupied territories and security affairs which he is relinquishing.

Mr. Allon's announcement was seen by some observers as bearing out reports of cool relations between him and Prime Minister Levi Eshkol who raised Mr. Allon to the rank of Deputy Prime Minister less than a year ago. Mr. Allon felt, they said, that Mr. Eshkol did not back him strongly enough when plans or suggestions he put forth were at variance with the views of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Gen. Dayan was regarded by many as the most "hawkish" of Israel's ministers of the Labor faction. He was also considered to be Mr. Eshkol's most serious rival for the Premiership, and the elevation of Mr. Allon was widely regarded at the time as a move by the Prime Minister to forestall Gen. Dayan's ambition for the post. Mr. Eshkol was believed by some to have taken Mr. Allon less and less into his confidence to avoid the appearance that he was his personally-selected "heir apparent." Mr. Allon reportedly was angered when he returned from a trip to the United States late last year to find that a ministerial committee had been formed to deal with settlement in the Hebron area without his having been consulted or asked to join.

Eban Calls Upon World Media To Depict Accurately Soviet-Egypt 'Peace Offensive'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban called on the world's communications and information media today to accurately describe the Soviet-Egyptian so-called "peace offensive" which, he said, aimed at forcing Israel back to the pre-June, 1967 borders without a peace settlement, after which Arab terrorists would continue to pursue their goal of destroying the Jewish State. Mr. Eban spoke in the Knesset (Parliament).

Speaking of peace talks, he said, "Israel will weigh every proposal by its final goal, not by its procedural stages of execution. She will accept every reasonable form of procedure which will lead to contractual peace agreements and reject any procedure which will lead back to the explosive powder keg of May, 1967." Mr. Eban said that France's call for a Four Power conference on the Middle East extended "a clear and special status" to the Soviet plan which aims at the restoration of the situation which threatened both the existence of Israel and the security and peace of the area. Russia has announced support for France's proposal for a parley at UN headquarters, but would regard such meetings as "cosmetics" to put a four-power cover on any agreements reached with Washington on principal features of a settlement.

Patrol Wounds Fleeing Suspect In Gaza After Bomb Damages Tractor In Town Square

TEL AVIV, Jan. 22 (JTA) -- An Israeli patrol wounded a fleeing suspect in Gaza today after a bomb damaged a tractor in a town square. The suspect was hit in the leg. There were no other casualties.

Explosives damaged a small bridge on the highway between the Upper Galilee town of Rosh Pinna and Kiryat Shemona, a village near the Lebanese border, this morning.