

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Ota Sik, Eduard Goldstuecker Return To Czechoslovakia, Plan to Leave Again

LONDON, JAN. 23 (JTA) -- Two of Czechoslovakia's most prominent liberals of the pre-Soviet invasion period--both Jews--returned unexpectedly to Prague yesterday and were immediately sworn into the Czech regional Parliament amid emotional reunions with their friends and former colleagues. They are Dr. Ota Sik, a former Deputy Prime Minister and architect of the economic reforms in the regime of Alexander Dubcek, and Dr. Eduard Goldstuecker, a leading author, former head of the Czech Writers Union and vice rector of Charles University in Prague.

Both were quoted as saying that they would stay in Czechoslovakia for a short time and then go abroad again to meet "commitments" to universities where they were studying and lecturing. They were also quoted as saying they expected to return to Czechoslovakia permanently after the end of the summer school term this year. Dr. Sik has been living in Basel, Switzerland, and Dr. Goldstuecker was working as a visiting professor of comparative literature at Sussex University in England.

Both men were denounced as "revisionists" and "anti-Socialist" by Soviet authorities at the time of the invasion of Czechoslovakia last August. It was reported then that warrants were issued for their arrests. There were no indications why they returned to their homeland at this time. Their return coincided with mounting protests against Soviet repression which has taken the form of hunger strikes and self-immolation by several Czech students, one of whom has died.

## Find Pro-Arab Sympathies In Eastern Europe At Low Level Following Six-Day War

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Pro-Arab sympathies in Eastern European countries remained at a low level in the year after the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, despite a vigorous campaign by Communist regimes to induce their peoples to support the Arabs, the American Jewish Committee reported today.

Citing information obtained by its European office in Paris, the AJCommittee also said that sympathy for Israel appeared to have dropped somewhat in the Communist countries during that year but that Israel still enjoyed a four to one edge over the Arabs in public sympathy. The Paris report indicated that the number of Israeli sympathizers also dropped in Western Europe that year but such supporters maintained an eight to one advantage over the Arabs in public backing. The report said that the data were based on opinions obtained from more than 5,000 East Europeans from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Rumania who visited West Europe. The information from them was collected by "responsible public opinion research institutes," the report added.

The report said that Poles, particularly Polish youth, reacted strongly against the Wladyslaw Gomułka regime's anti-Semitic propaganda campaign, adding that the number of Israel's sympathizers "actually grew" during the two period in which visiting East Europeans were questioned. The report said that 67 percent of such East Europeans supporting Israel said they regarded the Arabs as the aggressors and 16 percent indicated compassion for past Jewish suffering or admiration for Israeli achievements. The report added that "only seven percent justified their pro-Israel stand by citing Arab Communism and only three percent said the Israelis were fighting Communism."

But, the report asserted, "the basic anti-Russian sentiment behind this pro-Israel bias is apparent." The underlying reason "is a clearly discernible identification with a small nation which successfully defied the Russians, upset their political machinations and thus far managed to get away with it." Czech sentiment closely followed the general pro-Israel stand in Europe generally. The Hungarians' support for Israel dropped to 36 percent in the final survey after initially indicating 65 percent support for Israel. Rumanian attitudes remained strongly pro-Israel.

## Symposium Told Polish Anti-Semitic Campaign Affects Assimilated Hardest

PARIS, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- A distinguished Jewish refugee from Poland reported at a symposium here yesterday that the Warsaw regime's anti-Semitic campaign was having its most serious effects on assimilated Jews, mostly staunch Communists, who never expected it and were bewildered to find themselves ostracized.

Michael Sylberberg, a writer, said the anti-Jewish drive in Poland was "nursed as much by crude anti-Semitism as by the pro-Arab policies of the Government, which a number of its members apply reluctantly, though some Polish intellectuals are disgusted." The speaker was one of several well-known Polish Jews who stopped off in Paris on their way to permanent settlement in other countries. The symposium on the theme of "Polish Jews, Past and Present" was conducted by the World Jewish Congress. Mr. Sylberberg said the goal of the Polish Government was to make Polish life "Judenrein" but with a few exceptions, notably some popular Jewish actors whose exile would be noted abroad. Another speaker, a historian, observed that in leaving Poland, "the Jews are also leaving behind priceless historical documents, not only of the recent calamity but of generations past; archival material accumulated over a thousand years."

Anti-Semitism in East Germany was discussed by Samuel Fiderer who said it was officially inspired. He disclosed that the famous author, Arnold Zweig, who died recently in East Germany, was interred in the Pantheon of Communist leaders although his last request had been for burial in a Jewish

cemetery. Mr. Fiderer said that a minyan of Jews from West Germany was permitted to recite kaddish.

The symposium adopted a resolution expressing appreciation for the stand most Frenchmen have taken against Gen. de Gaulle's pro-Arab policies and his recent embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel. Abraham Bern, a poet, and Marcel Orolitski a communal worker reported that hundreds of former active French-Jewish Communists left the party because of its anti-Israel stand following the June, 1967 war and were now working for Israel.

### U.S. Intellectuals, Including Leftists, Hit Poland For Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, Jan 23 (JTA) -- A group of prominent Americans some of whom have been frequently associated with left wing causes has sent an open letter to the Polish Government condemning "the recent revival of anti-Semitism in Poland, inspired and abetted by some leaders of the same Government that in the past had combatted it with the utmost vigor." The letter was transmitted to Warsaw through the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Polish Mission to the United Nations.

The signatories included 32 writers, critics, university teachers, editors and actors, among them Ossie Davis, the Negro actor and playwright; Paul M. Sweezy, editor of the Monthly Review; Maxwell Geismar, author and critic; James Aronson, founder and former editor of the National Guardian; Yuri Suhl, author of 'They Fought Back,' a documentary of Jewish resistance in Nazi-occupied Europe; Millen Brand, author of the recently-published novel "Savage Sleep"; Albert Maltz, novelist and screen writer; Morris U. Schappes, historian and editor of the magazine "Jewish Currents"; Dr. Annette T. Rubinstein, author and critic; and Prof. Frederic Ewen, biographer of playwright Bertolt Brecht.

The letter said, "We dare not, through silence, make ourselves accomplices in this heartbreaking... incredible catastrophe. We must urge with the utmost solemnity that the Polish Government stop this self-destructive course while a remnant of Polish Jewry and of the Government's socialist honor yet remain to be saved."

### Karami Ends Crisis In Lebanese Government; Report Arresting Guerrillas

LONDON, Jan 23 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Rashid Karami of Lebanon has apparently resolved the crisis within his newly formed Government and will follow a policy of closer alignment with the Arab states while at the same time avoiding a new confrontation with Israel, according to reports from Beirut today. The reports said that Lebanon will not allow Palestinian guerrillas to operate against Israel from Lebanese soil and will try, unobtrusively, to keep them out of Lebanon altogether.

The newspaper of Syria's ruling Baath Socialist Party accused Lebanon yesterday of using troops to prevent Palestinian guerrillas from crossing its southern frontier to attack Israel. According to the paper, Al Baath, Lebanon sealed the border with Israel and rounded up a commando unit when it returned from a mission in Upper Galilee. A spokesman for El Fatah, largest of the Palestinian guerrilla groups said in Amman that Beirut authorities had asked them not to use Lebanon as a base for activities, it was reported here.

### Israel Confirms Reports Of Secret Eban-Jarring Meeting In Zurich

JERUSALEM, Jan 23 (JTA)-- A Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed today that Foreign Minister Abba Eban met secretly with United Nations special envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring in Zurich, Switzerland 10 days ago. He said the meeting was concerned mainly with agenda and procedural matters preparatory to the resumption of Dr. Jarring's peace-seeking mission in the Middle East next month. The spokesman said the meeting was held secretly because Dr. Jarring did not want to have to report on it to the other parties concerned. It was understood here that he had a similar meeting in Switzerland with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Riad.

The Washington Post disclosed the Eban-Jarring meeting yesterday in a report from its UN correspondent Robert Estabrook. Mr. Estabrook said the contents of the Soviet proposals of Dec. 30 for a Middle East settlement were presumably discussed. He said that Dr. Jarring has been using the temporary resumption of his regular post as Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow as a cover for continuing his peace-seeking mission without attracting attention. According to Foreign Ministry sources here, Mr. Eban said he was willing to meet with Dr. Jarring anywhere when the latter officially resumed his mission but felt that New York was impractical because of its distance from the Middle East. Sources here said that Egypt would prefer New York because Dr. Jarring's meetings would be with the permanent representatives to the UN rather than with Foreign Ministers and thereby would be "downgraded."

### Israeli Sources Say Egyptian Plans To Arm Guerrillas No Major Threat

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Qualified military observers said here today that reports that Egypt has promised to supply Palestinian guerrilla bands with heavy weapons from its Soviet-made arsenal would, if true, have no effect on the balance of military force arrayed against Israel. They said such weapons in the hands of the commandos would pose a greater threat to the host countries than to Israel.

(The London Telegraph reported in a dispatch from Amman today that President Nasser of Egypt has offered the guerrillas rockets, anti-aircraft guns and other heavy weapons. The paper, which attributed its information to a spokesman for El Fatah, the largest of the commando bands based in Jordan, said that Col. Nasser offered to post Army officers to guerrilla bases to train the irregulars in the use of the Soviet weapons. The Telegraph said that Col. Nasser also told the guerrilla leaders that he was strengthening Egyptian commandos operating in the Sinai Peninsula. This was his first official reference to Egyptian guerrillas.)

## Stewart Confers With Soviet Official, Discusses Kremlin's Mideast Peace Proposals

LONDON, Jan 23 (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart met with the Soviet charges d'affaires Boris Pladyshev today to discuss the Soviet Union's proposals for a settlement of the Middle East problem to which Britain has not made a formal reply. Mr. Stewart reportedly replied orally to the Russian diplomat and handed him an aide memoire for his government. According to Foreign Office sources, Britain views the Soviet proposals as containing some constructive elements but also posing a number of questions. The Government has delayed taking a definite stand on the Soviet plan until it gets more information from Moscow.

## Interior Ministry Issues 2,000 New Permits For Arabs Seeking Return From Jordan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) --The Interior Ministry has issued 2,000 new permits for former West Bank residents now in Jordan who wish to return to their homes, it was learned here today. Last November the Ministry announced that the validity of 7,000 unused permits that was to have expired at the end of 1968 would be extended through Jan 31, 1969. So far, however, less than 100 of the extended permits have been used.

## Brazilian Delegation Asks Government Appeal To Iraqis On Behalf Of Alleged Spies

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 23 (JTA) -- Brazilian Jews asked their Government to suspend the executions of Iraqi Jews reportedly sentenced to death on charges of espionage for Israel and to permit those Jews, who so desire, to emigrate from Iraq. A delegation from the Brazilian Jewish Confederation, was received by Foreign Minister Magalhaes Pinto. They said later that the minister expressed "understanding and helpfulness." The organization also cabled an appeal to United Nations Secretary General U Thant to intercede on behalf of the condemned Iraqi Jews and others facing trial. Their message stressed that "spilling more blood could only harm the prospects for peace and justice in the Middle East."

## Police Arrest Youths Who Confess To Vandalism In Seashore Resort In Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 23 (JTA) -- Police have arrested two young men who confessed to vandalizing a kosher hotel and restaurant in the seashore resort of Mar del Plata last week. Jorge Lagola, 20, and Adolfo Rosas, 18, who live in Buenos Aires and Lanus City respectively, said they destroyed furniture and left virulent anti-Semitic inscriptions and swastika daubings. Police also recovered several valuable objects stolen from the premises.

## Threatened Attack On El Al Airliner At Nice Fails To Materialize, Airport Surrounded

PARIS, Jan 23 (JTA) -- French police and security forces surrounded Nice airport yesterday after receiving an anonymous telephone threat that an El Al airliner due to land there would be attacked. The police checked identities and baggage in the terminal before the plane arrived and later inspected the aircraft before it took off for Tel Aviv. No attack materialized.

## EEC Council Of Ministers To Consider Israel's Application For Associate Status

BRUSSELS, Jan 23, (JTA) -- The Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community will resume deliberations on Israel's application for associate status when it meets here next week. The council is expected to consider a proposal by Italy and Portugal to grant Israel partial, preferential status.

## Hold Memorial Services For Victims Of Bucharest Pogrom Of January, 1941

BUCHAREST, Jan 23, (JTA) -- Memorial services for the victims of the Bucharest pogrom of January, 1941, were held at the Choral Synagogue here yesterday, conducted by Rumania's Chief Rabbi, Dr. Moses Rosen. The pogrom broke out after a Fascist rebellion in Rumania. A pilgrimage was organized to the cemetery where 125 victims were buried.

## Resistance-Deportees Union Raps Equation Of Arab Terrorists With World War II Partisans

BRUSSELS, Jan. 23, (JTA) -- The International Union of Resistance Fighters and Deportees has denounced attempts to equate Arab acts of terror against Israel with the struggles of World War II partisans against Nazi Germany. The comparison has been made frequently by Arab spokesman and their Soviet supporters. In a letter to Belgian newspapers today, the organization said efforts to liken the resistance against Nazism to "the terrorism of fanatic Arab leaders, supported by former Nazi war criminals who would like to see Hitler's genocide continued, was an insult resented not only by the citizens of Israel who are courageously defending their right to life but to all resistance fighters who remain faithful to themselves."

## First Child Born To Jewish Settlers In Hebron Circumcised

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23, (JTA) -- The first child born to a group of Orthodox Jews who settled in the West Bank town of Hebron last year was circumcised yesterday and named Shneur Hebron. The ceremonies were attended by Menachem Beigin, Minister-Without-Portfolio in the coalition Cabinet, who acted as "sandak." The family wanted the circumcision performed at the Machpela Cave in Hebron, reputed site of the Patriarchs' tombs but the military government refused permission. The cave lies within the compound of the El Ibrahim mosque and has been a source of friction between Jewish and Moslem worshippers.

The settlers came to Hebron last Passover and refused to leave although they had no permit to settle in the town which had been exclusively Arab since 1936. The military government permitted them to stay on condition that they observed all of its regulations. Mr. Beigin, who heads the right-wing, nationalist Herut Party, had advocated Israel's annexation of all occupied Arab territories.

## Doar Cites 1st Amendment In Reply To Charges Of Official Passivity On Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- John Doar, president of the New York City Board of Education, cited the First Amendment, which guarantees the right of free speech, in reply to charges by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that he and other board members sat by passively while black extremists indulged in anti-Semitic outbursts during the recent hearings on school decentralization.

The charge was made by Arnold Forster, general counsel of the ADL, in a supplementary statement to a report released yesterday by Dore Schary, ADL national chairman. The report, a preliminary survey of findings of a more complete study of the Negro-Jewish conflict in New York City to be published next spring, claimed that "raw, undisguised" anti-Semitism in the city's school system had reached crisis proportions. It blamed city and state officials who, the ADL contended, failed "to condemn it swiftly and strongly enough and to remove from positions of authority those who have utilized anti-Semitism."

Mr. Doar, who formerly served as head of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, said the board did not cut off or censor speakers who made anti-Semitic or anti-Negro statements at the decentralization hearings because of the First Amendment. "In dealing with such statements, I think the way to deal with it is to deal with it fairly and not give in to it, but I would not take any action that would infringe on the civil liberties of any individual," Mr. Doar said. "After all, we have the First Amendment in this country. We start with that premise."

In a related development, the New York City Board of Education turned down a request by Mayor John V. Lindsay that charges be brought against two Negro school teachers accused of having made anti-Semitic remarks. The 12-member board rejected a resolution calling on Superintendent of Schools Bernard E. Donovan and all district superintendents to take "appropriate actions" against teachers and supervisors "who advocate or stimulate racial or religious hatred."

## Aleph Katz Dead At 70; Yiddish Poet, Essayist, JTA Editor For Over 40 Years

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Morris Abraham Katz, Yiddish poet, essayist and a Yiddish editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for more than 40 years, died yesterday after a long illness. He was 70 years old.

Born in Mylnow, Russia, Mr. Katz came to the United States in 1913 and attended City College of New York. He joined the JTA in 1925 and retired last year. He wrote a number of books of Yiddish poetry and essays, and a number of plays. He was a member of the Yiddish Writers Union, the Farband Labor Zionist Order, the Yiddish Dictionary Committee, YIVO, the Congress for Jewish Culture, the Jewish Pen Club and other organizations. He was the recipient of the Congress for Jewish Culture Award in 1955 and other awards for his Yiddish writings.

Mr. Katz first attracted attention with descriptions of the Bowery in New York City and with alliterative poems for children. His published books included "A Mayse fun Yam" (A Tale of the Sea, 1925); "Akertzeit" (Plowing Time, 1929); "Dos Telerl fun Himel" (The Saucer from Heaven); "Fun Alef bis Toy" (From A to Z, 1939). He also translated into Yiddish Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island in 1927. Services will be held at noon Sunday at the Riverside Chapel, 76th St. and Amsterdam Ave., and internment will be in Cedar Park Cemetery, Paramus, N.J.

## Scheduled Services For Leon Feinberg, Dead At 71; Was Yiddish Writer, Journalist

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Leon Feinberg of the Bronx, a Yiddish journalist, novelist and poet and one-time city editor of The Day--now the Day-Morning Journal--who dies here yesterday at the age of 71. Services will be conducted at the Garlick Memorial Chapel in The Bronx.

He was a native of the Ukraine, graduated from the University of Moscow, and came to the United States in 1921. During his long career, Mr. Feinberg published 15 novels and volumes of poetry and served as president of the Yiddish Pen Club. He was also a former vice president and secretary of the Yiddish Writers Union and national committeeman of the National Committee for Jewish Culture. Mr. Feinberg's writing appeared in the anthologies, "The Golden Peacock," published in 1940, and "America in Yiddish Poetry," published in 1967. He served as city editor of The Day, a Yiddish daily, from 1945 to 1955 and later wrote a column on political affairs.

## Israel's Musicians' Festival To Conclude With Social Event, Chamber Orchestra Debut

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's Musicians' Festival, which Mayor John V. Lindsay proclaimed for the period Jan. 14-25, will end here Saturday night with a dinner-dance of the American-Israel Cultural Foundation, sponsor of the event. The occasion will also be marked by the American debut of the Israel Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Gary Bertini, and presentation of the Foundation's annual King Solomon Award to William Mazer, chairman of the Foundation's board. The award is given in recognition of outstanding service in developing Israel's cultural life.

The Israel's Musicians' Festival was highlighted by performances by young Israeli musicians, some making a debut here, including Miriam Fried, a prize-winning violinist, and Michael Haran, a cellist. The internationally known Israeli piano duo of Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir also performed. The Chamber Orchestra, with Rudolf Serkin as featured soloist, will tour the United States from Jan. 25 through March 10. In addition to its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York and a March 8 concert at Hunter College here, it will visit 37 cities in 11 states and the District of Columbia.