

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Iraq Ignores World Outrage Over Executions, Announces Other 'Spies' Will Be Tried

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The Iraqi regime defied world public opinion today, ignored the expression of shock and horror voiced throughout the Western world and announced that the hanging of 14 Iraqi nationals, nine of them Jews, on charges of espionage for Israel, would be followed by further trials. Baghdad Radio reported today that "other spies will be tried soon" and Information Minister Abdullah el-Samarrai was quoted as saying that 65 others will be put on trial allegedly for spying for Israel and plotting against the Iraqi regime.

The brutal hangings and public display of the bodies of the victims in Baghdad and Basra on Monday evoked shocked and horrified protests in all the Western capitals. Late today there was, however, no comment from Moscow or the satellite Communist capitals. What angered diplomats of many countries was the fact that the death sentences had been executed while the Iraqi authorities were still giving assurances that the pleas for clemency made by other governments were receiving consideration.

The Iraqi regime, in rejecting foreign intercessions made on humanitarian grounds and, in the case of United Nations Secretary General U Thant, also on grounds that execution of the death sentences would seriously jeopardize current Middle East peace-making efforts, argued that the trial, conviction and hanging of the 14 men was an internal Iraqi affair and neither the United Nations nor any foreign power had the right to intervene. The Iraqi acting permanent representative to the United Nations, Adnan Raouf, on Monday challenged the right of Mr. Thant to speak of a situation which, he asserted, was "entirely an internal affair."

Following the Iraqi reaction to his statement expressing "regret and concern" over the hangings, Mr. Thant told a press conference today that he had no intention of bringing the case before the Security Council or any other UN deliberative organ. He said he agreed with the Iraqi position that the executions were an internal affair, but he said he had made his statement for humanitarian reasons and because the executions might hurt efforts to obtain a "just and lasting" settlement of Arab-Israeli issues.

The hangings focused attention on the role of the UN in protecting the persecuted Jewish minorities in the Arab states. Foreign Minister Abba Eban, in a note delivered to Mr. Thant Monday night by Ambassador Joel Barromi, acting permanent representative of Israel, noted pointedly that Israel for some time had been deeply concerned over the treatment of the Jews in Iraq and had placed the facts before appropriate agencies of the UN, but that these bodies had failed to act. Mr. Eban referred to repeated Israeli requests that the special envoy the UN wanted to send to the Middle East to study the treatment of the civilian population in the areas occupied by Israel should also be instructed to study the plight of the Jewish minorities in the Arab states.

The New York Board of Rabbis made the point even more bluntly in a telegram to Mr. Thant thanking him for his humanitarian stand. "How many more murders of Jews in Arab countries must take place before the UN concerns itself with their plight?" the board asked the Secretary-General.

### Secretary Of State Rogers Terms Mass Executions 'Repugnant'

In Washington, State Department sources disclosed that the United States, which has no diplomatic relations with Iraq, interceded through India, which represents Iraqi interests in Washington, before the hangings. Secretary of State William P. Rogers termed the "spectacle of mass executions" in Iraq "repugnant to the conscience of mankind" and had the American representative to the UN, Ambassador Charles Yost, called on the Secretary-General to tell him that the U.S. shared the sentiments he had expressed in his statement Monday. The U.S. also interceded with the Iraqi regime through the Belgian Embassy in Baghdad which represents American interests in that country. The embassy reported to Washington that the American protests had been ignored. Iraq ruptured diplomatic ties during the June, 1967 war.

In London, Lord Chalfont, Minister of State, told the House of Lords that Her Majesty's Government deplored the hangings in Iraq. Foreign Minister Michael Stewart received a delegation today representing the Board of Deputies of British Jews and including Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jacobovits and the Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, to discuss the threat of further executions hanging over Iraqi Jews.

At the Vatican, the Vatican organ, L'Osservatore Romano revealed that Pope Paul VI had interceded through an emissary in Baghdad before the sentences were announced. Later, it was hoped that the sentences would be commuted, the paper said. It added that "it is not our intention to interfere in the internal life of nations, but it is our right and duty to affirm that such events introduce a new and profound breach in a situation already exacerbated by hatred."

In Paris, the French Government revealed that it had taken unofficial action to persuade the Iraqi regime not to execute the death sentences. The JTA correspondent was informed that the French Ambassador in Baghdad twice called on the Iraqi Foreign Minister to intervene for the accused on humanitarian grounds. On both occasions he was given non-committal answers which were interpreted in Paris as indicating that the regime had taken the French intercession into consideration and would act accordingly. President Charles de Gaulle, it was reported, had privately expressed his "surprise and dissatisfaction"

over the Iraqi killings.

In Rome, Foreign Minister Pietro Nenni, who had intervened with the Iraqis for the condemned men, said today that the executions deeply disturbed the conscience of the nation.

#### British, European Newspapers Unanimous In Condemnation Of Iraq

LONDON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Leading British and Continental newspapers were unanimous today in condemnation of the Iraqi regime for the hanging of 14 men Monday on what they regarded as trumped-up charges of espionage for Israel and anti-state activities. The Times of London described the action as "a coarse barbarity" and said it "would, indeed, be a blessing for Iraq and the whole Middle East" if the Iraqi regime were overthrown."

The Guardian described President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, the Iraqi dictator, as "the most vicious of all Arab rulers" and said he had "surpassed even his own villainous record." It said the Iraqi action would harm prospects of a Middle East settleme. and declared that if Israel struck in retaliation, Iraq would pay the price for having "a reckless, barbarian Government."

In Paris, the widely read daily L'Aurore published an editorial on its pfront page denouncing "the world's silence" in the face of Iraq's "unspeakable crime." The paper said the Iraq action showed how little influence France had in the Middle East despite its Government's imaginings. "The world's voices have remained silent," the paper declared. "Where are the cries that were heard over the destruction of the Lebanese planes at the Beirut airport? What as France done? What has the United Nations done?" The failure of the world to speak out, the paper said, was "more disturbing than the screams of the demented Baghdad mobs." The influential Paris daily, Le Monde, in a front-page editorial, expressed the hope that the people of Iraq will realize one day that "the day of the execution was not a day of 'glory' but a day of shame."

#### State Department Says U.S. Urged Israel Not To Retaliate

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The State Department revealed today that the United States Government had acted speedily to urge Israel not to retaliate against Iraq for the hanging of nine Jews Monday. Robert J. McCloskey, the department spokesman, said today that the warning to Israel was delivered through the American Embassy in Tel Aviv soon after Baghdad Radio announced the killings. Mr. McCloskey said that "the position every American Administration has taken regarding the cycle of provocations and reprisals has been a consistent one. It (the cycle) should be avoided. We continue to make the view known."

Reports from many capitals received here indicated widespread speculation on the immediacy and nature of a punitive retaliatory action which many expected Israel would mount. Others pointed out, however, that the Jewish populations in the Arab states might be punished further if Israel undertook action.

#### Anger, Despair Felt Around The World; Memorials Set, Demonstrations Held

LONDON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Reports received here today from virtually every Jewish community in the free world emphasized the depth of emotion, anger and despair with which the Jews received the news that nine Iraqi Jews had been hanged following a secret drumhead trial in Baghdad and their bodies exposed to indignities and the derision of howling mobs.

Here in London, Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jacobovits and the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, the Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, called on all British rabbis to recite the memorial prayers for the executed Iraqi Jews at Sabbath services this weekend. The Board of Deputies of British Jews organized an all-night vigil, attended by some 5,000 Jews, in front of the Iraqi Embassy and appealed to all international and national organizations concerned with human rights to express their "abhorrence of this act of judicial murder" to the Iraqi regime.

In Jerusalem, the Chief Rabbinate designated Thursday as a day of public prayer and fasting in mourning for the slain Iraqi Jews. In Rome, an emotion-charged but orderly crowd of 2,000 Rome Jews marched on the Iraqi Embassy and massed outside the bolted, shuttered building. Most Jewish shops in the capital were closed. Some had signs on their door reading: "closed to mourn the victims of the Baghdad massacre." In Montreal, 100 members of Betar, the Zionist-Revisionist youth organization, braved biting cold and freezing winds to demonstrate against the hangings in downtown Dominion Square. The Jewish Community Council and Zionist organizations scheduled a giant mass meeting of protest.

International and national Jewish organizations leaped into action in the belief that the Iraqi executions presaged a wave of killings of the Jewish hostages in Iraq and possibly other Arab countries. In Paris, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, World Jewish Congress president, cabled UN Secretary-General Thant urging UN action to secure the immediate emigration of the entire Jewish communities of Iraq, Syria and Egypt. He said these Jews, estimated today by an Israeli Foreign Ministry official to number about 10,000 were "in mortal danger."

In New York, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, urged the U.S. to initiate, through the UN, an investigation into the condition of the Jews in Iraq and other Arab states. Earl Morse, chairman of the board of trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform), urged President Nixon to have the U.S. lodge an immediate protest with Iraq, asserting that only a firm protest by the U.S. and other countries could avert "further atrocities of this nature."

Fifteen nationally known Catholic and Protestant clergymen, all officials of national and international church organizations, telegraphed President Nixon demanding that the U.S. condemn Iraq for the mass trials, and executions "with the same vigor with which we have condemned other acts of terrorism and reprisal in the Middle East." The 15 rejected the Iraqi Government claim that the executions were an internal affair and characterized them as "a matter for men of conscience of all creeds and beliefs to decry." Among those who signed the message to President Nixon were the Most Rev. Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference; Dr. Alford Carleton and Rev. Dr. Truman B. Douglass, vice presidents of the National Council of Churches; the Rev. Dr. Ben Mohr Herbster, president of the United Church of Christ.

The Canadian Jewish Congress revealed in Toronto that it had asked the Canadian Government to use its good offices "to protest this violation of fundamental human dignity and freedoms." In Brussels, the Belgian section of the World Jewish Congress telegraphed a plea to Prime Minister Gaston Eyskens for Belgian intervention to prevent further crimes against the helpless Jewish populations in Iraq and other Arab states.

### Sentence Jordanian Ex-Legislator Convicted Of Contacts With Iraqi Intelligence

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- A four-year prison term, of which two years were suspended, was pronounced by a Jenin military tribunal yesterday on a 42-year-old former member of the Jordanian Parliament found guilty of maintaining contacts with Iraqi intelligence agents with the intention of providing them with Israeli security information.

According to a 30-page indictment which was read in court, the defendant, Moustafa Naguib Abou Bacher, met with the Iraqi Ambassador in Amman in November, 1967 and agreed to supply Iraq with information of security value. He was discovered and kept under surveillance since the beginning of 1968. Although the court agreed that this had prevented him from engaging in espionage for Iraq, it decided to impose the relatively severe sentence as a deterrent to others.

An Egyptian saboteur believed responsible for placing a mine that caused the death of two Israeli soldiers and was connected with the disappearance of a third near the Suez Canal last August has been arrested by security forces and will soon stand trial. The missing Israeli was believed to have been dragged across the canal by Egyptian commandos and either died of wounds or was murdered.

### Thant Reiterates Support For Big Four Consultations, In UN Setting, On Mideast

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 28 (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary-General U Thant today reiterated his often-voiced support for Big Four consultations within a UN context aimed at a Mideast settlement. He said that the Arabs and Israel should be "involved in some stages" of Big Four (United States, Russia, Britain and France) consultations within the framework of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast settlement resolution that established the mission of intermediary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. That envoy resumed his mission at the UN today.

Mr. Thant called for Big Power consultations "collectively or individually" within a Council context and did not rule out "some sort of pressure." He declined to comment on whether a Big Four meeting was likely. France has proposed one, with the Kremlin's support. Britain has expressed unofficial support. The United States' National Security Council, President Nixon said yesterday, will consider on Saturday the "entire range of options" on Mideast policy, including Big Four consultations.

The Secretary-General said he agreed with Mr. Nixon's view of the Mideast as a "powder keg" that might explode bringing a superpower nuclear confrontation. In this context, he opposed an imposed Mideast peace as leading to further problems in coming years. He preferred Big Power "moral pressure" leading to peace. Mr. Nixon has taken the position that Mideast differences should be settled by parties in the region.

### 3 Trade Agreements With Israel Under Study By EEC Council Of Ministers

BRUSSELS, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Three proposals for trade agreements with Israel were under study by the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) which is meeting here. They call for a non-preferential trade agreement, proposed by France; a limited preferential agreement, supported by Italy and Belgium; and an unlimited preferential agreement supported by Holland, West Germany and Luxembourg. The preference applies to tariffs and other levies on goods sold to EEC countries.

A commission of the EEC went on record in May, 1967 and again in October, 1968 in favor of an unlimited preferential agreement with Israel covering all industrial products and assuring the maintenance of Israel's competitive position for its agricultural products with those of other Mediterranean countries associated with the EEC.

### One Of Soviet Soyuz-5 Cosmonauts Is Jewish, 'London Jewish Chronicle' Reports

LONDON, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The commander of the Soviet space-ship Soyuz-5 which was involved in the first space link-up, is a Jew, the London Jewish Chronicle reported in a front page story. According to the paper's special correspondent on East European affairs, 34-year-old Lt. Col. Boris Volynov is the son of a Jewish mother, which makes him a Jew according to Soviet law and by Jewish religious law. His father's nationality is not known. The Chronicle said that one strong indication of Volynov's Jewish origin is the fact that the Soviet authorities reversed their practice of announcing the nationality of cosmonauts engaged in space exploration three months before the Soyuz-5 launching. The nationality of cosmonauts was always stressed in the past.

## Halpern Asks Rogers For Report On Relationship Of De Gaulle's Policies To Franc

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Rep. Seymour Halpern, ranking Republican member of the International Finance Subcommittee of the House Banking and Currency Committee, today asked Secretary of State William P. Rogers for "an immediate report on indications that the anti-Israel policies of President de Gaulle of France are designed to attract hard currency deposits by Arab oil sheikhs to the Bank of France to strengthen the franc and manipulate other currencies including the dollar." The Congressman said that banking sources in Paris and Beirut have confirmed his suspicion that "the decline of the Franc led de Gaulle to a desperate and cynical accommodation with the Arabs even though it facilitates Soviet designs and undermines American interests. It appears that de Gaulle is irresponsibly exploiting what President Nixon has termed a 'powder-keg' situation in the Middle East. He is doing this while piously and hypocritically proposing so-called peace plans hatched in Moscow and Cairo" said Rep. Halpern.

Rep. Halpern told Secretary Rogers that "our Government must respond immediately. De Gaulle is jeopardizing the shaky Mideastern balance and risking a world nuclear conflagration by throwing France behind the Arabs in a desperate gamble for massive hard currency transfers to Paris from American, British, and other banks." He said he was "certain that President Nixon will address himself to this sidelight of de Gaulle's policies on Saturday when he devotes the day to formulation of Mideastern policy and prepares the U.S. response to the French note proposing Big Four talks on the Arab-Israeli crisis."

It was reported from Beirut that leading Lebanese parliamentarians today called for withdrawal of Arab bank accounts from countries supporting Israel and depositing of such funds in the Bank of France in appreciation of Gen. de Gaulle's embargo on spare parts and military equipment for Israel. The French newspaper Combat said Gen. de Gaulle has proposed a secret plan to strengthen the Bank of France with Arab deposits, permitting him to undermine British and American currencies. Combat also said contacts with Russia have been ordered by Gen. de Gaulle for an agreement for joint support of the Arabs to "encircle and neutralize" Israel. The plan reportedly involves technical and military aid and military experts. France would be responsible for Israel's northern and eastern flank, including Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. The Soviet Union would insinuate itself into Jordan and build up its position in Egypt, it said. Jordan has just signed a trade agreement -- its first -- with Russia.

## Brooklyn Jewish Community Council Demands Ouster Of Rights Commissioner Booth

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The Brooklyn Jewish Community Council demanded today the removal from public office of William H. Booth, chairman of the city's Human Rights Commission, for alleged failure to take action against anti-Semitic utterances and writings made by city employees or disseminated by city institutions. The demand, made to Mayor John V. Lindsay and other members of his administration, referred specifically to anti-Semitic statements contained in the introduction to the catalogue for the "Harlem On My Mind" exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a city institution, and an anti-Semitic poem read over a local radio station, WBAI-FM, by Leslie R. Campbell, a Negro school teacher employed by the city. The community group also demanded that the Board of Education initiate proceedings against Mr. Campbell and suspend him without pay pending final disposition of his case.

The Council charged that Mr. Booth "has failed to condemn the (catalogue) utterance. On the contrary, he has indicated that it isn't subject to criticism since it is an expression of fact." Another Council target was Thomas P. Hoving, museum director, who was assailed for not suspending circulation of the offending catalogue.

In another development related to the growing Negro-Jewish conflict here, City Council president Francis X. Smith declared that if Mayor Lindsay did not call a "summit conference" of civic leaders to deal with racial tension, he would do so himself. Mr. Smith, a political opponent of the Mayor, proposed such a conference last week. In a statement on WEVD radio yesterday, he said so far he had received no reply. Mr. Smith said he would urge the Federal Communications Commission to suspend the license of WBAI-FM, because of anti-Semitic remarks by a Negro guest on a program last week. The guest, Tyrone Woods, said Hitler "didn't make enough lampshades out of Jews." His remarks sparked Jewish Defense League demands for the dismissal of Julius Lester, a Negro activist on whose program Mr. Tyrone appeared, a public apology by the station and a pledge that it would eliminate all anti-Semitic material from broadcasts. Those demands were categorically rejected yesterday by Dr. Harold Taylor, chairman of the station's board, as counter to Constitutional free speech guarantees. Mr. Taylor said, "The anti-Semitic views expressed over WBAI are deeply repugnant" to everyone at the station but to take steps to eliminate such views "would betray the First Amendment and would fall into the trap of those who would refine the rawness of truth to make it socially convenient."

## Gray Line Given Concession To Operate In Israel Despite Official Opposition

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- An American tourist bus and package tour company was granted a concession to operate in Israel today despite a prolonged fight against it by Israeli tour companies and Transport Minister Moshe Carmel. The concession was granted by a ministerial committee headed by Minister of Justice Yaacov S. Shapiro to Gray Line Inc., which operates sight-seeing buses and tours in the United States and several other countries. An official of the company, David Grant of Los Angeles, said in a telephone interview broadcast by Kol Israel radio that his company would bring some 400,000 tourists annually to Israel. The concession to Gray Line will break the virtual monopoly of the Israeli tourist trade enjoyed for many years by Egged, the motorbus cooperative, and United Tours of Israel, Lt