

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## National Security Council Sets 2nd Mideast Session; Expect Nixon Reply To French Note

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The National Security Council will hold its second full-dress meeting this week on the Middle East crisis amid signs that the United States may take its first step under the Nixon Administration toward helping bring peace to the area. The initial step, according to diplomatic sources, probably will be a reply to the French note of Jan. 16 proposing a Big Four meeting at the United Nations aimed at joint action on resolving the Arab-Israel dispute.

Official silence has prevailed on last Saturday's three-hour National Security Council meeting attended by President Nixon and his top foreign policy and military advisors. Well-informed sources said the Council could not be expected to blueprint an entirely new course for U.S. policy on the Mideast in its first session on the problem since Mr. Nixon took office Jan. 20. Officials said the reply to the French note will suggest that instead of a meeting of representatives of the U.S., Soviet Union, France and Britain at the UN, a joint Mideast formula should be achieved in bilateral talks.

It was understood that the U.S. will emphasize that whether the Four Powers meet formally or continue bi-lateral dialogues, they must avoid the impression that they plan to impose a solution on the Arabs and Israel. Rather, emphasis must be placed on reaching a solution within the UN framework and through Secretary-General U Thant's special Mideast representative, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, officials said.

One apparent indication of the Administration's emphasis on using the UN was Mr. Nixon's discussions with Secretary of State William P. Rogers on shifting Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for UN Affairs, to the post of Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs. He was expected to succeed Parker T. Hart, career diplomat and Near East specialist.

The Johnson Administration was cool to a Four Power approach on the grounds that it might be construed as an effort to impose a Mideast settlement--an approach strenuously opposed by Israel which insists on Arab-Israel negotiations leading to a treaty. Since taking office, the Nixon Administration has suggested that it is not committed to Johnson policies and must take a more active role in the pursuit of peace. At his Jan. 27 press conference, Mr. Nixon emphasized the need for "new initiatives and new leadership on the part of the U.S. in order to cool off the situation in the Mideast," a situation he termed a "powder keg, very explosive." He warned that another Arab-Israel war could lead to a confrontation between the nuclear powers.

(Foreign Minister Abba Eban, of Israel yesterday sought to allay fears that the Mideast was on the brink of a new all-out war. He said in a radio interview that the cease-fire was not nearing collapse and there was no present danger of war or a Big Power confrontation. He stressed that "the situation in the Middle East will be a burden on peace as long as no agreed settlement is reached." He said that Mr. Nixon's reference to the region as a "powder keg" which must be "defused" did not seem to reflect any new attitude. Mr. Eban pointed out that Mr. Nixon had used the same phrase in reference to the Middle East during last fall's election campaign.)

Breitin has joined the Soviet Union and France in pushing for a Four Power meeting. Washington and the Kremlin have already been in contact on the Mideast question. Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, replying to a Dec. 30 Soviet note proposing a five-point peace plan, asked for clarification on a number of points.

### Nixon, Fisher Confer; Mideast, Iraqi Jews Believed On Agenda

In a related development, White House spokesman confirmed that Mr. Nixon met for more than an hour with Max M. Fisher of Detroit, the American Jewish leader closest to the President, on the eve of the Saturday Mideast policy deliberations. Mr. Fisher was co-chairman of the national Republican fund-raising team supporting the Nixon-Agnew ticket in the election last November. The meeting marked the first occasion since the inauguration that Mr. Nixon met at length with a personage prominently identified with the U.S. Jewish community.

Questioned by J.T.A., Mr. Fisher would comment only that he discussed "a wide range of subjects" with the President. The talk was believed to have covered such topics as the Iraqi persecution of Jews, the current Middle East crisis and efforts by the Soviet Union and France to impose a settlement unfavorable to Israel. The conversation may have included such issues as urban problems, racial tensions and the concept of voluntarism in solving the problems of American cities. Mr. Fisher, an industrialist, was appointed by Mr. Nixon during the election campaign as his special assistant on urban affairs. Mr. Fisher later met with former Gov. George Romney of Michigan, new Secretary of Housing, and Urban Development. Mr. Fisher is a personal friend of Mr. Romney.

West Germany's new Ambassador to the United States and former Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Rolf Pauls, said here, referring to the Middle East, that never in history has an imposed solution solved any problems. He presented his credentials to Mr. Nixon.

## Moscow Says Executions Were 'Justified' While Arab World Takes Dim View Of Spectacle

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- A Moscow radio broadcast monitored here today said that Iraq was "fully justified" in hanging 14 alleged spies, nine of them Jews, in Baghdad and Basra last Monday. In the first Soviet comment on the hangings, the broadcast charged that the executions were being exploited by "imperialist and Zionist propaganda machines" and referred to "terrible crimes" by Israeli occupation forces in Arab territory. A majority of the Arab world appeared revolted by the brutal public executions although not necessarily with the motivation for them. The chief concern in Cairo, Beirut and other Arab capitals seemed to be that the Baghdad spectacle had increased world sympathy for Israel at a time when world opinion was beginning to favor the Arabs as a result of Israel's Dec. 28 reprisal raid on Beirut Airport.

The semi-official Cairo daily Al Ahram, which often reflects the opinions of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, commented: "The hanging of 14 people in public squares is certainly not a heart-warming sight, nor is it an occasion for organizing a festival and issuing invitations." The paper was replying to Iraqi complaints that the Arab states did not come to their defense against the storm of world protests. But the newspaper thought that Iraq had "a sound case" for convicting the alleged spies.

The Moroccan news agency, Maghreb Arabe Presse, called the hangings "a lamentable spectacle and a monumental psychological error." The Star, an English-language newspaper in Beirut, called the executions a "bloody orgy" that "sickened the heart of every thinking Arab," but said that Israel had no right to retaliate because the executed men were Iraqi citizens.

In Baghdad yesterday, Information Minister Abdullah Salloum Samarri said new spy trials would begin shortly--they had previously been reported under way--and pledged that his Government would "hang convicted spies in the public squares" regardless of world opinion. In the new trials 35 Jews are accused of spying for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Samarri said Baghdad would show "leniency" toward Paul T. Bail, of Conneautville, Pa., American oil engineer arrested last month on suspicion of being an "Israeli spy."

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol pledged to a group of Iraqi immigrants that Israel would spare no effort to ease the plight of Jews in Iraq and other Arab lands. Israeli envoys in various countries have asked foreign governments to seek ways to have them transported to nearby countries from which they could emigrate. A number of Israeli Arab leaders protested the hangings as "nothing but education for bloodshed, fit for blood-thirsty canibals." Israeli officials said they would seek a United Nations-supervised evacuation of Iraqi Jews. The newspaper Maariv reported that Israel asked several Western nations to let Iraq know that further executions would do them "serious damage" for which Israel would accept responsibility, but officials denied the report, saying Israel would not give Iraq an excuse for further harming its captive Jewish population.

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the major Christian faiths in Israel have gone to Amman, Jordan, to seek clemency for two West Bank Arab taxi drivers recently sentenced to death as spies. Pope Paul has also reportedly intervened on behalf of Anton Nasser and Zuheir Abu Rodeina.

## Police, Pickets Clash In N.Y.; Mansfield Hits Executions; Halpern Offers Evacuation Plan

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Anger over the public hangings and spy trials continued to reverberate today.

New York police clashed today with demonstrators protesting the hangings in front of Iraq's UN mission and arrested four. The clash occurred while a crowd estimated at 2,000 held a protest rally and memorial service sponsored by the Young Israel movement in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. The incident took place when police forcibly removed a demonstrator from a tree which he had climbed to fix a hangman's noose. Three other demonstrators were dragged away when they sought to prevent the tree-climber's arrest.

In Washington, Sen. Democratic Majority leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said today that the hangings were "a reprehensible act" but he feared there was "nothing we can do." Appearing on the ABC-TV program "Issues and Answers," Sen. Mansfield said he was "glad Israel has shown restraint" because "I do not favor this tit-for-tat policy for reprisal."

Jews could be evacuated by Air India from Baghdad, the Indian Government was told today by Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican. In a statement, Rep. Halpern, ranking Republican on the House sub-committee on international finance, called on India, the major beneficiary of a huge foreign development bill pending before his sub-committee, to use its good offices toward that end as Iraq's diplomatic representative in the U.S. When Iraq severed relations with the U.S. during the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war, it named India to represent its interests in Washington.

Rep. Halpern said that India, which has received billions of dollars in various form of U.S. aid and loans, is the largest beneficiary of the proposed new four-year U.S. commitment to the International Development Association pending before his unit. The Association is a U.S.-sponsored program to aid developing nations. He said India should "show a measure of compassion for the Jews of Iraq" by pre-arranging on Baghdad to permit an emergency airlift evacuating the estimated 2,500 remaining Iraqi Jews.

According to Rep. Halpern's estimate, Air India could evacuate Iraqi Jewry in less than one week of shuttle flights. He said, "Other airlines could rush to lend planes to Air India just as the airlines of the world sped to the assistance of Arab aviation companies" after Israeli commandos destroyed 13 Arab commercial aircraft at Beirut Airport on Dec. 28. He said India could be compensated for expenses involved including air fares by Jewish philanthropies, and that special visas could be issued by the U.S. Government under immigration provisions providing emergency sanctuary for refugees from political or religious persecution.

## Treatment Of Jewry In Russia, Poland Condemned In Council Of Europe Report

STRASSBOURG, France, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The treatment of Jews in Russia and Poland was strongly condemned in a report adopted yesterday by the Council of Europe which is meeting here. The council's plenary labeled the report an intermediate assessment of the situation and agreed to return to the subject of Eastern European Jews at a future session.

The report was presented to a special committee on the problems of non-member groups by Bruno Piterman, a Socialist leader and former vice-chancellor of Austria. It noted that discriminatory treatment of Jews has become official policy in Russia and Poland "in crass contradiction of the principles and declarations on human rights of the United Nations." According to the report, no anti-Semitism or discrimination against Jews was found in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

### 10,000 British, Mostly Students, Protest Soviet Anti-Semitism

LONDON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Some 10,000 persons, mostly students, marched to the Soviet Embassy today to protest Russian anti-Semitism. A delegation handed a petition to an Embassy official who told them, "You have been deceived about the situation of Soviet Jews." Demonstration sponsors were the Universities Committee for Soviet Jews and the Inter-University Jewish Federation. The demonstrators then marched to the Iraqi Embassy to protest the execution of 14 persons, nine of them Jews, on spy charges. Prayers for the dead were recited there. (In Leeds some 3,000 attended an open air service for the Iraqi Jews.)

### Soviet, East German Propaganda Organs Blast Czechs Sik And Goldstuecker

LONDON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Soviet and East German propaganda organs have singled out two prominent Czech liberals, both Jews, to blame for the current wave of protests in that country against repressive measures imposed by Moscow. Former Vice Premier Ota Sik and Prof. Eduard Goldstuecker, president of the Czech Writers Union, have been held responsible for the recent self-immolation of several Czech students in gestures of opposition to Soviet attempts to crush liberal reforms.

Dr. Sik and Dr. Goldstuecker both returned to Prague recently from self-imposed exile to take their oaths as members of the Czech regional assembly. An East German radio broadcast assailed Dr. Goldstuecker as "an oppressor of creative Marxist writers, a proponent of the theory of alienation, a fraternizer with the Western secret service and a man who encouraged anti-social forces and served the imperialists." Dr. Sik, author of the economic reforms under the regime of Alexander Dubcek, was accused of "associating the Czech economy with capitalist monopolists and their crises of unemployment and exploitation."

Dr. Goldstuecker and Dr. Sik left Czechoslovakia at the time of the Soviet invasion last summer. The former is a visiting professor at Sussex University in England and the latter lectures at the University of Basel in Switzerland. Both were warmly welcomed when they returned to Prague and reportedly told colleagues that they intended to return permanently to Czechoslovakia when their present university commitments are fulfilled. The Czech news media pay scant attention to the Soviet and East German broadcasts attempting to whip up anti-Semitism among the Czech populace.

### Poll Finds Frenchmen Do Not Share Press, Politicians' Views On Gaullist Policies

PARIS, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- A poll taken by France's largest public opinion research organization has shown that the average Frenchman does not share the opposition to President Charles de Gaulle's pro-Arab Middle East policies and his military embargo against Israel that has been strongly expressed by leading French political figures and most sections of the press. The poll was conducted at the end of January by the I.F.O.P. at the request of the mass circulation newspaper, France Soir.

It disclosed that 37 percent of those questioned approved the de Gaulle embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel and 37 percent disapproved. Thirty-three percent expressed disapproval of Gen. de Gaulle's overall Middle East policy but 31 percent approved, an increase of one percent since the last poll was taken on the issue in December. A majority of Frenchmen--52 percent--approved of de Gaulle's efforts to establish closer ties with Soviet Russia, a policy linked to France's stand on the Middle East.

### 2 Palestinian Terrorists Who Attacked El Al Plane In Athens Face Trial Soon

ATHENS, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Two Palestinian Arab terrorists who attacked an El Al airliner at Athens Airport last Dec. 26 will go on trial shortly as common criminals, authoritative Greek sources said today. Their attack, with grenades and machine guns, resulted in the death of one Israeli passenger aboard the plane and severe injuries to a stewardess. Greek officials said that politics would not enter into the trial. "A man has been killed and his killers must face the consequences," they said. Greece has diplomatic relations with Israel.

### ICAO Special Session Ends, Action Postponed Indefinitely On Lebanese Complaint

MONTREAL, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- A special session of the International Civil Aviation Organization, called by Lebanon over Israel's retaliatory raid last Dec. 28 on the Beirut international airport has ended with a unanimous decision by all ICAO members to postpone indefinitely any action on the Lebanese complaint. The decision was announced by Walter Pinaghi, ICAO president. Lebanon had demanded that the ICAO punish Israel for the Beirut raid with sanctions and that Israel be expelled from the 116-member organization, a special United Nations agency with headquarters in Montreal.

### Trudeau Denies Charging Israel With Being An Expansionist Nation

MONTREAL, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau denied in the House of Commons a Christian Science Monitor report that he had called Israel an expansionist state that had to be checked.

## Report 2 El Fatah Members Touring U.S., Canada To Raise Funds, Propagandize

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Two members of El Fatah, the Palestinian commando organization, are touring the United States and Canada in an effort to raise money from Arab-Americans and sympathy for their cause among the general population, Washington Post correspondent George Lardner Jr. reported from Los Angeles today. They are having scant success obtaining funds from sympathetic but generally tight-fisted Arab-Americans, most of whom are of Lebanese or Syrian descent, Mr. Lardner wrote. Arab-Americans are intensely anti-Israel but they are fragmented, some attracted to the far right and white racist organizations, others to the extreme left wing.

Mr. Lardner described a recent fund-raising meeting at the headquarters of the Lebanese-Syrian American Society in Los Angeles. It was addressed by two El Fatah emissaries, Akram Abdul Majeed and Yousef Hanafi, both Palestinians and both 28. Their audience consisted of doctors, students, priests and assorted businessmen. Their theme was that guerrilla warfare was the only way to wrest Palestine from the Israelis. Donations were solicited by George E. Shibley, general counsel for the United Arab American Congress. "At length, between \$400 and \$500 is raised from an audience of some 75 of the Arabic community's biggest spenders," Mr. Lardner reported. He said a "Night of Artists" sponsored by the United Arab American Congress last August to raise funds for Sirhan B. Sirhan, the Jordanian immigrant on trial for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, raised only \$1,500 toward its goal of \$5,000.

Mr. Lardner estimated the Arab-American population at about one million, the Syrians and Lebanese being the old-timers with a sprinkling of Palestinians and Jordanians who arrived since 1948. He noted that the Jewish population of New York City alone is more than twice the Arabs' numbers. He said the Lebanese and Syrians, most of whom started out as peddlers and eventually built small businesses, are conservative by nature and tend to vote Republican.

## B'nai B'rith Executive Says Black Extremists Use Anti-Semitism To Gain Following

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Rabbi Jay Kufman, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith, today accused Negro extremists of using anti-Semitism as a "conscious and cynical deceit" to win a following in the black ghetto. He said "effective counter-action" to the rise in anti-Jewish sentiment "must come from within the Negro community itself," adding, the white community, while "offering aid when requested or when mutually agreed upon, can only play a secondary role."

Addressing B'nai B'rith's board of governors, Rabbi Kaufman charged that Negro extremists are exploiting anti-Semitism to "cloak the emptiness of their solutions to real ills and to gain support" in black ghettos. "Unable to offer any constructive program to mitigate the suffering among deprived Negroes, they offer them the jobs Jews have attained through training, labor, proficiency and seniority," he said. "It is a cheap and larcenous scheme."

In calling for a "vigorous campaign of Negro counter-action to black anti-Semitism," Rabbi Kaufman said it was deplorable that while the vast majority of Negroes may not accept extremists' views, "little has been done to resist the infection." "The problem," he added, "is that quiescent acceptance of anti-Semitism in the Negro community is regarded as a fact of life--realistic if not legitimate."

## Protestant Leader Says Mideast Conflict Should Not Hurt Jewish-Christian Relations

MILWAUKEE, Wisc., Feb. 2 (JTA) -- The president of a two million-member Protestant denomination warned here today that the Arab-Israel conflict in the Middle East must not be permitted to injure relations between Jews and Christians in the United States "no matter to which side our sympathies may be directed." The Rev. Ben M. Herbst, of New York City, speaking at the ninth annual assembly of the United Church of Christ, said, "We must understand and sympathize with the earnest concern of men for their co-religionists whose welfare and lives are threatened by violence and the possibilities of renewed warfare."

Dr. Herbst also expressed regret at the growing charges and counter-charges between Jews and Negroes. "I am troubled by irresponsible charges that Jews are limiting the freedom and opportunity of black men, and the angry retorts that the great majority of black men are anti-Semitic," Dr. Herbst said. He noted that Jews have been "in the forefront of the fight for equality" and said he did not believe any large numbers of blacks "think of Jews other than as neighbors and friends."

## Hold Man In \$200,000 Jan. 11 Bombing Of Synagogue In Suburban Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA) -- Police this weekend were holding a 30-year-old Cheverly, Md. man on charges of dynamiting Jan. 11 the Shaare Tikvah synagogue in suburban Temple Hills, Md. Damage to the year-old synagogue was estimated at \$200,000. A small arsenal was found in the home of David V. Maness, an electrical worker, along with a printed list of synagogues in Prince Georges County, where Shaare Tikvah is located, and a hand-drawn map of the Temple Hills area.

Among the charges filed against Maness were dynamiting of a house of worship. Some 38 pounds of dynamite, fuses and detonation tapes were found in his home along with weapons and ammunition after police picked him up in a car stopped when it was recognized as belonging to a convicted felon. Found also in the home was a quantity of literature produced by the extreme right-wing Minutemen organization which teaches its members guerrilla warfare. Officials did not say whether Maness was a Minutemen member.

Rabbi Robert Chernoff, the synagogue's spiritual leader, said he hoped "there will be no premature judgments made against the man." There were no injuries in the explosion as the synagogue was empty on the Saturday night that it occurred. The rabbi said repairs had begun. The congregation is meeting in a church.