

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVI Fifty-Second Year

Wednesday, February 5, 1969

No. 25

Hartke Asks Rogers Whether U.S. Taxpayer Is Subsidizing Iraqi Troops In Jordan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- The United States Government may be indirectly financing Iraqi military units based in Jordan, including artillery units that have fired on Israeli kibbutzim, according to Sen. Vance Hartke, Indiana Democrat. Sen. Hartke, a member of the Commerce Committee, which handles revenue legislation, has asked Secretary of State William P. Rogers for a report on continued American financial assistance to Jordan and on possible Jordanian diversion of support funds to cover logistical costs of Iraqi units stationed on its territory.

The Senator suggested that Jordan may be compensating Iraq for rations, lodging, and even munitions and pay for such Iraqi military components as the Saladdin Brigade now in northern Jordan. The inquiry followed recent developments in Baghdad including the hanging of Jews.

Col. Robert S. Allen, a nationally syndicated writer who specializes on military matters, wrote today that the Iraqi forces were "equipped with Russian guns, radar, and other advanced devices." He said "Soviet Army instructors and technicians" trained the Iraqis now in Jordan menacing Israel. According to Col. Allen, the U.N. may have been indirectly "footing the bill" for the Iraqi forces in Jordan since June, 1967. He cited various categories of aid and support funds given to Jordan, which totalled over \$622 million between 1946 and 1968, and new allocations. Col. Allen learned from authoritative sources, apparently military quarters, that some of the U.S. funds given to Jordan had been diverted by King Hussein to defray the expenses of Iraqi forces in Jordan. State Department officials declined to comment.

Israelis Fear U.S. Agreement To 4 Power Talks Could Lead To Imposed Settlement

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Israel is growing increasingly concerned over the possibility that American agreement to a Four Power meeting on the Middle East could lead to a solution imposed from outside the region. Foreign Ministry resources indicated today that developments in Washington concerning Four Power talks were being watched closely. It was felt that such talks could lead to the formation of a permanent body that would meet periodically on the issue.

Such a body, Israeli diplomats say, could work its way toward finding a solution arrived at by the Four Powers but not by the parties to the conflict. Even if such an agreement were not formally termed an "imposed" solution, that is what it could amount to, the sources said.

Israel is also concerned over the possibility of broadening the mandate of United Nations special envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring and thereby changing the character of his mission. Foreign Ministry sources pointed out that the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution on the Mideast instructed Dr. Jarring to "promote agreement" between the two sides. Proponents of Four Power talks envisage a more substantive role for the UN envoy. Israel has not altered its insistence that any revision of the present status based on the June, 1967 cease-fire agreements must be brought about by negotiations between the two sides directly concerned. It is opposed to the French proposal of turning Dr. Jarring into the executor of the Security Council's resolution with Big Power backing rather than serving as an intermediary whose task it is to bring the two sides together. Israel has made its position clear to the U.S. and Britain. While both powers have not rejected the French overtures outright, it is still hoped that they will not go along with France's idea of a Middle East solution dictated by the Four Powers. The feeling in Israel is that while the Soviet Union and France pay "lip service" to the idea that the Big Powers should consult with both sides in the dispute, their real intent is to return the Middle East to the situation that existed before June 5, 1967, when the Six-Day War broke out.

Israeli Officials See Nothing New In 'Peace Proposals' Offered By Nasser

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4, (JTA) -- Government officials said today that there was nothing new in the "peace proposals" made by Egyptian President Gamal Nasser in an interview published in the current issue of Newsweek magazine. Sources here noted that Col. Nasser adroitly avoided such vital questions as Israel's right to free passage through the Suez Canal. He spoke of free passage through "international waterways", but he considers the Suez Canal to be Egyptian territorial waters, they said. Similarly, they pointed out, Col. Nasser's interpretation of "a just solution" of the refugee problem is that all Palestinian refugees of the 1948 war and their offspring should return to Palestine, thus driving out the Jews.

A report in Time magazine that the Israel Cabinet decided in secret to establish 33 fortified settlements in occupied Arab territory was denied today by Cabinet secretary Michael Arnon. Mr. Arnon said there was no secret Cabinet meeting on the matter and that details of the Time report were incorrect.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said today that while there was nothing much of "significance" in the interview given by President Nasser to Newsweek, the United States still found the interview encouraging in that Nasser stated a desire for peace. State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey said, "We welcome gestures of this nature," but "we do not attach much significance to the substance of his remarks. However, it is encouraging that President Nasser was willing to go on record

with his terms for peace."

In the interview, President Nasser proposed a five-point peace program that would be contingent for its implementation on Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied during the June, 1967 war.

He said that if Israel withdrew from the occupied territories, he would offer: a declaration of non-belligerence; recognition of the right of each country to live in peace; the territorial integrity of all countries in the Middle East, including Israel, in recognized and secure borders; and freedom of navigation in international waterways. Col. Nasser did not make clear whether his fifth point, a just solution of the Palestinian refugee problem, was a condition for the other four points. "The United Nations has said over and over again, 'the right to return or compensation,'" Col. Nasser said.

The Egyptian leader did not guarantee that he would take directly to Israeli representatives if a withdrawal were accomplished but did not reject the possibility. He noted that Arabs and Israelis met directly during the armistice negotiations following the 1948 Middle East War and said, "We are prepared to do so again." He stressed that there was possibility of direct talks unless Israel withdrew.

Plans For Development 100 Mile Stretch Between Dead Sea, Aqaba Gulf Announced

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Plans for the development of the Arava region, an arid 100 mile stretch extending from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba, were outlined today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of Keren Hayesod, the fund-raising arm of the World Zionist movement. Dr. Goldstein told reporters who accompanied him on a day-long tour of the region that plans called for the establishment of two new settlements this year, the improvement of security measures, and the link-up of the seven existing settlements with the national electric power grid and telephone system.

Dr. Goldstein said the total expenditure in the Arava region this year will amount to \$5 million, exclusive of security measures, of which the Jewish Agency will provide about \$900,000. The Arava settlements are expected eventually to become a source of supply of fresh fruits, vegetables and milk for the port of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba which now gets its fresh supplies from the coastal region around Tel Aviv. He said that security measures included paving interior roads to prevent the planting of mines, construction of security fences and underground shelters in all settlements.

One of the new settlements will be called Qetura. The other will be a revival of Neot Hakikar as a small-holders village. The site is presently occupied by a private group as a jumping-off place for tours and a hostel. Dr. Goldstein said the Jewish Agency planned to expand the agricultural output of all settlements in the region.

Grenade Explodes In Gaza Killing 2 Boys, Minutes After Dayan Toured City

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- A grenade thrown at an Israel Army truck in a Gaza square yesterday exploded in a crowd killing two Arab boys, aged nine and 16, and injuring 10 other Arabs. The incident occurred minutes after Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Dayan completed a 90 minute tour of the city in an effort to ease tensions in the wake of Sunday's riot of Gaza high school girls. Another grenade was thrown at an Israeli Army vehicle later but caused no casualties. The person who threw the grenades is unknown.

The wave of unrest among Arab school children spread to Nablus today where youngsters demonstrated against the arrest of three Gaza high school students. The three were sentenced to three-month jail terms but were released on bail provided by their parents. A curfew was imposed on sections of Nablus.

Israeli officials attributed Sunday's riot and other incidents to incitement by radio broadcasts from neighboring Arab countries. Gen. Dayan spoke to town elders, parents, teachers and pupils as he walked through the town and visited several schools. The girls' high school where the Gaza riot occurred was closed today. Ninety-five girls were injured, and several required hospitalization after a clash Sunday with club-swinging Israeli police. The girls had set up a roadblock and were stoning passing vehicles.

El Fatah Leader Yassir Arafat Vows To Escalate Guerrilla Warfare, Named PLO Head

LONDON, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- The leader of the El Fatah terrorist organization vowed in Cairo yesterday that he would escalate guerrilla warfare against Israel until it became a "popular war of liberation," it was reported here.

Yassir Arafat spoke to newsmen following his election as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), an amalgam of several guerrilla bands and Arab refugees from Israel-occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat said armed force was the only solution to the Arab-Israel dispute for the Palestinians and ruled out "all political solutions." The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram commented today that Arafat's orders would be the topic of meetings in refugee camps in Jordan. The PLO was easily and rapidly overcome during the Six-Day War by Israeli forces. It was directed at the time by Ahmed Shukairy.

Jews And Christians Throughout Free World Raise Voices Against Iraqi Executions

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Concern over the fate of the 2,500-3,000 Jews in Iraq, intensified by the recent execution of nine Iraqi Jews alleged to have been spies for Israel and threats that more of that beleaguered community would face drumhead courts, was manifested today in many capitals of the free world. Spokesmen for some governments indicated a readiness to participate in

rescue actions.

In Amsterdam, JTA quoted Foreign Minister Joseph Luns as announcing that Jews leaving Arab countries would be welcome in Holland. At The Hague, a Socialist Party spokesman asked the Minister of Justice, Prof. Carl Polak, to issue visas for Iraqi Jews. In Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry announced that Brazil's permanent representative to the United Nations had been instructed to inform the Iraqi Government of Brazil's "grave, humanitarian concern" over the fate of the Iraqi Jewish community and the treatment given Jewish leaders. In Stockholm, foreign ministers of the Scandinavian community--Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland--adopted a resolution warning that the Baghdad executions would adversely affect prospects for a peace settlement in the Middle East.

In the first reported published comment on the executions made in the East European Communist satellite bloc, a Bratislava newspaper, Pravda, denounced the "inhuman methods and actions" of the Iraqi regime. The Slovak daily warned that such actions would only harm Arab prestige in the world. It said the executions were more in the nature of settling old scores than of liquidating spies.

Mrs. Rita Hauser, the young New Yorker appointed by President Nixon as the American representative on the United Nations Human Rights Commission and U N Economic and Social Council, said in Washington today that the execution of the Iraqi Jews would be the first agenda subject taken up by the Commission when it meets in Geneva, Feb. 14. She expressed concern over the fate of the Iraqi Jewish community and said she would urge the President to press for U. S. ratification of the human rights and genocide conventions.

In Paris, Dr. Nahum Goldman, World Jewish Congress president, continued efforts to line up governments and international organizations behind the WJC plea to U N Secretary-General U Thant to seek the emigration of Iraqi Jews.

Massive Crowd Marches Through Jerusalem Streets, Hears Beigin

A massive demonstration of solidarity with the Jews of Iraq was given in Jerusalem today. Thousands marched through the main streets of the city after hearing Menachem Beigin, Minister Without Portfolio, appeal to the nations of the world and international organizations to aid the Jews remaining in Iraq. Another Cabinet member, Police Minister Eliahu Sasson, participated in the memorial services for the nine hanged Jews, lighting nine candles. He told the throng that the world could not be absolved of responsibility for the fate of the slain men, since it had failed to exert enough pressure on Iraq to block the executions.

In Venezuela, Msgr. Jose Rincon Bonilla, Auxiliary Bishop of Caracas, and Father Pedro Barnola, dean of the faculty of humanities of the Catholic University, took part in a mass meeting to protest the executions. Leaders of the Venezuelan Jewish community appealed to the Venezuelan Government to help prevent further executions and to seek permission for the Jews to leave Iraq, Syria and Egypt. In Rio de Janeiro, special prayers were being recited in all synagogues for the well being of the Iraqi Jews.

In Hamilton, Ont., more than a thousand Jews--a quarter of the entire Jewish community--attended a demonstration for Iraqi Jewry organized by the Hamilton Council of Jewish Organizations. They telegraphed an appeal to Mitchell Sharp, Canadian Minister for External Affairs, asking his aid to prevent further trials of Jews in Iraq, the release of the remaining Iraqi Jews and the observance by Iraq of U N resolutions calling for humane treatment for civilian prisoners. In Toronto, more than 2,000 attended an open-air prayer meeting for the Iraqi Jews.

In West Orange, N.J., local Christian religious leaders joined in a demonstration sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Essex (Newark and suburbs) and its Community Relations Committee. A memorial service was held for all 14 victims, including the five Moslems and Christians.

In New York, police arrested 10 persons yesterday as an emotion-charged crowd estimated at 10,000 massed in front of the Iraqi Mission to the U N in a demonstration organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. A memorial service for the nine executed Iraqi Jews was held at Kehilath Jeshurun Synagogue. Rabbi Herschel M. Schacter, chairman of the Conference, said today that the demonstration was "the greatest act of Jewish solidarity since the Six-Day War." He said the demonstration recalled the anti-Nazi rallies in Madison Square Garden during the 1930's and 1940's. The Very Rev. Adrian Herbert, representing Archbishop Terence Cook, and Rev. Howard Moody of Judson Memorial Church, participated in the memorial service conducted by Rabbi Haskell Lookstein. Bayard Rustin, Negro leader, accompanied Rabbi Schacter in depositing a letter on the steps of the Iraqi Mission asking that the Jews be permitted to leave Iraq.

Hadassah Urges Nixon To Oppose Russian Attempts To Impose A Settlement

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, urged President Nixon yesterday to "vigorously oppose" any attempts by the Soviet Union to "impose a settlement" in the Middle East "without negotiations between the two parties concerned." The national board of Hadassah, holding a four-day conference here, sent a letter to the President asking that the Government take several points into consideration in dealing with the Middle East crisis.

The letter said that President Charles de Gaulle's attempts to urge Britain and the U.S. to accept the Soviet peace proposals for the Middle East should be viewed against the background of his recent embargo on military equipment and spare parts to Israel. "In light of his posture toward Israel, his endorsement underscores the danger to Israel of the USSR proposals," the Hadassah letter said. It also said that the Arab states must be made to understand that they are responsible for ending terror-

ism against Israel; that secure and recognized boundaries can only be negotiated by the parties concerned; and that the Arabs must be persuaded to negotiate with Israel. The Hadassah letter expressed agreement with an election campaign statement made by Mr. Nixon last fall that the U.S. should make sure that Israel always has a preponderance of military strength over the Arabs to deter aggression.

In a resolution condemning outspoken anti-Semitism of Negro militants, Hadassah declared, "In their legitimate struggle for civil rights, blacks cannot be permitted to make Jews the scapegoats of their frustrations." The resolution said, "Purveyors of anti-Semitism have no place in the schools, in the press, radio or TV, or in any area of public service and should be summarily dismissed."

The organization condemned the hangings of nine Iraqi Jews as an act of "savagery and barbarism." It called on the appropriate organs of the United Nations to "influence the Iraqi Government to permit the pitifully small remnant of a once thriving Jewish community to leave peacefully." In another resolution, Hadassah urged the Soviet Union "to permit Jews throughout the USSR freely to develop Jewish communal and religious life and institutions; to make available the educational institutions, schools, teachers, textbooks and scholarly material necessary to teach Jews their heritage; and to permit Jews wishing to emigrate to do so in order to be reunited with their families.

Mrs. Max Schenk, national president, announced the establishment by Hadassah and the Hebrew University of a medical and dental research fund. Each will contribute \$30,000 annually for three years to be used for both clinical and pre-clinical research, she said. The Hadassah national board also voted to improve and expand its medical facilities in Israel. Hadassah spends more than \$9 million annually on various projects in Israel which include, health, educational and social welfare programs.

Jewish Agency Treasurer Dultzin Arrives In U.S. With Busy Fund-Raising Agenda

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA) -- Leon Dultzin, treasurer of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, arrived in New York today to attend a series of meetings of the Jewish Agency--American Section, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal. He will also confer with American Jewish leaders on the philanthropic needs of Israel. He was to address tomorrow a meeting of the Executive of the Jewish Agency--American Section. Mr. Dultzin will present the official Jewish Agency budget for the fiscal year 1969-1970 at a meeting of the UIA. He will also be guest speaker at UJA regional conferences this month in Palm Springs, Cal. and Chicago, and will speak from coast to coast at fund-raising meetings of local welfare funds launching the UJA's 1969 Israel Emergency Fund.

B'nai B'rith Votes Record \$15,684,558 Budget; Increases Outlays For Youth Purposes

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith has increased its annual budget 18.2 percent to a record \$15,684,558 for its 1969 operations. The B'nai B'rith board of governors, concluding its annual meeting here today, also allocated \$6,629,750 of the budget for its specialized teen-age, college campus and career counseling activities, an increase of \$702,582 over 1968 allocations. B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations were authorized to spend \$3,008,192 this year--the first time in the 48-year history of the campus program that its budget reached the \$3 million mark.

The board also approved the establishment of the Hillel Foundations program at six additional colleges, raising the number of campuses served to 273. The six schools are Connecticut College, New London; Old Dominion College, Norfolk, Va.; Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Conn.; University of Sussex in Britain; the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil; and University of Haifa in Israel. A part-time Hillel program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., which now has some 2,500 Jewish students, was advanced to full-time status.

Orthodox Rabbinical Leaders Voice Shock, Sorrow Over Negro Anti-Semitism

LAKEWOOD, N.J. (JTA) -- Leading Orthodox rabbis expressed shock and sorrow yesterday at Negro anti-Semitism and at the "ironic" turn of events in which Jews, traditionally in the forefront of the struggle for civil rights, now find themselves the victims of those they have sought to help. The rabbis expressed their views at the annual conference of the Rabbinical Council of America, the association of Orthodox rabbis, attended by about 500 of them.

The comments were made by Zev Segal, of Newark, president; Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon of Brooklyn, N.Y., first vice-president; and Rabbi Israel Klaven, executive vice-president. The views were contained in interviews with the rabbis and in speeches at the conference. "It is improper to classify the current wave of anti-Semitism in America strictly as black anti-Semitism," Rabbi Segal said. "There has been a tendency among the white non-Jewish community to play the role of coat-holders as they enjoy the Negro and Jew in conflict." He added that it was unfair to leave the struggle against black anti-Semitism to the Jewish population alone. He added, "There must be an aroused community at least as much as there was concerning the Negro's struggle for civil rights. The white community is tolerant of the destruction of Jewish property and danger to Jewish lives from black anti-Semitism. He also said black anti-Semitism must be fought vigorously. "The destruction of 6,000,000 Jews in the crematoria did not begin there," he said. "It began with smashing windows. Windows at Young Israel Synagogue in Newark are smashed weekly," he asserted. "Police are alerted and are forever investigating but solving nothing."

Rabbi Berzon and Rabbi Klaven expressed "shock, horror and consternation" at the current situation. "The Jewish people have done much for the Negro in the last decade to help get them in a place in the American sun and some of us will continue to do so despite the slander against the Jews," Rabbi Berzon said. "But it is ironic and inconceivable that black anti-Semitism should exist." Rabbi Klaven warned the Negroes that "no one can build his freedom on the back of someone else. Negroes who have suffered so much from prejudice ought to recognize it."