

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Synagogue Council Gets Ford Grant For Black-Jewish Clergy Project On Tensions

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The Ford Foundation has granted \$54,500 to the Synagogue Council of America for a program that will bring Negro and Jewish clergymen together to discuss religious and racial tensions in New York City. The program will be sponsored jointly by the Synagogue Council, which is the representative body of Conservative, Reform and Orthodox rabbis and synagogue organizations, and the Inter-Faith Citywide Coordinating Committee Against Poverty, an organization of black and white clergymen involved in anti-poverty and community action programs.

According to Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin, president of the Synagogue Council, the program is the outgrowth of a Dec. 5 meeting at which 250 rabbis and Negro clergymen met to discuss community tensions growing out of last fall's New York City teachers' strike. The strike pitted the predominantly Jewish United Federation of Teachers against the largely Negro Ocean Hill-Brownsville experimental school district.

McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation, described the Synagogue Council's program as "both constructive and encouraging" and said that the Foundation was "glad to assist it as we have a number of other inter-racial and inter-faith efforts to reduce racial tensions and build mutual respect." Rabbi Henry Siegmán, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council, disclosed that a series of planning sessions have already been held in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

Rabbi Siegmán said that the funds will make it possible for Synagogue Council staff involved in the New York project to be available for consultations with Jewish religious leaders in other communities facing similar racial and religious tensions.

## Sephardic Chief Rabbi Still Awaits Soviet Visa; Propaganda Move Is Seen

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- A Soviet invitation extended to Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim to attend the 75th birthday celebration of Rabbi Yehudah Leib Levin of Moscow's Central Synagogue next Sunday was apparently a propaganda ploy. There seems to be no intention on the part of Soviet authorities to admit Rabbi Nissim to the Soviet Union. A spokesman for the Chief Rabbi said that a Soviet visa had still not been granted by today. As a result, Rabbi Nissim's reservations on a flight to Moscow today was cancelled. The flight was to have landed him in the Soviet capital before the Sabbath. The visa was sought from the Soviet Embassy at Nicosia, Cyprus, where an emissary of the Chief Rabbi went yesterday but returned today empty-handed.

## British Chief Rabbi, Colleague, Abandon Trip To Levin Event

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The failure of Soviet authorities to issue visas to Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of Britain and Rabbi A.M. Rose forced them to abandon their scheduled flight to Moscow today to attend the celebration. Dr. Jakobovits and Rabbi Rose were invited to the fete by the chairman of the Jewish religious community of Moscow, as were all other invitees. Other prominent rabbis from Western countries were also invited, apparently with the approval of Soviet authorities.

Applications for Soviet visas were made at the Soviet Consulate here Monday morning. The rabbis were informed that their applications would have to be referred to Moscow. The Soviet Consul advised them today that no reply had been received by the time the last available flight to Moscow departed.

(Rabbi Bernard A. Poupko of Pittsburgh, Pa. was also denied a visa on orders from Moscow. He said his widely-published anti-Soviet articles probably made him persona non grata.)

## Eban Asks Thant To Specify What Action He Plans To Prevent Violence Against Aviation

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban sent a letter today to Secretary-General U Thant protesting the Arab terrorist attack on an El Al airliner in Zurich on Tuesday and challenging him to spell out concretely what "constructive international action" he has in mind to prevent "acts of violence against civil aviation in the future."

In the note, delivered to Mr. Thant by Israel's UN Ambassador, Yosef Tekoah, Mr. Eban cited Mr. Thant's own words of condemnation of the sub-machinegun attack on the Boeing 720B in Klotten International Airport.

Mr. Eban asked that the letter, which he termed "an appeal to the moral conscience of mankind," be transmitted to all UN member states. A spokesman for the delegation explained, "in view of Israel's experience with the Security Council, it does not see the Council as the appropriate address to which this letter should be submitted."

In citing Mr. Thant's own hope for "constructive international action," Mr. Eban noted that since Israeli civil aviation has been the principal target of "this governmentally-sponsored piracy, we should like to be informed of all steps taken or planned."

Mr. Eban recalled the Security Council's Dec. 31 resolution condemning Israel's raid on Beirut Airport--a reprisal action for a Dec. 26 terrorist attack on an El Al airliner in Athens Airport--and noted that that measure failed to cite both the Athens incident and the hijacking of another El Al airliner

last summer.

All three anti-Israel actions were carried out by the same Arab terrorist organization, the Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The unbalanced resolution, he indicated, fostered an "atmosphere of international indulgence" which led to the Zurich incident, when the Amsterdam-to-Tel Aviv plane, with 17 passengers and 10 crew members, was shot up.

He reiterated the official Israeli position that the responsibility for the assault lies not only with the assailants themselves, but also in "the support and cooperation of Arab governments" without which guerrilla groups could not "exist or operate."

The Zurich incident, he declared, "raises the deepest and most sensitive issues of international law and morality." He stressed that the attacks against El Al were the first ever made upon civilian aviation and were designed to "slaughter innocent civilian travelers."

"The principles embodied in international air conventions were cynically trampled upon," Mr. Eban said, "and the dignity and sovereignty of a peace-loving neutral nation were mocked."

#### Israel Uses Diplomacy, But Dyan Warns Arabs On Possible Reprisal

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Israel has apparently chosen diplomacy and not reprisal, at least temporarily, to deal with the Zurich attack. But the Arabs were put on their notice today not to relax.

Defense Minister Moshe Dyan said that if and when Israel does strike, it will hit them "in the place where it will hurt them most but where it is also most convenient for us." Addressing scientists at Rehovot, Gen. Dyan said, "We regard all neighboring states as responsible for all terror activities against us."

His comment followed upon the claim of Lebanon's Premier Rashid Karami that his country had nothing to do with the attack. The Jordanian Government made a similar disavowal. Transport Minister Moshe Carmel told the Knesset yesterday that Lebanon "bears particular responsibility for the attack because all three attacks on Israeli planes were conceived in Lebanon."

#### Israel Asks Switzerland To Release Security Guard Who Fired At Arab Terrorists

ZURICH, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Diplomatic sources in Bern said today the Israel Embassy has asked Swiss authorities to release 23-year-old Mordechai Rahamim, the El Al security guard who fired on four Arab terrorists who attacked the airliner. He killed one.

Mr. Rahamim, a former Israeli paratrooper, was being held in a Zurich jail while legal authorities were deciding whether to bring charges against him and, if so, on what grounds. He was visited yesterday by Israeli Consul General Moshe Gur-On. He has refused to tell his Swiss interrogators anything except that he fired in "self-defense."

Mr. Rahamim fired from a window of the Boeing 720B jet--and from the ground--as it was sprayed with machine-gun fire by the Arab terrorists. Dr. Jurg Rehberg, the Zurich district prosecutor, who is in charge of the case, disclosed that the young Israeli may face a murder charge if it turned out that he fired after the plane's assailants ceased firing. Homicide in Switzerland carries a penalty of five years imprisonment if accompanied by extenuating circumstances, or five to 10 years if no such circumstances are found. He could also be charged with assassination without premeditation which carries a penalty of from five years to life imprisonment. In practical terms, this usually means 25 years in jail, sources said.

The three Arab terrorists, one of them a woman, also face charges of attempted murder which carry a possible life sentence. Like Mr. Rahamim, they are being held in separate cells. They may also be charged with endangering air traffic and illegal use of explosives. JTA learned today that the three claimed that they had no intention of taking lives but were under instructions to force the evacuation of the El Al jet and blow it up. But Mr. Rehberg was reportedly not convinced by this claim. He told the press yesterday that the terrorists had come to Zurich from Damascus after attending a special training camp in Syria where they received instructions in attack and the use of explosives. They admitted that they belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and said they wanted to fight "the belligerent activities of El Al" and to "arouse world opinion against the Zionist occupation of Palestine."

(In Israel today, Mr. Rahamim was being hailed as a hero. Born in Iraq in 1946, he came to Israel with his parents. He was educated at the Mikve Israel agricultural school near Tel Aviv, is a student at Tel Aviv University and served with the paratroops during the Six-Day War. He was cited for bravery.)

Mr. Rahamim described himself to Swiss authorities as a "civil servant." He was a member of the special security squad which El Al recruited following the hijacking of one of a Rome-to-Tel Aviv aircraft by Palestinian terrorists last summer. The fact that he was armed with only a pistol indicated that he was hired to guard against another hijacking attempt rather than an armed attack from outside the plane.

(It was reported in Washington today that the United States Government was considering the possibility of using Marines to guard against airliner-hijacking. The study is under way in the Defense Department.)

#### The Aftermath: Uniformed, Armed Guards Roam Swiss Airports

ZURICH, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Uniformed guards and plain clothesmen carrying walkie-talkies and sub-machineguns roamed Zurich and Geneva airports today. They appeared whenever an El Al plane was

about to land or take off.

Meanwhile 11 El Al technicians flown in from Israel were busy repairing the Boeing 720B jet that was riddled with some 50-60 bullets. The plane was expected to be ready for take-off within 48 hours. The El Al general manager in Zurich estimated the damage at about \$75,000.

The Israeli pilot trainee, Yoram Peres, who was seriously wounded in the attack, was reportedly making a rapid recovery today following emergency surgery on his spleen and pancreas. Mr. Peres was struck in the stomach by a terrorist's bullet. Hundreds of bouquets of flowers were sent to him anonymously, the hospital reported.

#### Tighten Security For El Al Airliners Landing, Staying Over In Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The Schiphol Airport Aviation Service, the agency responsible for security at one of Europe's largest airfields, stepped up measures for El Al planes here following the attack in Zurich. As a general rule, El Al planes touch down on Schiphol Airport five times a week. The New York-Lydda airliners usually put down here for about an hour before proceeding to the United States or returning to Lydda, but the El Al plane which arrives here on Friday afternoon stays over until after sundown on Saturday. Special guards generally stand guard over it. There have been no incidents here.

#### Zurich Incident Deplored In Holland, West Germany, Brussels

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Strong condemnation of the attack was voiced in the Dutch Parliament today. A spokesman for the West German Government denounced the incident in Bonn. The International Confederation of Trade Unions in Brussels called for inter-governmental action to prevent further assaults on civilian airliners.

Dr. Edzo Toxopeus, a Liberal member of The Netherlands Parliament, called on Foreign Minister Joseph Luns to press for action by the UN Security Council to prevent a repetition of the Zurich attack. The El Al office in Frankfurt said the airline was cooperating fully with German police to protect Israeli aircraft. The trade union group in Brussels endorsed a statement by the International Transport Federation in London deploring any act likely to endanger the lives of passengers and employees of the air transport industry.

#### Cairo Press Approves Terrorist Action, Beirut Papers Cool

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The Cairo press voiced support for the terrorist attack on an El Al airliner in Zurich, but the Beirut press indicated some disapproval of it.

Al Ahram, the semi-official Cairo newspaper, said the attack showed that the "Palestine resistance is determined to chase the enemy on all fronts. There is no force on earth which can prevent Palestinians from fighting for their legitimate right to national existence."

Al Gomhouria declared that the attack underscored the "Palestinians' decisive refusal to accept mass extermination, injustice and suppression that they confront daily," apparently in a reference to the occupied territories.

Two right-wing Beirut newspapers voiced disapproval. One said the raid was an "embarrassment to commandos" and the other saw it as providing Israel with an opportunity to disseminate its "propaganda."

#### WJC Congress Urges UN Rights Commission To Condemn Terrorism

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress denounced today the machinegun attack in Zurich as "inhuman and dastardly." Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of its governing council, also urged the UN "to avoid any appearance of a double standard" in such incidents and urged the UN Commission on Human Rights, now meeting in Geneva, to "condemn those responsible for the attempted murder of innocent civilian persons at Zurich."

#### Execution Of 7 Iraqis--All Moslems--As Alleged Israeli Spies Draws Jews' Fire

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The execution of seven Iraqis--all Moslems--at dawn today for allegedly spying for Israel was angrily denounced by three major American Jewish organizations. Arthur J. Goldberg, president of the American Jewish Committee, called the execution of three Iraqi soldiers by firing squad and four civilians by hanging "an act contrary to all civilized behavior and a direct violation of human rights." Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, said the "continued barbarity" of the Iraqi Government "emphasizes the sorry state of political freedom and human rights" in that country and "also points up that there is no future for the defenseless remnant of a Jewish community trapped there." Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, American Jewish Congress president, declared, "It does not lessen our outrage at these brutalities that no Jews were included among the latest victims. Whether the victims are Jews, Moslems or Christians, our concern is with the absence of even minimal justice in the secret military trials that condemned them and the degenerate manner in which their bodies were shown to the public."

Baghdad radio, which announced the executions and reported that the bodies were displayed in the capital's Liberation Square, said that nine defendants had been condemned for espionage on Feb. 11 by a three-man military tribunal. The death sentence of one was commuted to life imprisonment because he cooperated with authorities and the other was reported to be at large, the radio said. Last Jan. 27, 14 Iraqis--nine of them Jews--were hanged in Baghdad and Basra on the same charges and their bodies were publicly displayed.

## Nixon Appoints Walter H. Annenberg, Publisher, As Ambassador To Britain

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- President Nixon today appointed a Jew as United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James. Walter H. Annenberg was named Ambassador to Britain. The 60-year-old publisher, who has had no previous diplomatic experience, was expected to go to his post, following Senate confirmation, upon Mr. Nixon's return from his coming European trip. The Ambassador-designate is president of Triangle Publications, Inc. of Philadelphia, including the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Daily News and the Daily Racing Form.

## Conservative Group Becomes First Rabbinic Body To Join World Jewish Congress

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Assembly, international organization of Conservative rabbis, has accepted an invitation to join the World Jewish Congress. Its president, Rabbi Ralph Simon of Chicago, said today the Assembly becomes the first rabbinical body to join the organization. The decision to accept WJCongress president Dr. Nahum Goldmann's invitation, received late last year, was made without a dissenting vote yesterday by the Assembly's Executive Council, Rabbi Simon said.

The Assembly, he said, believes it can be valuable to the WJCongress because it is now a "truly international organization" with 1,000 rabbinical members. "Since our concern is international now, we want to function with international Jewish agencies. Our presence in WJCongress work will be important," Rabbi Simon said. The Assembly has members in the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, Britain, Israel and Asia. It will be represented on the top governing bodies of the WJCongress, although details have yet to be worked out, Rabbi Simon said.

## Mrs. Jacobson Describes Hadassah Services During Delegation's Visit To Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, former president of Hadassah, told a group of Jewish community leaders here yesterday that Hadassah's services included not only fundraising but also youth work, Jewish education and study groups. She led a delegation of 25 Hadassah district presidents visiting Argentina.

She described the Hadassah program at a reception given by the Latin American executive of the World Jewish Congress. She reported that Hadassah sponsored summer camp programs, youth groups spending the summer in Israel, and described the new construction underway on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem to serve as a residence for 130 young people. Greetings were extended to the American visitors by Mark Turkow, general secretary of the Executive.

## Medallions Presented To 'Righteous' Who Helped Save European Jews

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Israel's medallions for the "righteous" were presented today to seven non-Jews who rescued and sheltered European Jews during World War II at grave risk to their own lives. Three of the awards were posthumous. They were conferred by Israeli Consul General Rehavam Amir at ceremonies at the American-Israel Cultural Foundation here.

The medallions and accompanying certificates were awarded on behalf of the Yad Vashem, the Heroes and Martyrs Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, which documented each case on the basis of evidence supplied by surviving witnesses now scattered all over the world. The medallions are inscribed with the Talmudic dictum, "One who saves a human life saves, as it were, a whole world."

The recipients were: Wladyslaw Wojcik, a Pole who became a fugitive from police for two years in order to provide shelter and care for a three year-old Jewish girl whose mother entrusted her to his care before she was deported to a death camp; Alexander Roslan, of Warsaw, who sheltered three children throughout the war at great risk and hardship to his own family; Barna Kiss, the overseer of a forced labor detachment whose humane treatment of Jewish prisoners was responsible for the survival of most of them on a thousand-mile march from Budapest to the Russian border; Also, the late Mme. Blanche Mollino, a French woman who raised funds in the United States to help Jewish scholars after the fall of France and who later risked her life sheltering Jews sought by the Gestapo and Vichy authorities; the late Anton Uszczanowski and his wife, Jadwiga, who sheltered several Jewish families in Poland during the Nazi occupation for which Mr. Uszczanowski was eventually executed; Mrs. Julia Markus Wolfinger who sheltered a family of eight Jewish survivors of the Storry ghetto in Poland in her home which was near a German military base; and the late Ignazy Luboczynski, a lieutenant colonel in the Armia Krajowia in Poland who saved Jews from death by recruiting them into his unit and by supplying them with false documents.

## Humphrey Reaffirms Johnson Administration Position On Middle East Peace

BALTIMORE, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- Former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey this week reaffirmed the position on a Mideast solution taken by the former Johnson Administration.

Addressing a dinner launching the 1969 Combined Campaign of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund here, Mr. Humphrey said the criteria of peace must be: Acceptance of Israel as a legal fact by its neighbors; an end to belligerence; negotiations between Israel and its neighbors to define secure boundaries; free and unimpaired navigational rights in all international waters, including the Suez Canal; and an end to the arms race.

Calling the Mideast the most dangerous area in the world today, Mr. Humphrey said that the "cradle of civilization could also become its deathbed." He cited in this connection the re-arming of Arab countries by the Soviet Union and the condoning of terrorist activities by the governments of the states surrounding Israel. "We ought to let the world know where we stand," he said, "not because of any treaty but because Israel represents the highest hopes of American democracy--freedom, independence, national sovereignty, social responsibility and moral integrity."