

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israelis Smash 2 El Fatah Terrorist Bases In Syria, Shoot Down 2 MIGs

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Israeli jets smashed the two main Arab terrorist bases in Syria early this morning and shot down two of an unspecified number of Syrian MIGs that rose to challenge them in four dogfights in the skies over Syria, a military spokesman announced today. The targets were El Hamma, the main El Fatah base six miles from Damascus, and Mesaloun, a subsidiary camp near the Lebanese border on the Damascus-Beirut highway. All of the Israeli aircraft returned safely to their bases, the spokesman said. (Damascus radio claimed that three French-built Israeli Mirage jets were shot down and acknowledged the loss of two Syrian MIGs.)

El Hamma and Masaloun were the main training and logistical centers for Arab saboteurs. Virtually all terrorists captured in Israel recently admitted having passed through the camps en route to their sabotage missions. El Hamma was also the site of the El Fatah command for Syria and Lebanon and a recruiting center and supply depot for terrorists coming from Egypt and Algeria. It contained arms, arsenals, buildings, tents and a prison.

The two camps were heavily bombed with tons of explosives. Returning Israeli pilots reported seeing large fires. The strike was the first Israeli air action over Syria since the June, 1967 war. The Israeli pilots said the Syrian fighters sent up against them did not appear anxious to engage in combat. The two shot down crashed without their pilots having bailed out.

A senior Israeli Army officer questioned by newsmen today would not say whether the strike was an act of retaliation for the Arab terrorist attack on an El Al airliner at Zurich Airport last Tuesday. The terrorists admitted to Swiss police that they had come from Damascus. The officer said, "Zurich is Zurich and El Hamma is El Hamma." It appeared more likely that the raid was a warning to Syria to desist from sending terrorists and saboteurs into Israeli territory. There have been about a dozen incidents along the Israel-Syria demarcation line in the Golan Heights in recent days.

The Israeli attack was launched at dawn when a minimum number of guards were on duty at the two camps. It coincided with the presence in Damascus of Yasir Arafat, commander of El Fatah and newly appointed head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, an umbrella group that is supposed to coordinate the activities of the various Palestinian terrorist bands. Some reports said Mr. Arafat was at El Hamma at the time. An Israeli spokesman said, "I hope he was." Damascus Airport was shut down during the raid and for some time afterward. Amman Airport was closed briefly. Damascus radio claimed that 20 civilians were wounded in the attack and that a diplomatic automobile and two other cars were smashed.

Damascus radio claimed that heavy civilian casualties were suffered in the raid. It said at least 150 were dead, many of them hit while travelling on a highway near El Hamma. Another Damascus report said the Israeli jets scored a direct hit on a refrigerator factory employing 500 persons shortly after the morning shift reported for work.

## Egyptian Ambassador To Mexico Praises Activities Of Arab Terrorists

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The Egyptian Ambassador to Mexico has issued a statement to the local press praising the activities of Arab terrorists against Israel, especially last Tuesday's guerrilla attack on an El Al plane at Zurich. According to Ambassador Hamdi Abouzeid, "Every Arab is a guerrilla in the struggle against Israel and every Arab must fight the Zionists everywhere in the world."

## Israeli Armored Units, Aircraft Engage Jordanians South Of Dead Sea

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Israeli armored units and aircraft engaged Jordanian ground forces yesterday in a battle in the Jordanian wilderness south of the Dead Sea which developed when Jordanian regulars provided covering fire for a band of escaping Arab saboteurs. A military spokesman also announced today that three Arab saboteurs were killed last night in two encounters with Israeli patrols in the southern Golan Heights. Three saboteurs were killed in the same region on Friday.

An encounter with saboteurs in the Araba desert in the eastern Negev escalated when Jordanian troops provided supporting fire, the first such instance in several months. Israeli planes struck the police station at Gharandal, three miles inside the Jordanian border, which was apparently used as a terrorist base. It was said to have been heavily damaged. One Israeli soldier was slightly injured. Jordanian radio said there were two casualties.

The clash in the Golan Heights occurred less than two miles from the cease-fire line. One of the saboteurs was killed in the first exchange of fire and the other two while fleeing. Israeli forces suffered no casualties. They captured two Kalachnikov assault rifles and a large quantity of explosives and mines. The dead saboteurs were wearing camouflaged uniforms and commando boots.

Three Israeli soldiers were injured in a mining incident in the Suez Canal area yesterday and an Israeli worker was slightly wounded when Jordanian forces opened fire on a civilian bus travelling from Tiberias to El Hamma in Galilee, a military spokesman reported. Three Arab saboteurs were killed Friday night and two escaped in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near Nahal Golan in the Golan Heights.

(The El Hamma in Israel is not the Syrian locale of the same name hit by Israeli jets today.)

The mining incident occurred south of Timsah on the East Bank of the Suez Canal. The civilians bus carrying 50 laborers to work at the mineral baths at El Hamma in preparation for the forthcoming tourist season, was ambushed as it travelled a road alongside the Yarmuk riverbed which is the Israel-Jordan border in the region. Two bazooka shells were fired but missed. The vehicle was peppered with machine-gun bullets as it sped away. Israeli forces arriving on the scene engaged the Jordanians briefly. The bus was the first civilian vehicle attacked along the Yarmuk River road.

### Israel Foreign Ministry Official Says 5 Iraqi Jews Died Recently In Jails

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- A Foreign Ministry official said yesterday that five Jews have died in Iraqi jails recently. But Shlomo Hillel, assistant director general of the ministry, did not specify the cause of death. Nine Iraqi Jews were hanged on Jan. 27 for allegedly spying for Israel. Mr. Hillel spoke at a press conference called to introduce the English edition of a book that describes the treatment of Israeli prisoners in Syrian jails prior to the June, 1967 Six-Day War.

### Canadian Government Decides To Accept Iraqi Jews If Released

MONTREAL, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The Canadian Government has decided to accept Iraqi Jews if they are permitted to emigrate, a well-informed source said today. While the number of Jews acceptable was not disclosed, the source said that it was "very generous." Admission of them would depend on clearance of exit visas by the Baghdad Government. 27 far Baghdad authorities have not permitted any Jews to leave.

In Hartford, Conn., a resolution expressing "vital concern" over the public hangings in Iraq of Jews and others accused of spying for Israel was unanimously adopted by the Connecticut House of Representatives and forwarded to the United Nations and to President Nixon. The resolution was offered by Rep. Morris N. Cohen, of Bloomfield, Conn. Dr. Cohen contrasted the secret trials and mass executions in Iraq with the open trial now under way in Los Angeles of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the young Jordanian immigrant accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

### Canadian Arabs Urge Sharp To Have Canada Promote Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations

OTTAWA, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- A delegation of Canadian Arabs has urged Mitchell Sharp, Sec. of State for External Affairs to have Canada act independently of the United Nations to promote direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs living in the Israel-occupied territories. The six-member delegation headed by Dr. Ibrahim Salti, president of the Canadian Arab Federation, reported that it had received a "very sympathetic" hearing. Its aim, he said, was to achieve recognition for Palestinian Arabs, "the people Israel would have to negotiate with to achieve a Middle East settlement." Dr. Salti said the Palestinians wanted equal rights with Jews in a democratic, "secular" Israel.

### 14 East Jerusalem, West Bank Arabs Held By Israel In Supermarket Bombing

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Fourteen East Jerusalem and West Bank Arabs were remanded in custody today in connection with last Friday's bombing of the Supersol supermarket in West Jerusalem which took two lives. Another 91 Arabs rounded up for questioning after the blast have been released, police said. A blackout has been clamped on the progress of the investigation. Two of the Arabs retained in custody by a Jerusalem magistrate are employees of the supermarket, the largest in Jerusalem.

A new rash of school strikes spread in West Bank towns today, apparently in response to calls on the Amman radio and local incitement. The strikes were against what was termed "Israel's measures in the occupied territories."

### Rabin Says Big 4 Talks Have Achieved 'Practically Nothing'; Sees No War Danger Now

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Although preliminary discussions on the Middle East among the Big Four powers have been in progress at the United Nations for less than a month, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, dismissed them yesterday as having achieved "practically nothing." Gen. Rabin, interviewed on "Face The Nation," a CBS television program, declared that peace could be achieved only by agreement between the parties concerned, adding that the major powers could play a role if it was to support an agreement reached through negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors. So far, Gen. Rabin said, the Big Four have not been able to agree on a common declaration supporting the mission of United Nations special Mideast envoy, Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring.

Gen. Rabin said that while there was tension in the Mideast, there was no immediate danger of a resumption of all-out war. He said war would come only if the Egyptians thought they were strong enough to successfully challenge Israel or if the Russians thought the Egyptians were. He accused the Soviet Union of seeking turmoil, not peace, in order to advance its political interests.

### Arab Students Burn Israeli Flag In London, March On United States Embassy

LONDON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Arab student demonstrators burned an Israeli flag near the Israel Embassy here yesterday. A can of oil used to soak the flag was ignited and several demonstrators and police were singed, after which the demonstration broke up. It was organized by the "Friends of Palestine" and first marched on the United States Embassy where a letter of protest was left. The marchers, estimated at about 1,000 young Arabs, then moved toward the Israel Embassy but were halted by police short of their mark. They shouted "long live El Fatah" and "Free Palestine." Placards they carried equated Zionism with Nazism and proclaimed a struggle against "American imperialism."

The demonstration was apparently prompted by rumors, denied last week, that Britain was preparing to sell Israel 240 Centurion tanks.

## Scandinavian Intellectuals Urge Soviet Authorities To Grant Jews Full Rights

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- A group of Scandinavian intellectuals who have declared their solidarity with the Jews of Russia called on Soviet authorities today to accord its Jewish community the same rights and privileges that the Soviet constitution and Communist ideology grants to all other ethnic minorities. Presiding at the symposium on the plight of Soviet Jews was Prof. Johannes Sannes of Oslo. The gathering adopted a resolution urging full rights for Jews in the USSR including the right to emigrate if they wished to join relatives abroad. The resolution condemned official anti-Semitic campaigns in the Soviet Union, Poland and other Eastern European countries and the hangings of Jews in Iraq. Moscow Radio angrily assailed the gathering.

### Rabbi Schneier, In Moscow, Calls For Greater Jewish Contact

LONDON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Two New York rabbis and an American Jesuit priest were the only American spiritual leaders in Moscow yesterday to pay tribute to Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of the Central Synagogue on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Rabbi Arthur Schneier, of the Park East Synagogue, spoke to the congregation. Rev. C. J. McNaspy, editor of the Jesuit weekly America, joined a crowd of 2,000 Moscow Jews who jammed the synagogue at special birthday services. Rabbi David Hollander, of the Mount Eden Jewish Center in The Bronx was delayed in London and arrived in the Soviet capital too late for the services. The New Yorkers, close friends of Rabbi Levin, were the only American rabbis who managed to obtain Soviet visas. Visas were denied the others although all had been invited by the head of the Moscow Jewish community with the apparent approval of Soviet authorities.

Rabbi Schneier brought Rabbi Levin a book about New York from Mayor John V. Lindsay, a silver cup from the Rabbinical Council of America and a curtain for the synagogue ark. Addressing the throng in the synagogue, he called for greater contacts between Jews in Russia and those in the West in order to help bring Soviet Jews "into the mainstream of Jewish life." Grigory Manevich, a member of Rabbi Levin's congregation, said that many American Jews had "very strange ideas" about the life of Soviet Jews. He said, "Many of them think that all our rabbis have died out and that our communities are run by officials of the State security service."

### H. Leivick's Widow Refuses Warsaw State Theater Permission To Perform 'Golem'

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The widow of a Yiddish playwright and poet has refused permission to the Yiddish State Theater of Warsaw to perform a work of her late husband's because of "the insults that the Jews must endure at the hands of the Polish Government." The Yiddish State Theater is sponsored by the Warsaw Government. Until last year it was headed by Mrs. Ida Kaminska who left Poland because of the official anti-Jewish campaign. Mrs. Sarah Leivick Silverberg, widow of the late H. Leivick, said she had received a request from Michael Rushinek, theater managing director, for permission to perform "The Golem" and an offer of payment. She said she replied to Mr. Rushinek, "I cannot give permission to produce a play which was created by one for whom Jewish life is sacred."

### 4 Share In \$10,000 Remembrance Award Given By Bergen Belsen Federation

LONDON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Two Polish Jewish poets, an American author and a Dutch academician were selected by an international jury here yesterday to share in the \$10,000 Remembrance Award offered annually by the World Federation of Bergen Belsen Associations for the best book or other work of literature on the Nazi holocaust or on the rehabilitation of its survivors in Israel.

The winners, each of whom will receive \$2,500, are the Polish Jewish poet Stanislaw Wigodski, who published nine volumes on the holocaust; the Yiddish poet and author Chaim Grade who was born in Vilna and now lives in the United States; Arthur Morse, author of "While Six Million Died", an expose of world indifference to the slaughter of European Jews during World War II, and Prof. Jacob Presser, of Holland, an historian who survived the Nazi occupation of his homeland and has written a book on the liquidation of Dutch Jewry.

Another item on the agenda of the meeting of the Bergen Belsen survivors was a protest against the exhumation of mass graves at the Bergen Belsen site at the request of France. French authorities are pressing a court action for the removal of the remains of 139 French nationals from the common grave. Jewish groups all over the world have protested. They pointed out that apart from the desecration issue, medical authorities concede that it would be impossible to distinguish the skeletons of the French dead from those of the other victims.

### Chilean Jewish Institution Hit By Molotov Cocktail; Damage Put At \$200

SANTIEGO, Chile, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- One of the oldest Chilean Jewish institutions here, the Circulo Israelita, was hit by a molotov cocktail at dawn Sunday. Damage was estimated at \$200. Police were investigating the incident.

### Israel Will Provide Fuel Oil To Greece To Help Alleviate Acute Shortage

ATHENS, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Israel is one of several countries that will supply Greece with 560,000 tons of oil fuel to alleviate an acute oil shortage, it was disclosed here today. Israel will provide 45,000 tons of diesel oil.

### National Conference On Yiddish Scheduled For May By Canadian Jewish Congress

MONTREAL, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- A national conference on the Yiddish language and cultural heritage will be held here next May under the auspices of the Canadian Jewish Congress, it was announced today by Dr. Joseph Kage, chairman of the National Conference on Yiddish. The meeting will concern itself with the facilities available for instruction in Yiddish, the extent to which the language is still used and the preservation and advancement of Yiddish culture, Dr. Kage said.

## Hartford Unit Joins Opposition To Bill Providing State-Aid To Parochial Schools

HARTFORD, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Relations Council of Connecticut has joined with the Connecticut Council of Churches in opposition to a bill that would provide state financial aid to the parents of children in parochial and other private schools in Connecticut. A brief drafted by representatives of the two groups was submitted to the State Legislature detailing the reasons for their opposition. It was drafted in part by Jeffrey M. Mines, a Hartford attorney who heads the Jewish Community Relations Council's legislative committee. The bill is supported by the Connecticut Catholic Committee of Education and the bishops of the diocese of Hartford, Bridgeport and Norwich.

The measure under consideration would pay for the secular portion of a pupil's education in religious schools with grants payable to parents nearly matching what the state gives to public schools per pupil. The opposing brief stated that the secular subjects which the legislation is designed to aid cannot be separated from the total picture of parochial education. It contended that it would violate the Constitutional separation of church and state and added that "the use of tax funds to aid parochial schools is bound to spread disaffection among the many citizens who will conclude--not without reason--that their individual religious freedom is violated because they are being compelled to pay for the support of religious institutions to which they do not belong."

## Houston Jews Urge Nixon To Honor Campaign Pledges On Maintaining Israel's Security

HOUSTON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Houston, has urged President Richard M. Nixon to live up to his election campaign pledges to maintain Israel's military strength at a level sufficient to deter aggression and to forestall any attempts by the Soviet Union to impose a Middle East solution that would be injurious to Israel. The appeal was contained in a series of resolutions adopted at an inter-faith public rally held at Temple Beth Israel which was addressed by Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress. He declared that Middle East peace could be achieved only through face-to-face negotiations between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

## B'nai B'rith Girls Ask U.S. Government To Speed Up Full Scale Aid To Biafrans

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Teen-age Jewish girls have urged the United States Government to cut red tape and speed up full scale aid to the starving civilian population of Biafra, the secessionist eastern province of Nigeria now in its second year of civil war. The appeal was made in a statement issued by the B'nai B'rith Girls organization which helped build a modern girls school in the Nigerian capital of Lagos three years ago and continues to support it. That project was cited as evidence that the girls are not involved in the political issues of the Nigerian struggle. "Our only concern is with human needs suffering on both sides of the conflict," the statement said.

## BBYO Head Calls For Dialogue Between Young Jews, Negroes To Ease Racial Tensions

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The leader of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization said today that a dialogue between Jewish and black young may succeed in healing relations between the two groups. Dr. Max F. Baer, national director of the BBYO said that research by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League showed that young Negroes represent the most militant and anti-Semitic elements in the black community while Jewish youth are the most liberal and understanding age group among Jews. "The two factors, militancy among young blacks and liberalism among young Jews can open a path for improved relations between the two communities," Dr. Baer said.

He told a B'nai B'rith Lodge here that dialogues between 20 young Negroes and many Jewish BBYO members were held last summer at Camp B'nai B'rith in Starlight, Pa. He said that Jewish youth called upon to meet their Negro peers must be thoroughly informed. Toward this end, Dr. Baer advocated a special program of leadership training to prepare them for effective dialogue.

## Shazar Heads Officials Paying Last Respects To Itzik Manger, Poet And Essayist

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar headed a list of government officials, members of the Knesset (Parliament) and other dignitaries who paid last respects to the Yiddish poet and essayist, Itzik Manger, who died here last Thursday. Among the 2,000 persons at his funeral were leading Israeli writers and artists of the stage. (A play by Mr. Manger based on his story of Esther recently was given its premiere performance in Poland by the Warsaw Yiddish Theater.)

## Maj. Gen. David Shaltiel Dead At 66; Was Commander Of Jerusalem In 1948 Siege

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. David Shaltiel, who was commander of Jerusalem during the Arab siege of 1948, died here yesterday at the age of 66. Gen. Shaltiel was born in Hamburg and settled in Israel in 1923. After a military career in Haganah and the Israel Army he joined the Foreign Service and served as Israeli minister and ambassador to several Latin American countries and in the Netherlands. His last post was special adviser to the Foreign Ministry.

## Ignazio Silone To Be Awarded 'Jerusalem Prize' By Kollel When Book Fair Opens

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The celebrated Italian author, Ignazio Silone, 69, will be awarded the biennial "Jerusalem Prize," an award of the Jerusalem municipality presented in connection with the international book fair. Mayor Teddy Kollek announced that he would make the presentation to Mr. Silone on March 19 at ceremonies officially opening the fair. He said the author has indicated that he would come to Jerusalem to accept it. The prize-winner was selected by a jury of university professors and writers. Previous awards have gone to Lord Russell (Bertrand Russell), Max Frisch and Andre Schwarz-Bart. Mr. Silone, a onetime Communist, fled Italy in 1931 with the rise of fascism and came back in 1944 and joined the Socialist Party.