

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXVI Fifty-Second Year

Tuesday, March 4, 1969

No. 43

## Thant in Contact With Israeli, Iraqi Envoys As Protests Mount On Possible Executions

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. March 3 (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary-General U Thant was in contact over the weekend with the ambassadors here of Iraq and Israel over the reportedly imminent execution of seven alleged Israeli spies in Iraq, two or three of whom are believed to be Jews. The seven were convicted by a military tribunal in Baghdad last week and the Iraqis indicated that the death sentences would be carried out probably tomorrow. The UN spokesman declined to give any details of Mr. Thant's intervention. The Secretary-General intervened unsuccessfully with the Baghdad regime last January when 14 men, nine of them Jews, were sentenced to death. The hangings were carried out publicly in Baghdad and Basra despite Mr. Thant's pleas. He subsequently issued a statement deploring the action.

Mr. Thant's action came as the State of Israel, human rights agencies and Jewish organizations throughout the world sought to mobilize world public opinion to force Iraq to halt further executions.

The World Jewish Congress in New York appealed again today to Mr. Thant to intercede urgently with the Iraqi Government to prevent the executions. In Geneva, the WJCongress asked the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, now in session there, to act without delay to prevent the executions. In London, the Right Rev. Carl Witton Davies, chairman of the executive committee of the Council of Christians and Jews, cabled the President of Iraq, asserting that executions such as the one of last Jan. 29 were "a defiance of all civilized standards" and urging that further executions be halted. William Simpson, chairman of the international consultative council of the Organization for Christian-Jewish Collaboration, also cabled a plea "in the name of international justice and in the interest of world peace."

In Stockholm, the Jewish community made an appeal to the Conference of Nordic Foreign Ministers, currently in session there, to intervene with Baghdad to prevent the scheduled executions. The community also asked that the Nordic states--Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland--announce their readiness to accept the Jews from Iraq. In Copenhagen, the Israel-Denmark Friendship League sent a delegation to ask the Danish Government and Parliament to intervene. Outstanding political leaders, including a former prime minister, signed a petition submitted by the League.

In Washington, Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai Brith, appealed to Secretary-General Thant to "use every means at the disposal of the UN" to halt the scheduled executions. Similar appeals were sent to Pope Paul VI, to Secretary of State William P. Rogers, and to the International Red Cross. In Sao Paulo, the Confederation of Brazilian Jews cabled the UN Secretary-General urging his full efforts to prevent further executions.

### Dirksen Tells Jersey Delegation He Will Approach Nixon, Rogers

Sen. Everett Dirksen, the Republican minority leader, told a Jewish delegation from New Jersey over the weekend that he would ask President Nixon and Secretary of State Rogers to use American diplomatic channels to pressure Iraq into permitting the Jews there to emigrate. The U.S. does not have diplomatic relations with Iraq; its interests in Baghdad are represented by Belgium and Iraqi interests in Washington, by India. The delegation reported that both New Jersey senators, Clifford Case (Rep.) and Harrison Williams (Dem.) promised to seek all possible efforts by the U.S. to bring relief to Iraq's Jews. The delegation visits were made before it was known that more executions had been scheduled in Iraq. In a meeting it had with the 15-man New Jersey Congressional delegation, it received assurances that the Congressmen would seek to have Camp Kilmer opened for Iraqi Jews if they were permitted to emigrate. The camp was used for Hungarian refugees in 1956 and later for Cubans.

In Tel Aviv, Minister Without Portfolio Menachem Begin, in a rally at Tel Aviv University, appealed to the world to put an end to the hangings. He said Israel was grateful to the countries that have agreed to receive Jewish refugees from Iraq. In London, Terence Prittie, correspondent of the Guardian, warned that the Iraqi Government was believed to be contemplating fresh punitive measures against the Jewish community in Iraq which he described as "already shockingly persecuted." The new measures, he said, were likely to be based on the contention that all Iraqi Jews were potential spies in the service of Israel. He asserted that "it looks now as if the whole Jewish community of Iraq is going to become the object of persecution as persistent and ruthless as that of the Nazis."

Recent events have had their impact on the Jews of the Lebanon, relatively the best off of all the Jews in the Arab lands around Israel, according to reports in the Lebanese press. Jews in increasing numbers are seeking to leave that country, according to the papers, resulting in economic dislocation although the emigrants are not permitted to take much property with them. Most of the 3,000 Lebanese Jews are engaged in trade and they are relatively prosperous, but the continuing Middle East crisis, the terrorist activities and the hangings in Iraq have convinced many Lebanese Jews that they would be safer elsewhere.

### Israel Hit In UN Rights Commission; Mrs. Hauser Raps Public Executions In Iraq

GENEVA, March 3 (JTA) -- Israel came under heavy attack at the Human Rights Commission here for alleged violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. One of two draft resolutions sub-

mitted was directed exclusively against Israel. The other called on all nations involved in the Middle East conflict to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mrs. Rita Hauser, United States representative, was the only delegate who called attention to violations of human rights in any Middle East country apart from Israel when she deplored the hangings in Iraq. While recognizing the right of any Government to administer justice to its nationals in accordance with its laws, Mrs. Hauser declared that it was impossible "to tolerate without comment the spectacle of mass public executions." She asserted that as long as nations in that area remained hostile, there was no "real hope that the human dignity of all, whatever their religion or nationality, would be fully respected and preserved."

Mrs. Aballahi Ould Dadah Turkia of Mauritania maintained that Iraq had the same right as any other state to try, sentence and execute persons accused of spying for the enemy. The Soviet delegate, Nicolai Tarasov, defended the Iraqi spy trials. He said persons who committed crimes of espionage against a state were an internal concern of that state. He said the Israeli delegate had been out of order in raising the subject of Iraq since the commission was considering violations of human rights in Israel-occupied territories.

The draft resolution aimed at Israel reaffirmed "the inalienable right of all inhabitants who have left since the outbreak of hostilities to return" and called on the Israel Government to take immediate steps to implement the UN resolutions to that effect. It also "deplored Israel's continued violations of human rights in the occupied territories, particularly the acts of destroying the homes of Arab civilian population, the deportation of inhabitants and the resort to violence against inhabitants expressing their resentment of the occupation."

Zeev Zeltner explained Israel's policy in the occupied areas. He said that Palestinian refugees could have been settled in Iraq if there had not been obstacles "artificially created by the United Arab Republic." Five non-governmental organizations with consultative status at the UN asked the Commission to call upon Mideast governments to facilitate emigration of Jews because of administrative and legislative measures taken against them. The statement said a number of governments had shown a willingness to consider admitting Jews. The plea was made by the International League for the Rights of Man; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, which includes B'nai B'rith and the Board of Deputies of British Jews; the International Council of Jewish Women; and the World Jewish Congress.

### See No Change In U.S. Mideast Policy As Result Of Nixon-de Gaulle Talks

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) -- The meeting of President Nixon with French President Charles de Gaulle did not change the American stand that bi-lateral talks should precede any Four Power talks on the Middle East, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today. He indicated that the U.S. position remained the same on the Mideast as before the Nixon trip.

Mr. McCloskey said, "We are still in the round of bi-lateral conversations." Ambassador Charles Yost, U.S. envoy to the United Nations, has been talking with his opposite numbers from France, Britain and the Soviet Union.

State Department sources said meanwhile that the Middle East figured prominently in Mr. Nixon's discussions with European leaders. They said that it was generally understood by the European Governments that preliminary bi-lateral talks would precede a Big Four conference.

White House sources said today that Mr. Nixon would publicly define his latest thinking on the Mideast situation during his Tuesday night press conference which will be devoted to foreign policy. State Department officials said the President was apparently reviewing the U.S. stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict in light of his meetings last week with President de Gaulle and other West European leaders.

### Labor Ministers Propose Golda Meir As Prime Minister In 'Caretaker' Government

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- Minister Without Portfolio Pinhas Sapir, the secretary-general of the Israel Labor Party, expressed confidence that Mrs. Golda Meir, the former Foreign Minister, would head the party's draft and agree to serve as Prime Minister of a caretaker Government of national unity until the country holds general elections in November. Nomination of Mrs. Meir was decided upon at a meeting of the Labor members of the Cabinet under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Yigal Allon. Its decision was announced at midnight.

The ministers agreed unanimously that a new Government should be named as soon as possible and that the present national unity coalition should be continued. On the decision that Mrs. Meir be named as Prime Minister, only Defense Minister Moshe Dayan abstained, declaring that he was bound by decisions of a meeting of members of the former Rafi party, now merged into the Labor Party. The Rafi meeting voted that Gen. Dayan was the proper candidate for the Premiership. It decided, however, that since, in its view, party organs that were appointed, not elected, were not properly authorized to designate candidates, Gen. Dayan's name would not be submitted to the meeting of the party's central committee next Sunday which will officially nominate a candidate for the succession to the late Levi Eshkol. It was understood, however, that Gen. Dayan would agree to serve as Minister of Defense in a Government headed by Mrs. Meir if she offered him the post.

The position taken by the former Rafi members was challenged by Yosef Almogi, former Rafi leader, who said that in view of the merger of Rafi with Mapai and Achdut Avodah to form the Israel Labor Party, the decision taken by the meeting of former Rafi members was not binding on him or other former Rafi members. He said he would support the nomination of Mrs. Meir.

Mrs. Meir is expected to maintain silence until the party's central committee officially invites her to accept the designation. The secretariat of the party met tonight and was to ratify the decision already taken by the Labor ministers and bring this recommendation to the central committee on Sunday night. Mrs. Meir will then give her answer. The choice of Mrs. Meir is regarded as the best possibility of averting a confrontation between the two most popular candidates for the Premiership, Gen. Allon and Gen. Dayan, but it would, at best, only defer the showdown since the party would have to determine its candidate to head its slate in the November elections.

The unexpected arrival here of Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Major Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, gave rise to rumors today that he was a possible candidate for a ministerial post in a new Government. The rumors have been denied. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Ambassador Rabin was invited for consultations with Foreign Minister Abba Eban prior to the latter's visit to Washington. It is expected that they will evaluate the results of President Nixon's talks on the Middle East with various European leaders last week. Mr. Eban is expected to leave for Washington after March 9.

### Forty Members Of Terrorist Cells Rounded Up In Supermarket Bombing Case

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police said today that they had confessions from three suspects directly involved in planting bombs that wrecked the Supersol supermarket in West Jerusalem on Feb. 21, killing two Hebrew University students and injuring nine other persons. About 40 members of the gang responsible for the supermarket blast and subsequent bomb plantings at the British Consulate in East Jerusalem have been arrested. Today police said that all members of the gang were in custody.

Police said the bombs were planted by two girls who received the explosives from a third saboteur. They were concealed in shopping bags. The crime has been reconstructed with the aid of the suspects, according to police. Round-ups in East Jerusalem, Ramallah and Nablus uncovered stores of explosives and sabotage equipment amidst indications that it was to have been used shortly.

(Two shells exploded near the Timna copper mines in the Arava district of the Negev Sunday night. There were no casualties or damage reported.)

Minister of Police Elisha Sasson was visited today by the Grand Mufti of East Jerusalem and by the heads of Christian churches who inquired about the arrested terrorists. Mr. Sasson explained the gravity of the charges against them.

Police said yesterday that all of the suspects were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the same terrorist group responsible for assaults on El Al airliners at Athens and Zurich. Police said that terrorist cells had been uncovered in East Jerusalem, Ramallah and Nablus along with large quantities of explosives and weapons.

### Envoy Hedges On Report El Fatah Guerrillas Are Being Trained In Cuba

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- Cuba's Minister to Israel could neither confirm nor deny a report in a local newspaper today that El Fatah guerrillas were receiving advanced training in sabotage and commando tactics in his country. The report appeared in Yediot Achronot whose military correspondent attributed his information to "reliable sources in the United States."

According to the account, one El Fatah group has already completed the training course in Cuba and has returned to Arab countries. A second group was said to be currently training there. In the past, El Fatah members were reportedly trained in Algeria, Communist China and North Vietnam. The Cuban Minister here said at first that the report was "a provocation" but later decided to consult his Government and promised to make a statement.

### Russians Denounce Czech Journalists Union Head For 'Zionist' Connections

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) -- The head of the Czechoslovakian Journalists Union was attacked for alleged "Zionist" connections in the latest issue of the Soviet occupation newspaper, "Zpany" today, according to reports received here. The Soviet periodical said that Vlado Kaspar, union chairman, helped train Jewish youths for Israeli military service and later took part in "Israeli aggression." Russian troops helped distribute the newspaper to factories and elsewhere.

### Israeli Youngsters Celebrate Feast Of Purim With Departures From Tradition

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- The iconology of modern youth the world over was evident in the Purim festivities that swept through the streets of Tel Aviv tonight. Traditional "Queen Esthers" and "Mordechais" were very much in evidence. But the show was stolen by mini-skirted girls, youngsters in hippie garb, "spacemen", "cowboys" and many "Bonnie and Clydes."

Israeli youngsters cut loose as is usual on Purim, a festival that celebrates the legendary rescue of Persian Jews from destruction. But most adults, who normally join them, cancelled celebrations because of the death last week of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. The gesture was one of personal respect. Jewish religious law does not permit mourning during the Hebrew calendar month of Adar.

The Megillah (tale) of Esther was read in Tel Aviv's Great Synagogue and broadcast by loudspeaker to thousands on the streets outside. Special security measures were taken but no incidents were reported.

### First Group Of Druze Displaced By War To Return To Golan Heights

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- The first group of Druze who fled their homes in the Golan Heights during the Six-Day War and sought refuge in Syria and Lebanon will return to the Israel-occupied territory tomorrow with the permission of Israeli authorities.

## ICAO Considering Methods To Put End To Unlawful Interference With Civil Aviation

MONTREAL, March 3 (JTA) -- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) met today behind closed doors with the purpose of devising machinery to put an end to unlawful interference with civil aviation. A decision on a proposal sponsored by the United States and eight other countries is expected March 17 after a legal sub-committee report is presented to the ICAO Council, according to Walter Binaghi, ICAO president. The proposal deals with security of airports, safety of flights and return of hijackers. ICAO is affiliated with the United Nations.

The Swiss Government has officially protested to the Governments of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon over the Feb. 18 machinegun attack by Arab terrorists on an El Al Airliner at Zurich Airport, and asked them to take steps "to prevent any new violations of Swiss territory." The Swiss authorities also formally "complained" to Israel that the El Al security guard, 22 year-old Mordechai Rachamim, had violated Swiss sovereignty by firing a weapon at the Arab attackers. Mr. Rachamim, a former paratrooper, killed one of the terrorists. He is being held for trial as are the three surviving attackers. The protests were handed to the three Arab chiefs of mission by Swiss Foreign Minister Willy Spuhler. The Ministry said the terrorists admitted to Swiss authorities that they had been trained in Jordan and that some of them left from Syria to carry out the attack in Zurich. Lebanon was involved because Beirut radio broadcast a statement by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claiming responsibility for the attack.

(In a note handed to Swiss authorities today, Israel said that Mr. Rachamim was ordered to protect the plane from the inside, but when the plane and passengers were attacked, he acted in defense of the passengers and crew and in self-defense when he assaulted the terrorists. His action, forcing their retreat, saved many lives, Israel said.

In Bonn, West Germany's Interior Minister Ernst Benda told the Bundestag (Lower House) today that adequate security measures were in force to prevent attacks on El Al airliners using German airports. El Al planes land at Munich and Frankfurt.)

## Canadian Jewish Congress Urges Approval Of Bill Outlawing Hate Propaganda

OTTAWA, March 3 (JTA) -- A Canadian Jewish Congress delegation, citing the growing incidence of racial and religious strife in North America and other parts of the world, has urged a committee of the Canadian Senate to approve a bill that would outlaw hate propaganda in Canada. The bill had been submitted to two sessions of Parliament since 1966 but was never made law. There was opposition to it in the committee on constitutional and legal affairs when the delegation appeared.

The CJC delegation said that anti-Semitism in Canada was a sporadic but minor problem and claimed that its decline in recent years was attributable in large measure to anti-hate legislation adopted by nine of Canada's 10 provinces. But it cited the religious conflict that erupted recently in Northern Ireland, the deteriorating Negro-white and Negro-Jewish relationships in New York City, and signs of "turbulence" in Canada as reasons why a strong measure should be enacted on a national level.

Saul Hayes, executive vice president of the CJC, warned that there was an imminently explosive situation involving Negroes and Indians and that hate propaganda unless outlawed, would add fuel to the eventual conflict. An example of that kind of propaganda was contained in anti-Semitic, anti-Negro tapes played for committee members by officials of the Bell Canada telephone company. The tapes, known as code-a-phone messages, can be dialed by any phone user. Bell Canada said it could not refuse the service to hate-mongers unless there was a law outlawing the dissemination of such propaganda. One member of the committee, Sen. David Walker, suggested that the proposed bill was "oppressive." Louis Herman, national chairman of the CJC-B'nai B'rith community relations committee, said the bill had numerous safeguards to assure freedom of expression.

In a related matter, the Quebec Provincial Government has been urged to take action to combat hate propaganda and the activities of fascist and neo-Nazi parties in the province whose aim is to promote discrimination. The action was urged in a brief submitted by the United Council for Human Rights to Armand Maltais, Quebec Solicitor-General. The brief recommended measures to eliminate discrimination in employment, housing, public places and in other fields. It said, regarding hate propaganda, that "it is inconceivable that the Quebec Government would do nothing to combat publicity or propaganda meant to promote or inspire discrimination." It referred specifically to such allegedly fascist parties as the Unite National and the neo-Nazi Guy de la Riviere group which operate in Quebec and which "may without the least trouble mislead the population of Quebec through hateful and false statements."

## Munich Prosecutors Brings Charges Against Cologne Police Official For Nazi Killings

MUNICH, March 3 (JTA) -- The Munich war crimes prosecutor has brought charges against Theo Lipps, a high ranking police official in Cologne after the war, who is accused of participation in the murder of thousands of Jewish civilians in Russia during 1941.

In Bonn, the municipality turned down a request by the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) to rent the City Hall (Beethoven Hall) for a meeting of the party's chairmanship. The city authorities got around a court ruling that they could not deny the hall to any renter by pointing out that the request was not for a local meeting but one of the national chairmanship of the reputedly neo-Nazi NPD.

The NPD is seeking its first seats in the Bundestag in this year's Federal elections. Adolf von Thadden, the party leader, has predicted it would send 50 delegates to Bonn.