

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Allon Warns Egypt To End 'Aggression' At Canal And Threatens New Measures

TEL AVIV, March 12 (JTA) -- Acting Prime Minister Yigal Allon warned Egypt yesterday to end its "aggression" along the Suez Canal or Israel would "take measures of the kind we have already employed and some hitherto unused." Mr. Allon spoke in a radio interview following a third day of fierce artillery, tank, mortar and small arms exchanges across the waterway in which each side claimed to have inflicted heavy casualties and damages on the other. A military spokesman announced that one Israeli soldier was fatally wounded and three others slightly injured in the barrage. He said Israeli return fire had scored direct hits on three Egyptian ships at Port Ibrahim on the Gulf of Suez, capsizing one of them, and that four Egyptian tanks were smashed, 10 anti-tank guns hit and several munitions dumps blown up.

United Nations cease-fire observers confirmed Israel's charge that yesterday's shelling, like that of Saturday and Sunday, was begun by Egypt. Israeli sources said the Egyptians three times ignored a cease-fire call by the UN observers. Israel heeded the calls but was forced to reopen fire when the Egyptians continued shooting.

According to Israeli officials, the three Egyptian artillery attacks in the last four days appeared to have been intended to soften Israeli fortifications along the Suez Canal's east bank and to create the impression that the Mideast was on the verge of a new all-out war. Mr. Allon said last night that if the Egyptians "have decided to disrupt our fortification work they missed their chance because we are well fortified." He said efforts to dislodge Israeli forces from the canal would be fruitless and warned that Israeli artillery could strike a variety of vital targets in Egypt in retaliation for any Egyptian blow. Mr. Allon also remarked that he did not consider Israel's fortification of its Suez Canal positions to be a violation of the cease-fire agreement and noted that the Egyptians have fortified and still are strengthening their positions on the canal's west bank.

(The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram said today that Egyptian forces were trying to break up a possible Israeli invasion attempt. According to the paper, Israel was concentrating troops and armor near Mitla Pass, about 30 miles east of Port Suez, for a possible attack on Egypt. Cairo spokesmen claimed that Egyptian gunners killed "scores" of Israeli soldiers yesterday and destroyed five Israeli helicopters, 22 tanks, numerous armored vehicles, machinegun nests and mortar batteries. Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministers of the 13-nation Arab League concluded a three-day Cairo meeting with an announcement that they would strengthen their military forces along all fronts against Israel.)

Israeli officials said Egyptian casualties were "heavy" and claimed the Egyptian high command was trying to conceal that fact from the public. They said yesterday's artillery duel was preceded by an Egyptian machinegun attack on Israeli sappers dismantling mines planted by Egyptian commandos near the Small Bitter Lake. Israeli units returned the fire and suddenly Egyptian big guns were brought into action all along the canal. The exchange lasted three and one-half hours.

## Egyptian Action Seen As A Consequence Of Pressures On Nasser

TEL AVIV, March 12 (JTA) -- A high-ranking senior staff officer said today that the series of heavy artillery duels initiated by Egypt along the Canal were part of a calculated policy dictated by internal and external pressures and hopes for gaining political advantage in any Big Four discussions of the Mideast conflict.

The officer, who asked not to be identified, said the regime of President Gamal Abdel Nasser was under pressure at home from opposition groups on one hand, and on the other from restless young military officers who are demanding action against Israel. Additional heavy pressure is being brought to bear on Col. Nasser from other Arab states which, unlike Egypt, have not limited their aid to Palestinian terrorists to "moral support," he said. These other regimes argue that if Egypt hopes to retain its supremacy in the Arab world, it had better show some action--hence the heating up of the Suez front, he said. In addition, Cairo believes that by creating the impression that the Mideast is on the verge of a new explosion, it can precipitate hasty Big Four action for an imposed solution in the Arab's favor.

Israel estimated that Egypt suffered up to 50 casualties yesterday. Israelis say the Egyptian forces are especially vulnerable to counter-attacks because they are densely concentrated along the canal's West Bank where they have deployed an estimated six or seven divisions.

## **Soviet Condolence Note On Riad Confirms Suspicion That Other Officers Were Killed**

TEL AVIV, March 12 (JTA) -- A Soviet note of condolence to the Egyptian government, broadcast by Cairo radio yesterday, has confirmed Israel's suspicions that Egypt's Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdel Moneim Riad, was not the only high-ranking officer killed during Sunday's artillery duel across the Suez Canal. The Soviet note, signed by Defense Minister Andrei Grechko, expressed the sympathy of Soviet armed forces for the death of "Gen. Riad and a number of other commanders in the line of duty." It asked that the Cairo government convey the condolences to the "bereaved families." Gen. Riad was killed by tank fire from across the 150 yard-wide canal while inspecting Egyptian artillery positions at

Ismaïlia early Sunday morning. He was given a hero's funeral in Cairo Monday. The official announcement of his death made no mention of other casualties, but Israeli officers said Gen. Riad must have been accompanied by several headquarters staff officers as he undoubtedly would not have gone on an inspection tour alone.

### Dayan Says Red China Trains Guerrillas; El Fatah Loses 7 After Killing 3 Paratroopers

JERUSALEM, March 12 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told the Knesset (Parliament) yesterday that evidence has been uncovered that Communist China is giving weapons and training to Palestinian Arab guerrillas. He said, in a reply to questions, that Red China was the only non-Arab country where Palestinian terrorists got training. He disclosed that Chinese-made equipment had been found during a recent round-up of terrorist suspects. He said Egyptian intelligence units were sending terrorists into the Sinai peninsula. (The Foreign Ministry was looking into a report last week that the Cuban military was training Arab guerrillas in Cuba.)

Meanwhile, Jordanian and Israeli forces exchanged mortar and machinegun fire across the Jordan River for 15 minutes today in the northern Jordan Valley. A gang of Arab El Fatah saboteurs, using a woman with two babies as a shield, ambushed and killed three veteran Israeli paratroopers yesterday in a cave southeast of the West Bank town of Nablus. Israeli forces later killed all seven saboteurs without harming the woman and children.

Police said today that the commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in East Jerusalem had been captured along with a large arms cache including scores of handgrenades and many pounds of high explosives. They refused to identify him but said that he was not a professional or a prominent citizen. The Popular Front is the terrorist organization which has claimed credit for the supermarket bombing in Jerusalem last month and last week's bombing of the Hebrew University cafeteria. Alleged terrorists arrested in recent days have included a prominent lawyer and an Anglican minister from Ramallah and two physicians. A suspected terrorist arrested yesterday was identified as Subhi Gusha, one of several Arab doctors who staged a sit-in to protest the integration of Arab hospitals with Israeli hospitals.

Police said that a 14-year-old mentally retarded Arab boy was being held in connection with a bomb explosion at the Ramallah branch of the Bank Leumi last week in which a West Bank Arab was injured. They were looking for the man who gave him the explosives. The boy was incapable of providing any information, police said.

### Troops Patrol Nablus Streets Following Violence; Demonstrations Break Out Elsewhere

TEL AVIV, March 12 (JTA) -- Steel helmeted Israeli troops mounted on jeeps patrolled the streets of Nablus today in the aftermath of stone-throwing demonstrations by hundreds of students and adults which erupted there and in other West Bank towns and Gaza. Nablus Mayor Hamdi Kanaan resigned today, saying he could "do nothing for the town anymore." Nablus, with a population of 80,000, is the largest West Bank town.

A curfew was clamped on the old part of the town where mobs smashed windows, set rubbish fires and stoned policemen. Youths poured out of their classrooms shouting "long live Nasser" in what was ostensibly a demonstration for the Egyptian Army Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdel Moneim Riad, who was killed Sunday during an Egyptian-Israeli artillery battle along the Suez Canal. Witnesses said at least five Arab youths were injured. Two persons were reported arrested after youngsters conered a group of Israeli policemen in an intersection and pelted them with stones. Students and adults swarmed through the streets unfurling Palestine Liberation Front banners. Policemen were stoned in Gaza today where girls from the Dir el Balah high school blocked the main road. Authorities closed the school until further notice.

### Eban Agrees That Peace Is Concern Of 4 Powers--Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that the "Four Powers" who should be concerned with agreements in the Middle East were Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. He said, "Nothing is more absurd that the concept of an imposed settlement." Following a luncheon attended by 16 Senators tendered by Stuart Symington (D., Mo.), Mr. Eban said that he discussed "confidential details" of prospects for peace and security with the legislators but would not divulge further details.

The Foreign Minister said the burden of agreement and initiative should rest on the contending parties themselves. He pointed out that the Four Powers were not in agreement among themselves and that the U.S. and USSR views differed on the imposed settlement issue. It would take a great deal of diplomatic activity to bring about an agreement of the U.S. and USSR on Middle East policy, and that amount of effort should more usefully be devoted to helping bring about agreement among the nations of the area," he said. Asked about U.S. adoption of an "even-handed policy," Mr. Eban said he would describe U.S. policy for the last 20 months as "even-handed."

President Nixon has deferred his meeting with Mr. Eban from Thursday to Friday until after Mr. Eban addresses a National Press Club luncheon. Foreign statesmen customarily address the press club where they respond to journalists' questions about White House discussions after meeting with the President.

## Mrs. Meir Forming Government, Indicates There Will Be No Change In Present Composition

JERUSALEM, March 12 (JTA) -- A 70-year-old grandmother began the task of forming a new government that will lead Israel at least until the national elections next Oct. 28. Mrs. Golda Meir, who was named Premier-designate by President Zalman Shazar yesterday, indicated that there would be no changes in the coalition put together by the late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol during the war crisis of May, 1967 and which continues to serve today as the care-taker government of Acting Prime Minister Yigal Allon. Mrs. Meir said yesterday that the new government will "keep its present composition in party and personal elements; it will be a cabinet of continuity and contain no radical changes in the policies of Levi Eshkol."

Mrs. Meir, a former Milwaukee school-teacher who served as Israel's Minister of Labor, Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Moscow, will be the third woman in modern history to hold a nation's highest executive post. The others were Mrs. Solomon Bandaranaike who served as Prime Minister of Ceylon in the late 1950s and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the present Prime Minister of India.

## Tel Aviv University Will Name New Center For Technological Sciences For Eshkol

NEW YORK, March 12 (JTA) -- Tel Aviv University will name a new element in its structure the Levi Eshkol Center for Technological Sciences, its president Dr. George S. Wise announced today. The Center, which will open this October, will be named for the late Premier, he said, because of "the great interest he had shown in higher education and technology in Israel." When completed, the Center will have a dozen buildings, he said. Its first classes will be taught in the existing university structure. By 1974 it expects to produce its first graduate in a science-oriented engineering program.

The Center will offer two types of programs. It will begin with a graduate program that will consist of research topics to complement the existing departments in natural sciences at Tel Aviv University and will create studies in their applied aspects. The second type of program, to begin in the fall of 1972, will include four years of study. The first two will be identical with the undergraduate program in the sciences, the third will include a stronger component of technological subjects, and the fourth will include topical specialization.

## Former SS Major General--A Gestapo Founder--Arrested On Suspicion Of Murder

BONN, March 12 (JTA) -- A 65-year-old former SS Major General who was one of the founders of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police, and four other ex-SS officers who worked under him have been arrested and flown to West Berlin where warrants were issued on suspicion of responsibility for the murders of 11,083 Polish Jews and intellectuals during World War II. Dr. Werner Best, who lives in the Rhur mining town of Muehlheim where he works as a legal adviser to a mining company, is suspected of having organized some of the special "task forces" that carried out the systematic liquidation of Jews and Polish intelligentsia after the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. He is believed to be one of the highest ranking Nazis arrested since the Nuremberg war crimes trials in 1947.

Dr. Best was governor of occupied Denmark from 1942 until the end of the war and was responsible for ordering the mass deportation of Danish Jews, a move that was largely foiled by the Danish populace who smuggled most of the Jewish community to safety in Sweden. He was sentenced to death by a Danish court in 1946 but the sentence was commuted to a limited jail term and he was later deported to West Germany. Because he had been tried in Denmark, he could not be retried on the same charges in West Germany under the Allied-West German agreement restoring German sovereignty in 1955. Dr. Best, like many other high ranking Nazis, was thereby permitted to go free.

## Council Of Jews From Czechoslovakia Establishes Contact With Slovakian Community

LONDON, March 12 (JTA) -- The Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia here announced today that it has established contact with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia for the first time since Slovakia became a federal state in the reorganized Czechoslovakian Republic. Karl Baum, Council chairman, made public a letter from Dr. Benjamin Eichler, chairman of the Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia, welcoming contacts with "Jewish organizations aiming at securing the future existence of Jews anywhere in the world." According to Dr. Eichler, there are some 7,000 Jews in Slovakia, mainly in Bratislava, the capital, and in Presov, Kosice and Galanta, and they lead an active religious life.

According to further reports from Prague, a wreath was placed on behalf of President Svoboda of Czechoslovakia on a memorial to the Czech-Jewish martyrs killed in the Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps by the Nazis 25 years ago. The occasion was the anniversary of the camp's liberation which was celebrated at the 15th Century Pinkas Synagogue in Prague. A number of high-ranking Czech Government officials attended and Dr. Richard Feder, Chief Rabbi of the Czech Republic, was received by the Minister of Culture, Miroslav Galuska.

## Habima Troupe To Perform In Vienna Theater On Anniversary Of Nazi 'Anschluss'

VIENNA, March 12 (JTA) -- Israel's national theater troupe, the Habimah, arrived here to perform two Israeli plays at the Burg Theater. The first performance will coincide with the 31st anniversary of the "Anschluss," the annexation of Austria to Nazi Germany. The play is "Hanna Senesz" about a Jewish woman paratrooper dropped behind German lines in Hungary on a secret mission during World War II. She was captured by the Nazis and executed.

## Goldberg Says Publicity Exaggerates Extent Of Negro Anti-Semitism In U.S.

LONDON, March 12 (JTA) -- Arthur J. Goldberg, president of the American Jewish Committee, charged here today that publicity was responsible for exaggerating the extent of Negro anti-Semitism in the United States. Mr. Goldberg, a former Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, addressed a meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association.

## Presidents Conference Slates 2-Day Parley Of Leaders On Middle East Issues

NEW YORK, March 12 (JTA) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations announced today that a National Jewish Leadership Conference on Peace in the Middle East will convene here March 23-24 bringing together some 400 Jewish leaders from all over the country. Rabbi Herschel M. Schacter, chairman of the group, said each of its 22 constituent agencies will send 15 delegates. The National Community Relations Advisory Council asked for, and was granted, 50 delegates, Rabbi Schacter said, to insure adequate representation from outside the New York metropolitan area. The North American Jewish Youth Council will send 25 delegates.

Rabbi Schacter said the conference would be addressed by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Israel's chief representative to the United Nations; Sen. Stuart Symington, (D., Mo.) and Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R., N.Y.). It will open with a memorial service for the late Premier Levi Eshkol, of Israel, and will include a series of concurrent panel discussions on U.S. policy in the Middle East; the role of the United Nations and the Big Powers; ways to counteract Arab propaganda and the Arab boycott of Israel; public relations and the international implications of Middle East security problems.

Gen. S.L.A. Marshall, a retired U.S. Army officer and nationally known writer on military affairs, will present a military analysis of the Middle East scene. According to Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the President's Conference, the gathering will be the first of its kind since the Six-Day War.

## Berman, Bershad And Hammer Named To JTA Board Of Directors, Arnov Announces

NEW YORK, March 12 (JTA) -- Election of three new members of the board of directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was announced today by Robert H. Arnov, president. They are Julius Berman of New York, vice president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs; Albert M. Bershad of Philadelphia, member of the executive board of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia; and Gottlieb Hammer of New York, executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal. Their election brings the JTA board membership up to 41. In announcing their acceptances, Mr. Arnov said that their membership on the board would broaden its representative character and add to its strength.

## Senate Committee Confirms Annenberg; He Will Be First U.S. Jew Envoy To Britain

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today confirmed the appointment of Walter Annenberg, a millionaire publisher, as United States Ambassador to Britain. Mr. Annenberg, a close personal friend of President Richard M. Nixon, is the first American Jew to be named Ambassador to the Court of St. James. The only negative vote was cast by committee chairman Sen. J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.) who told reporters later that he did not want to go into the reasons for his vote. Mr. Annenberg is publisher of the Philadelphia Inquirer, TV Guide, Seventeen magazine and several other newspapers and heads Triangle Publications which publishes the Daily Racing Form.

## Polish Academicians, Dislocated By Anti-Jewish Campaign, Find Haven At Yeshiva U.

NEW YORK, March 12 (JTA) -- More than a dozen Polish Jewish academicians, dislocated by the anti-Jewish campaign in Poland, will find a haven at Yeshiva University's Belfer Graduate School of Science, Dr. Arthur B. Komar, its acting dean, said today. The first of the group, who was a member of the physics faculty of a leading Polish university, enrolled at the school last month and will seek his doctorate there.

The young physicist and his wife, whose names were withheld because they still have relatives in Poland, were aided in leaving Poland and immigrating here by United Hias Service. A second Polish academician has enrolled in the Belfer school and almost a dozen more were planning to come to the school shortly. Dr. Komar said that the school had had to reject applications from some refugees "since we are a graduate school and our programs are only in mathematics, physics and chemistry." Illustrative of what is happening in Poland, he said, was the fact that in one university where there were seven Jewish members on a science faculty of 40, only two Jews remained. The Belfer Graduate School of Science was established in 1958. It will move next year to a new \$20 million, 20-story home at Yeshiva University's main center in Washington Heights.

## Mrs. Kaminska Will Reopen In 'Mirele Efron'; 'Megilla' By Manger Returning To N.Y.

NEW YORK, March 12 (JTA) -- Ida Kaminska, the former "first lady" of the Yiddish theater in Poland, will open on Broadway May 6 in a revival of "Mirele Efron" by Jacob Gordin. The play has been booked for a three-week run at the Brooks Atkinson Theater. It played in New York last year. Another Jewish play, "The Megilla of Itzik Manger," will open at the Longacre Theater April 19 for a dozen performances. Mme. Kaminska adapted and directed the version of "Mirele Efron" which will feature her daughter, Ruth Kaminska; her husband, Marian Melman; and Karol Latowicz. The actress was director of the government-sponsored Yiddish State Theater in Warsaw when she left Poland because of the anti-Semitic campaign there.

## William H. Levin Dead At 99; Was Member Of Am Olam Group In South Jersey

ALLIANCE, N.Y., March 12 (JTA) -- William H. Levin, who was a member of one of the first all-Jewish farm settlements in the United States, died yesterday at the age of 99. He was a member of a group known as the Am Olam (Hebrew for "Eternal People") movement founded by Jewish youth in Russia after the 1881 massacres. Their objective was emigration and they stressed agriculture as a means of national Jewish regeneration. Mr. Levin was born in Kiev and fled with his family and other pogrom victims to the United States, aided by the Alliance Israelite Universelle. The 43 families arrived in south Jersey in 1882 and called their settlement Alliance. The community is now part of the town of Norma in Pittsgrove Township.