

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Ambassador Tekoah Charges Soviet Union With Approving Arab Terrorist Actions

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 18 (JTA) -- Israel today charged that the Soviet Government has associated itself with "terror operations being directed against Israeli civilians" thereby encouraging the Arab states "to continue to violate the cease-fire and undermine further the prospects for peace through the initiation and support for the terror operations."

The charge was contained in a letter from Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, chief Israeli representative to the United Nations to Karoly Csatorday, this month's Security Council president. Mr. Tekoah's letter referred to an article by Tass, the official Soviet news agency, which the Soviet representative Yakov Malik, submitted to the Security Council on March 11 with a request that it be circulated as a Council document. The article, dated Feb. 28, accused Israel of opening fire in the Suez Canal area and of committing "abominable acts of provocation" against the Arab countries in reprisal for the "growth of popular resistance in the occupied Arab territories."

The section of the Tass article which Mr. Tekoah charged was "blanket approval" of Arab terrorist warfare against Israel said: "As regards the statements by Tel Aviv politicians concerning 'massive reprisals,' they should bear in mind that the struggle of peoples against invaders and occupiers is justified and legitimate from the point of view of international law. The longer the Israel forces remain in occupied territories, the stronger and more extensive will the Arabs' struggle for liberation become."

Mr. Tekoah wrote, "The Soviet position on this was expressed without any embellishment in an article that appeared in Pravda, Feb. 27, defending the terrorist attack on an Israeli civil passenger aircraft at the Zurich airport. The entire civilized world had expressed its horror at this wanton attack against innocent men, women and children in a neutral country...Instead of heeding the Secretary-General's call to all governments to take all possible measures to prevent any repetition of these acts, the Soviet organ glamorizes them and in fact calls for more."

### Soviet Army Newspaper Says Israel Plans New Mideast War

LONDON, March 18, 1969 (JTA) -- The Soviet Army newspaper Red Star charged last week that Israel was bent on frustrating Middle East peace efforts and was planning to trigger a new war. The paper claimed that the successors to the late Premier Levi Eshkol "not only remain loyal to the old goals of his government but are using the same means to achieve them--methods aimed at frustrating any efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict, the arms race and armed provocations." According to Red Star, Israel "is ready to unleash another big war in the Middle East to achieve its expansionist goals."

## Hussein Calls For Use Of Regular Arab Troops To Support Palestinian Guerrillas

LONDON, March 18 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan has called for the use of regular Arab troops in support of Palestinian guerrillas active against Israel, the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported today. The paper said that King Hussein, in Cairo for two days of consultations with President Gamal Abdel Nasser, said it was "unfair to expect the commandos to liberate Israel occupied territory, although they are doing much."

The Jordanian ruler disclosed that troops of Syria, Iraq and Jordan have joined in a new unified command against Israel. "It was only recently that obstacles began to disappear and a degree of coordination was achieved that inspires satisfaction," the King was quoted by Al Ahram as saying. He reportedly said that the only political solution possible for the Middle East was through the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution calling among other things, for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. The Jordanian monarch said the resolution represented "the limit of Arab concessions."

Reports reaching here from Beirut yesterday said the new right-leaning military regime in Syria was sharply critical of the Soviet Union and was moving toward closer military liaison with neighboring Iraq. According to a Beirut dispatch in the Manchester Guardian yesterday, the new Syrian strongman, Defense Minister Gen. Hafiz Assad, had agreed to the stationing of about 6,000 Iraqi troops in Syria and may also grant the Iraqi Air Force use of Syrian bases. According to the dispatch by Guardian correspondent David Hurst, "Assad has been working for a rapprochement with Iraq for months." He was interested in disposing of his chief rival, Gen. Saalah Jadid, a left-wing, pro-Soviet isolationist, and the new alignment with the military regime in Iraq appeared to be one way of doing so, Mr. Hurst reported. The Daily Telegraph reported yesterday that Gen. Assad had accused the Soviets of interfering in Syria's internal affairs, of inspiring policies detrimental to the country's agriculture and economy, and of supplying Syria with obsolete and sub-standard military equipment. He also charged Moscow with operating a Communist spy network in Syria with money collected in Syria.

Reports from Beirut said travellers reported seeing squads of Iraqi planes flying in formation with Syrian jets. The planes were reportedly sent to provide air cover for 6,000 Iraqi troops now in Syria.

The Beirut newspaper Al Jarida said Gen. Assad agreed to provide Iraq with two air bases in Syria. Reports from Damascus said an undisclosed number of Iraqi troops were stationed at Daraa, 60 miles south of the capital, as part of a new Syrian-Iraqi military union against Israel. They said the Iraqi chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Hammad Chebab, and Gen. Assad had agreed to the move as a means of developing a more solid eastern front against Israel. Syria, Iraq and Jordan have been linked in a loose eastern military command since last September. About 12,000 Iraqi troops are stationed in northern Jordan.

### Yost Says Big 4 May Consider Stationing New, Stronger UN Peace Force In Mideast

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 18 (JTA) -- The United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Charles W. Yost, indicated yesterday that the Big Four powers may consider stationing a new, stronger UN peace-keeping force in the Mideast when they meet here to discuss the Mideast problem, probably "not too long from now." Mr. Yost spoke in reply to questions at a luncheon of the UN Correspondents Association to which he came directly following a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

The U.S. Ambassador indicated that America favored such a force and believed it would provide sufficient military security for Israel. He said that the essential element of a Big Four agreement on a new UN military presence in the Mideast would be that it could be withdrawn only upon the request of an appropriate UN body. The previous UN peace-keeping force, stationed in the Sinai and Gaza Strip after the 1956 Arab-Israeli war, was withdrawn by Secretary-General U Thant at the request of Egypt in May, 1967, a move considered to have been a major factor in precipitating the Six-Day War.

Bilateral talks among the Big Four powers on an ambassadorial level at the UN have been going on for nearly two months but the Four Powers--U.S., Britain, France and the Soviet Union--have delayed getting together for a full dress discussion of the Mideast problem. That delay has been attributed in part to U.S. insistence that the Four Powers take up the entire problem as a package rather than as a piecemeal approach that appears to be favored by France and the USSR. Ambassador Yost indicated that when the Big Four meet, they will not initially take up the substance of the problem but will try to reach some agreement on the procedures, ground rules and scope of the talks and will also try to assess each others' sincerity in reaching a common ground. It was indicated also that the U.S. and Soviet representatives will continue their private bilateral discussions while Four Power discussions are going on and that the U.S. simultaneously will be "consulting" with the Israelis and the Russians with the Arabs.

The Big Powers have not succeeded in allaying Israel's fears that an agreement among the four, possibly one inimical to Israel's interests, would carry such pressures that it would amount to an imposed solution even if stated otherwise. Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban has argued during his visit here that Big Power intervention could only worsen the Mideast situation by taking it out of its regional context and casting it as an international issue. That, he claimed, could increase the dangers of a nuclear confrontation which the U.S. and Soviets appear anxious to avoid. Mr. Eban has stated that there was no danger at present of a new war breaking out and has played down recent eruptions of fighting along the Suez Canal and the Israel-Jordan cease-fire line. The Arab states, on the other hand, have used the renewed fighting in an attempt to impress the Big Powers that another major explosion was imminent and that urgent international action was needed.

Israel appeared more determined than ever to insist on direct negotiations with the Arabs leading to a contractual peace agreement. Israeli diplomats reportedly have told others that the U.S. has not changed its belief that Arab renunciation of belligerency must be settled by an accord with Israel. The Washington Post's UN correspondent Robert H. Estabrook reported today that "this is regarded by U.S. sources as an exaggeration" and "there had been impatience with Eban for undertaking to state American policy on Four Power talks following his meeting with President Nixon last week." Times correspondent Hedrick Smith reported from Washington today that Israel has flatly turned down a French proposal which represented a shift toward Israel's position. Mr. Smith said foreign diplomatic sources reported that France handed a position paper to Israel that no longer called for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The French paper, according to the sources cited by Mr. Smith, spoke of "agreed rectifications" or adjustments of the 1967 cease-fire line. "Although the French paper thus moved toward Israel's position on this point it fell short of Israeli demands on a number of other key issues and, according to well placed informants, has been sharply rejected by Israel," Mr. Smith wrote. He said Israeli diplomats considered the French paper "negative and hostile to Israeli interests because it seemed to suggest two-phased negotiations, requiring Israeli withdrawals before such fundamental problems as the Arab refugee issue and the future status of Jerusalem are settled." The Israelis also objected to the French failure to specify Israeli maritime rights in the Strait of Tiran and the language of the paper which employed terms frequently used by the Arabs, not by Israel, he said. Mr. Smith said, "The U.S. reaction on the other hand has been more favorable though American officials emphasize that there is still a considerable gap between the French and American positions."

### Israeli Press Welcomes Premier Meir's Insistence On Direct Talks With Arabs

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA) -- Most Israeli newspapers expressed warm editorial approval of Prime Minister Golda Meir's maiden speech in the Knesset yesterday. They welcomed in particular the "forcefulness" with which she stated her government's policy and said that it must be taken into account by anyone dealing with Israel in the future.

The independent daily Haaretz said that Mrs. Meir's emphasis on Israel's demand for direct peace talks with the Arabs and her assertion that Israel will hold the present cease-fire lines until a peace treaty is achieved indicated that neither the so-called Allon plan or any other scheme that falls short of an overall settlement was under consideration at present.

**Weapons Chief Says Israel Will Be Able To Make All Arms It Needs Within 10 Years**

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA) -- The head of Israel's weapons development authority forecast today that the nation would be able to produce all of its arms requirements within the next 10 years. Yesahu Lavi told the annual meeting of the Israel Engineers Association that by 1979, the defense industry would be employing some 60,000 engineers.

**120 Israeli Pilots In U.S. For Training Flights With Phantom Jets**

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA) -- The Air Force announced today that 120 Israeli pilots were in the United States for training in Phantom jets and will be trained at George Air Force Base near Victorville, Cal. The Israelis came here in mid-January after the U.S. agreed to sell 48 F-4 Phantoms to Israel. The pilots are now attending a language school at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas.

**New Artillery Duel Reported Across Suez Canal; One Israeli Soldier Hurt**

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian artillery and tanks duelled across the Suez Canal for over an hour today in the first exchange of heavy gun fire since last Thursday. Each side blamed the other for starting the action. An Israeli military spokesman said the Egyptians opened fire with artillery at noon following a three-hour exchange of small arms fire south of the Bitter Lake. He said one Israeli soldier was slightly wounded in the exchange that lasted 75 minutes. The shelling was concentrated in the Port Tewfik and El Shat areas near the canal's southern entrance.

Cairo radio claimed that Israeli gunners opened fire on Port Tewfik and started several fires in the city which were quickly extinguished. The Egyptians said they suffered no casualties but claimed to have "destroyed Israeli equipment and killed their personnel who opened fire."

A 22-year-old Israeli Army officer was buried in Kibbutz Amir, his Upper Galilee home today, after succumbing to wounds inflicted by an Egyptian sniper along the Suez Canal. Lt. Bezalel Halperin was wounded on March 14, a military spokesman said.

**British Settlers Group Says It Expects Doubling Of Aliyah Next Year**

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA) -- The chairman of the Association of British Settlers in Israel said today that his group expected immigration from the British Isles to double next year. Jacob Morris reported that about a third of the Britons who volunteered to serve Israel during the June, 1967 Six-Day War have returned here or have settled here permanently. He said 1,030 British immigrants arrived here last year and a total of 16,000 British Jews have settled in Israel since the State was established in 1948.

**JNF Opens 50-Mile Road Along West Bank Of Jordan For Army Patrols**

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund has opened a 50-mile road paralleling the West Bank of the Jordan River from Umm Tuts in the north to the Kalliah military outpost on the shores of the Dead Sea. The new road provides a short cut by by-passing the existing Jericho road. For the time being it is used mainly as a patrol route for the Army and border police. Israel is speedily replacing dirt roads with paved roads in border areas to prevent the planting of mines.

**Liner Docks At Haifa With 47 Young Immigrants From Argentina, Brazil**

HAIFA, March 18 (JTA) -- The liner Theodor Herzl docked here today with 47 young Jewish immigrants from Argentina and Brazil among its passengers. The youngsters were met by Joseph Klarman, head of the Youth Aliva program, who hailed the newcomers as the forerunners of large scale youth immigration to Israel. He said their numbers would be determined "by our readiness to accept them."

Mr. Klarman has called for the return to Israel of the children of "Yordim"--Israelis who emigrated and settled permanently abroad. The new arrivals from Latin America will be distributed among various youth movements around the country.

**Crewmen Of Sunken Ship Elath Officially Declared Dead; Widows May Remarry**

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA) -- The missing crewmen of the Israeli destroyer Elath which was sunk by Egyptian missile craft off the Sinai coast Oct. 21 have been officially declared dead. The Haifa rabbinate has declared their wives to be widowed and eligible to remarry.

**30 Arab Women Start Strike In Nablus Mosque To Protest Arrests**

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA) -- Thirty Arab women began a sit-in strike in a Nablus mosque yesterday to protest recent arrests by Israeli occupation authorities and the demolition of houses belonging to suspected terrorists. Nablus, the largest West Bank town, was the scene of disorders by students and adults in recent days. A curfew on the old part of town was lifted yesterday after four days.

Israeli sappers demolished several houses in East Jerusalem which belonged to suspected members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Several of the buildings were used as weapons training sites, authorities said.

**DAIA Hears Reports Of Both Rightist, Leftist Anti-Semitism In Argentina**

BUENOS AIRES, March 18 (JTA) -- Disturbing new manifestations of anti-Semitism, from extreme leftist as well as extreme right-wing elements, occupied the attention of the DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry at a meeting of its executive council here. The meeting was attended by representatives of the major cities and the provinces.

Dr. Jose Kestelman, DAIA secretary, said anti-Semitism had been felt increasingly since the beginning of the year and remarked that in the case of Leftist groups, some individuals of Jewish extraction had a part in it.

### Orthodox Leaders Rap Proposal To Drop One Day's Observance Of Jewish Holidays

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) -- The heads of two Orthodox bodies today attacked a recommendation made by the head of the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly yesterday that American Conservative congregations change from a compulsory two-day observance of three Biblical festivals to one day's observance as is the practice in Israel. Rabbi Zev Segal, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, and Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, both expressed the opinion that the Conservative proposal would be divisive, was contrary to traditional Jewish law and would create difficulties for Jews observing holidays.

Rabbi Ralph Simon, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinic body of Conservative Judaism, now holding its 69th annual convention at Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., argued that adoption of the Israeli holiday calendar "would represent a striking demonstration of the spiritual centrality which Israel holds for the Jewish world." But Rabbi Segal termed this "a specious argument" because "the religious leadership of Israel will confirm that the celebration of the second day of festivals in the Diaspora was an immutable decision of the rabbis of the Talmud and was relevant for all times." He said he had been in communication with the Ashkenazis Chief Rabbi of Israel, Isser Untermann, and was authorized by him to say that no person had the right to abolish the second day of Jewish festivals.

Rabbi Karasick said the proposal, if adopted, would expose the Jewish community to "severe conflicts and disruption." He alleged that "damaging confusion" will be created in the general American society which has accepted and made provisions for the observant Jews. He noted that virtually all educational institutions either do not schedule any examinations on the second day of Jewish holidays or arrange substitute examinations for observant Jews, and said the same case applies to the armed forces and civil service. The one exception in the Conservative proposal would be Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which is observed for two days in Israel. Reform Jews observe only one day. Both the Conservative and Reform movements are engaged in efforts to establish themselves in Israel as an alternative to Orthodoxy which is the only branch of Judaism officially recognized there. The Israeli Chief Rabbinate and Orthodox bodies abroad have bitterly opposed these efforts.

### Conservative Rabbis Agree That Jewish Education Needs Overhauling To Be Relevant

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., March 18 (JTA) -- Five hundred Conservative rabbis meeting here appeared to be in general agreement today that Jewish education in America needed a major overhauling to make it more relevant to contemporary issues if it was to develop a commitment to Judaism among contemporary youth.

The issue was the subject of spirited discussion at the 69th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinical arm of Conservative Judaism. Rabbi Stanley Kessler, of West Hartford, Conn., cited examples of lack of commitment among students in his own congregation's school to bear out his charge that the Jewish "educational establishment" had failed in its primary goal. James Sleeper, a Yale senior and a graduate of Jewish schools, told the assembly that "there is a huge gap between what our best young people are experiencing and what is being presented in the classroom as Jewish education."

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, said "Jewish education in our open society presents difficulties unknown to our ancestors." He added, "We must continue our efforts to improve curricula, techniques and materials, but we must not belittle the success that is bringing an ever larger proportion of our Jewish young people into our schools to challenge both our method and our content." Rabbi Raphael Artz, director of Camp Ramah in Palmer, Mass., found the very deficiency in Jewish education a sign of present growth and a challenge for future developments.

Rabbi Judah Nadich of the Park Ave. Synagogue in New York, said "The Bible has suddenly become a living document, exciting for teachers, children and even parents. The study of the text leads directly to discussions of decision-making on moral and ethical issues in contemporary living."

### See Teachers Union Playing Down Black Anti-Semitism In Ocean Hill-Brownsville

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) -- The Jewish-led, predominantly Jewish United Federation of Teachers, which had been accused of exaggerating black anti-Semitism as an issue in last fall's teachers' strikes, today was apparently playing down the issue. The current issue of the union's weekly "United Teachers," carried an article headlined, "Black Anti-Semitism Seen As Exaggerated Issue by Parents and Staff of PS 144." The school named is in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville experimental district, the focal point of the teachers' strike.

The article quoted Harriet Goldstein, UFT chapter chairman at PS 144 as saying, "Anti-Semitism has been attributed to the Ocean Hill district on the basis of the comments of a very few individuals whom I don't think are representative of the district. I have never witnessed anything I would term as anti-Semitism in my own school." Several Jewish teachers at the school were quoted as denying the existence of anti-Semitism there. One said, "most of the anti-Semitism in our school comes from white Jews."

Ralph Rogers, the Negro principal of PS 144, was quoted as saying that newsmen spoke to outside militants rather than community residents in their reports of anti-Semitic statements. He said the parents in the area do not care if teachers are "black or white or Jewish or gentile" so long as they do a good job in the classroom.

A group calling itself "The Jewish Citizens Committee for Community Control" used a full page advertisement in last Sunday's New York Times to reprint an article from "The Public Life", a bi-weekly journal of politics, which accused the UFT leadership of deliberately raising and spreading the issue of black anti-Semitism during the teachers' strike to alarm the Jewish community and gain its support for the strike.