

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

Thursday, March 27, 1969

No. 59

French Leftist Intellectuals, Including Sartre And Aragon, Hit Polish 'Anti-Semitism'

PARIS, March 26 (JTA) -- A group of France's most prominent pro-Communist and left-wing intellectuals called on the Polish Government today to abandon its "systematic anti-Semitic campaign" in order to cleanse Poland's "honor and good name." The signatories to the letter to the Polish Government and Communist Party leadership in Warsaw included Jean-Paul Sartre, Louis Aragon, Simon de Beauvoir, Elsa Triolet and Nobel Laureate Alfred Kastler. Several of the signers have been or still are members of the Communist Party.

Their letter noted that "under no circumstances can we be charged with being anti-Communist or enemies of Poland." It called for an end to the "systematic defamation and suspicion" surrounding Jews and to the "unjustified sanctions against many of them" so that Polish Jews can "live a normal life."

U.S. Mideast Proposal Reportedly Includes Withdrawal Timetable, Waterways Transit

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 26 (JTA) -- The United States' Mideast proposals presented to Britain, France and the Soviet Union touch on a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and envisage some sort of contractual agreement that would assure Israel of "secure and recognized boundaries" called for in the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution, it was reliably learned here yesterday. The U.S. proposals were presented by Ambassador Charles W. Yost, U.S. representative to the UN, and represent the first spelling-out of the American position on the Middle East to the other Big Powers. Informed sources here said they were thought to be acceptable to the Soviet Union and France as subjects for Big Four discussions. U.S. officials here and in Washington predicted that Big Four talks on the Mideast would get underway at the UN soon, possibly next week.

The proposals were understood to contain references to a demilitarized zone in the Sinai Peninsula and free transit for Israeli ships through the Suez Canal and the Strait of Tiran. A major point was said to be a reference to border adjustments that shall not reflect "the weight of conquest." This was interpreted as meaning that Israel would have to give up most of the Arab territories it seized in the June, 1967 war in return for agreed and secure boundaries. The American note was also said to hint at the establishment of a new UN peace-keeping force in the Mideast, a move Israel strongly rejects, and to have mentioned some sort of equitable solution of the Arab refugee problem.

The emphasis of the American position was said to be the establishment of peace, not merely a cessation of belligerency. The U.S. also reportedly insisted that the Big Four cannot impose a settlement but must operate through Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the UN's special envoy to the Mideast. The emphasis on Dr. Jarring's mission was reportedly designed to provide him with specific suggestions he could present to the parties for implementing the November, 1967 resolution. These would have the additional authority of Big Four backing. Dr. Jarring has submitted a list of 12 questions to the governments of Israel, Egypt and Jordan designed to elicit their views on a settlement. Israel was reportedly asked to specify what it would consider secure boundaries. Cairo was asked if it was ready to participate in a signed document and whether it envisaged a package deal.

U.S. Angry Over Leaks Of Aide-Memoire Contents To Israeli Press

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA) -- The U.S. lodged an unofficial protest with Israel today against apparent leaks to the Israeli press of part of the contents of the American aide-memoire to Britain, France and the Soviet Union containing U.S. proposals on the Middle East, it was learned today. Local newspapers here quoted some purported details such as insistence that Arab refugees be taken back and the idea of establishing demilitarized zones. The U.S. protest, which reportedly stemmed directly from the White House, asserted that the leaks had "done damage."

U.S. anger was believed to be the reason there has been no official comment yet on the proposals although their contents were made known to the Israeli delegation to the UN as well as to the Arabs. A statement of Israeli policy on the Big Four Mideast talks was expected following tomorrow's special cabinet meeting which will be devoted to Foreign Minister Abba Eban's report on his recent visit to the U.S. Mr. Eban met with Premier Golda Meir for two hours today in preparation for the meeting. The impression here was that Israel will reiterate its opposition to the Four Power talks.

Mr. Eban returned yesterday from the U.S. via London and expressed satisfaction with his talks with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart. Sources said that Mr. Stewart explained why Britain favored Four Power talks which, he reportedly stressed, were not intended to impose a solution but to interpret authoritatively the Security Council resolution and to strengthen the peace-seeking mission of Dr. Jarring. Mr. Eban was said to have made it clear that Israel would not sacrifice the security of its present position until it was assured of a genuine and lasting peace with its neighbors. Mrs. Meir told the Hebrew University board of governors today that "Israel will never agree to be a country, like Czechoslovakia, whose destiny, future, security and borders are determined by others."

New Jordanian Premier Vows No Direct Talks With Israelis

LONDON, March 26 (JTA) -- Jordan's new Prime Minister Abdel Moneim Rifai told a news conference in Amman today that "Jordan shall continue to adopt the policy of refusing to hold direct talks with Israel," it was reported here. The Jordanian Government so far has withheld comment on widely published reports that King Hussein had met secretly on at least two occasions with Mr. Eban and at least once with Deputy Premier Yigal Allon. Similar reports have been officially denied in the past. Some Jordanian officials conceded privately that such meetings had been rumored in the Arab world for some time. Israel has denied that the meetings took place.

U.S. Said To Favor 4 Power Talks As Means Of Uncovering 'Soft Spots' In Israeli Policy

WASHINGTON, March 27 (JTA) -- A main United States objective in the coming Four Power talks on Mideast peace is the uncovering of possible "soft spots" in the public position of Israel on minimum peace conditions and ascertaining of the extent of Jerusalem's flexibility and compromise, it was learned today. Washington also believes that substantive discussions at the United Nations are desirable in order to try to elicit the amount of "give" in the Arab stand.

American policy-makers are not convinced that Israel is firmly wedded to its stated public policy of insistence on a total peace settlement as a condition of withdrawing its forces from occupied territories. The Big Power talks, involving the U.S., Russia, France and Britain, are seen as a means of creating an international climate conducive to a settlement in the troubled region although officials here insist that final decisions would be left to the parties directly concerned.

A more detailed definition of the main U.S. objectives in the Four Power talks is emerging here. Among U.S. aims are the avoidance of a nuclear confrontation with Russia; improvement of U.S.-Soviet relations in order to improve circumstances for a Vietnam peace and to facilitate Washington-Moscow missile talks; preservation of pro-Western Arab regimes such as Jordan which is now threatened by Palestinian extremists; reduction of tensions that facilitate further Soviet penetration of the Mideast; and strengthening of the Jarring mission as an instrument for a settlement.

Some emphasis in current thinking is being put on possible solution of the Arab refugee issue prior to a general settlement in hopes that it would facilitate a settlement. The U.S. considers that a main stumbling block to peace is the refugee problem but has until now believed that it could be resolved only in the context of an overall settlement; a new line of thought however is that the overall settlement depends upon a prior refugee solution.

The current assessment of the Soviet position on the Mideast by U.S. officials is that Moscow wishes genuinely to avoid a confrontation with the U.S. there. Since the Russians are willing to talk about the Mideast in the Four Power context, the U.S. feels that it is in the U.S. national security interest to pursue the talks. Among the indications of apparent sincere Soviet interest in de-escalating tensions in the Mideast being cited by officials are: Soviet-Chinese difficulties, the desire of the Russian public for a better life, Russian assistance to the U.S. in promoting Vietnam peace talks, and the general willingness of Moscow to discuss outstanding problems between the two superpowers.

Policy-makers maintain that there has been no shift in basic American policy on the Mideast since the election. Washington authorities acknowledge the existence of a Russian proposal for a phased Israeli withdrawal from the Suez Canal as a first step toward a general peace settlement. But the U.S. was said to be insisting on a total package and reportedly has no intention of separating the canal from other issues. In explaining their emphasis on the Big Four talks, officials insist that the very process of diplomatic activity is an important deterrent to conflict affecting all parties in the area.

Israelis Strike At Terrorist Base At A-Salt In Jordan, Planes Return Safely

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA) -- A military spokesman announced that Israeli jets struck at a terrorist base south of A-Salt in Jordan today on a "search and destroy" mission aimed at knocking out a guerrilla camp before forays could be launched against Israel. He said all of the planes returned safely to their bases. The air strike over Jordan was the first since last Friday when one Israeli jet was shot down and its pilot killed. An Israeli air raid on A-Salt last Aug. 4 took 28 guerrilla and civilian lives and wounded more than 82, Amman Radio said at the time. Jordan said today that four Israeli jet fighter-bombers struck a populated area 15 miles northwest of Amman killing 18 civilians and wounding 25 others in a bomb and rocket attack. It claimed that the target was Al-Jazira village in the A-Salt area which consists of a number of restaurants frequented by West Bank travelers. According to a Jordanian military spokesman, 10 of the wounded were seriously hurt.

Jerusalem military sources said yesterday that Iraq has sent more troops to Jordan and Syria in a calculated move against Israel. The Iraqi troop movement was announced in a Baghdad radio broadcast monitored here in which Iraq declared that it refused to sign a cease-fire agreement with Israel and that its troops in Syria and Jordan were in an active state of war with Israel.

Israel said Iraq recently shifted 6,000 troops from Jordan to Syria and has sent replacements into Jordan. It said Iraqi troops "have provided constant aid" to Arab guerrilla forces.

The presence of Iraqi forces in Syria and Jordan was the subject of a complaint lodged by Israel on March 18 with UN Secretary-General U Thant. Ambassador Yosef Tekoah asked Mr. Thant to obtain from Baghdad "an affirmation that Iraq accepts the Security Council cease-fire resolutions and that all Iraqi forces will respect the cease-fire." Mr. Tekoah noted that Iraq was an active participant in the 1967 war and "has been evasive in respect of its acceptance of the cease-fire." Mr. Tekoah asserted that Iraq maintained forces near the Israel-Jordan cease-fire line and actively supported terrorism.

Sik Brands As 'Lie' Tass Allegations That 'U.S. Zionist Money' Was Behind Him

LONDON, March 26 (JTA) -- Ota Sik, the self-exiled Czech-Jewish economist, has denounced as "a racially colored lie" charges circulated by the Soviet news agency Tass that he had accepted "Zionist money from the United States" to overthrow the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Sik's comment was published yesterday in the Prague newspaper, Svobodne Slovo. He wrote, "It is somewhat awkward when a Communist must respond to such a racially colored lie of a Communist news agency." Mr. Sik, who was deputy premier and chief economist in the reform regime of Alexander Dubcek, fled to Switzerland when the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia last summer. He visited Prague briefly several months ago. He has been a frequent target of the press in Poland and East Germany.

Radio Prague commentator Peter Pithart said last week in a broadcast that anti-Semitism was seeping into Czech politics, especially as a means for finding scapegoats for "the nation's catastrophe." He said that "it is perhaps not correct to speak about mass moods, but the seed has been sown."

Will Charge Palestinian Terrorists With Murder In Death Of Israeli Pilot Trainee

ZURICH, March 26 (JTA) -- Charges against the three surviving Palestinian terrorists who attacked an El Al airliner with machineguns at Zurich Airport last Feb. 18 will be changed from attempted murder to murder, it was reliably learned here yesterday following the death of Yoram Perez, the 26-year-old pilot trainee who was wounded in the attack. The terrorists, two men and a woman, are being held in pre-trial custody. They were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. A spokesman for the prosecutor's office said today that Mr. Perez' death "will of course affect the criminal procedure against them. A fourth terrorist was shot to death by the plane's security guard, Mordechai Rachamin. The latter was taken into custody but was released on bail last week and has returned to Israel. Mr. Perez was hit in the abdomen by three bullets in the attack. After emergency surgery doctors said they were confident he would recover. He died in the hospital yesterday after "a sudden worsening of his condition." His wife Lea and parents were at his bedside. They accompanied his coffin to Israel today. Mr. Perez is also survived by a five-year-old daughter.

Pilots Approve Measures Intended To Counter Hijacking, Attacks

AMSTERDAM, March 26 (JTA) -- The International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations approved resolutions today directed against interference with civil aviation including attacks on airliners like the one against El Al at Zurich. It called for an amendment to the Tokyo convention on civil aviation so that the document would apply to "offenses committed against aircraft, passengers and crew on board or outside the aircraft whether in the air or on the ground."

The Federation which claims to represent some 70 percent of the world's airline pilots, approved a resolution at its annual meeting which said that member pilots might boycott any country that failed to punish a plane hijacker or detained a crew of a hijacked plane. (The Algerian Government last summer detained crew members of an El Al airliner hijacked by Palestinian terrorists and forced to fly to Algiers.)

Another move to stimulate punishment of hijackers might be coordinated action to restrict movement of a country's aircraft and to restrict movement of cargo to and from a country. The Association indicated that it might call a worldwide 12 or 24-hour strike if hijacking was not suitably punished.

West German Interior Ministry Describes NPD As 'Dangerous Neo-Nazi Movement'

BONN, March 26 (JTA) -- The Ministry of Interior described the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) yesterday as a "dangerous neo-Nazi movement" whose program "endangers West Germany's interests and security." The Ministry was pressing the Government to ask the Constitutional High Court in Karlsruhe to ban the NPD as anti-democratic and unconstitutional. It recently completed an exhaustive study of the party's activities and came to the conclusion that there was sufficient evidence to warrant a ban. Interior Minister Ernst Benda said the data would be submitted to the Government shortly. In a statement issued yesterday, the Minister said "the political and psychological damage the behavior of the party has so far caused abroad is considerable in the eyes of the Federal Government."

The West Berlin trade union movement said today that it would take steps to prevent the (NPD) from holding its congress in West Berlin on April 25 unless the Allied occupation powers--U.S., Britain and France--act before then to ban the party. The powers have been asked twice by the West Berlin City Council to take such action. The unionists' warning that they would find their own "ways and means" to keep the NPD congress out of West Berlin was contained in a letter to the Allied commander from Walter Sickert, chairman of the movement. He said he hoped the Allies would comply with the request of the Berlin City Council. Legal authorities meanwhile were trying to decide whether the NPD can be punished for racial incitement. At one of the party's last meetings in West Berlin, a sign reading "Aryans Only" was posted outside the meeting place.

In another development today, the parliament of Lower Saxony joined the city councils of Hamburg, Bremen and West Berlin in demanding abolition of the statute of limitations on war crime prosecutions which is scheduled to go into effect at the end of this year. The final decision rests with the Bundestag (lower house) and the government. A delegation of visiting Knesset members arrived in Hamburg to meet with local leaders, among them Mayor Herbert Weichmann who is Jewish. The Knesset delegation, headed by David Hachoen, chairman of the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and security committee, met in Bonn last week with Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Foreign Minister Willy Brandt and with leaders of the Bundestag (lower house). One of the items of discussion was the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecutions.

CJFWF President Fox Tells Argentine Officials Purpose Of Latin American Mission

BUENOS AIRES, March 26 (JTA) -- Louis Fox of Baltimore, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, told Argentine Jewish officials yesterday that he and other CJFWF members visiting Latin American Jewish communities had come "not to tell how to do things but to exchange views." Members of the CJFWF delegation, reportedly comprising the first mission representing American Jewish communities to their counterparts in Latin America, have finished a first week of talks with leaders of Brazilian Jewry and said the results were excellent. The consultations were held with leaders of the Federation of Jewish Societies and the Sephardic Community in Rio de Janeiro and in Sao Paulo with those of the national Confederacao de Brazil and the Federation of Jewish Societies. The subjects covered Jewish community organization, fund raising, social planning, Jewish education, health and welfare services, leadership development and professional staffing for such Jewish communal services. The mission, which is being carried out at the invitation of the host communities, will visit Montevideo after the Buenos Aires visit, before returning to the United States on March 31.

Other members of the delegation are Philip Bernstein, CJFWF executive vice-president, Levy M. Becker of Montreal, Herman Katz of Columbus, O., Hyman Safran of Detroit, Bernard Schaeenen of Dallas, Sanford Treguboff of San Francisco and Theodore Comet of New York, CJFWF consultant on overseas services. In Buenos Aires, the mission members were guests of the Argentine Federation of Jewish Communities. They were received in the Buenos Aires Kehilla by Dr. Tobias Kamenszain, its president, who stressed in his greetings the importance of better mutual understanding between the American and Latin American Jewish communities. Mr. Fox also said that mission members were "learning also as much as we are giving, especially in Jewish educational matters." He added that the delegation members also found of special interest the fact that the Kehilla organization was on "a wholly volunteer basis." He called Argentine Jewry "a more sophisticated community from which we hope to learn much." He added that the delegation had been impressed by the "strength" of the Jewish press.

Mr. Bernstein described the basic purposes of the CJFWF, which represents some 200 local Jewish federations and welfare funds in the U.S. He said the CJFWF sought to solve the problems of the Jewish community and to strengthen Judaism and "therefore we seek unity in our institutional life" as the "instruments of our communities." Reporting on the visits to Rio and Sao Paulo, Mr. Fox said that "there is an especially great desire for our cooperation in the training of professional staffs for a number of community services."

Gen. Narkis Visits U.S. On Aliyah Mission, Predicts 36,000-40,000 Newcomers

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA) -- The head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department predicted an influx of 36,000-40,000 newcomers to Israel this year despite what he called "exaggerated" reports of border skirmishes and other events that give some Americans the impression that Israel is an "armed camp." Gen. Uri Narkiss, who commanded the paratroop brigade that captured East Jerusalem from the Jordanians in June, 1967, stressed that despite Israel's security problems, life in Israel is normal. "Hotels maintain full services, museums are open, our theaters and concert halls continue their usual cultural programs. Whether as tourists, students or immigrants, Americans will find the basic living in Israel unchanged," he said.

Gen. Narkiss is here for a month's visit during which he will confer with American Jewish leaders and visit branches of the Israel Aliya Center in an effort to stimulate immigration. He said "American aliyah will almost double this year from the record figure of 4,300 in 1968." He added that "there is an undoubted new atmosphere and favorable climate for aliyah among Americans and we are eager to do everything possible to foster immigration of a broad spectrum of American Jewry." He said one of the prime objectives of his visit was to assure the American Jewish community of the normalcy of life in Israel.

(Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon predicted in Jerusalem that the Soviet Union will change its policy regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews because the Jewish question there was still unsolved and was becoming a problem for the Soviet authorities themselves. Mr. Allon, who holds the portfolio of Minister of Immigrant Absorption, made his forecast in the course of a report to the Knesset on anticipated immigration this year. He said 35,000 newcomers were expected of which 12,000 would come from Europe, 6,500 from North America, 13,200 from Asia and Africa and the rest from Latin America, Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Allon said peak immigration period will be in the summer, when some 4,000 arrivals per month were expected.)

UJA's Rabbi Friedman Awarded Israel's 'Aleh' Medal For Pre-Statehood Services

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA) -- An Israeli medal reserved for members of various underground groups who fought for the nation's independence more than 20 years ago was awarded to an American yesterday. The recipient of the "Aleh" medal was Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. Rabbi Friedman was cited for his services to Palestine in the pre-Statehood period. The decoration was presented to him at the Defense Ministry by deputy director, Aryeh Sarig. The governmental committee on decorations announced that it will award the "Aleh" medal to the widow and son of the late Big. Gen. Charles Orde Wingate who trained and organized Haganah in the late 1930s. Gen. Wingate was killed in Burma in World War II.

Hias Cancels \$300,000 Debt Owed By Beersheba For Building That It Took Over

BEERSHEBA, March 26 (JTA) -- The Hias World Services has cancelled a \$300,000 debt owed to it by the municipality of Beersheba for a Hias building that was taken over by the city. The building has become a center of academic life in the Negev capital and will serve as the nucleus of the projected Negev University.