

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israelis Bitter Over Security Council Condemnation, See Vote As 'One-Sided'

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) -- Israelis were bitter this week over the Security Council's resolution Tuesday condemning Israel's March 26 air raid in Jordan without mentioning Arab terrorist activities that provoked it. The final vote, 11-0, with the United States, Great Britain, Paraguay and Colombia abstaining, deprived the Security Council of the unanimity it had been seeking on Middle East issues. But there was anger here with the U.S. and Britain for not casting negative votes that would have amounted to a veto.

The resolution adopted Tuesday represented a modification of the original draft sponsored by Pakistan, Senegal and Zambia, which had contained a direct reference to Chapter seven of the UN Charter that empowers the Council to adopt enforcement measures such as economic or military sanctions in order to secure compliance. Substituted for this was a warning of "more effective steps" if the cease-fire is violated again. One Israeli official said the Council was "so one-sided in its present composition that even if it came to sanctions it cannot make much difference either way."

Israel claimed the March 26 attack was aimed at an El Fatah base near the Jordanian village of Salt. Jordan said the raid hit a hostel killing 18 civilians. Among the dead were four West Bank truck drivers whose bodies were returned to the West Bank with the permission of Israeli authorities.

In the Israeli view, the Security Council's action underlined a "double standard" applied by that body to Israel and the Arabs in the Mideast conflict. The Israelis said the condemnation meant that the terrorists were free to do as they please but Israel was not permitted to take counter-measures. It also meant, according to Israeli officials, that the Security Council accepted the Arab claim that the Arab governments were not responsible for the terrorists although all member states of the Council were well aware that those governments finance, equip and otherwise encourage the guerrillas. In the minds of most Israelis, the resolution tended to set up the Security Council as a judge over Israel and the Arab states irrespective of the fact that six of its members have refused to maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. Israelis noted that, in the course of 20 years, the Security Council only once passed a resolution in Israel's favor. That was 18 years ago when the Council upheld Israel's right to use the Suez Canal. It was ignored by Egypt.

Voting for Tuesday's resolution were its three sponsors, the Soviet Union, France, Spain, Finland, Hungary, Nepal, Algeria and China. Israel's UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said the vote was a clear sign that the U.S. and Britain were opposed to Arab terrorism but that the Soviet Union was supporting it. Moscow, he said, "claims for itself the right to give advice on Israel's vital interests, on Israel's quest for peace and security." U.S. Ambassador Charles W. Yost refused to vote for the resolution on the grounds that it did not cite Arab terrorism, and Sir Leslie Glass of Britain said he could not support a measure which condemned Israel without taking into account all violations of the Middle East cease-fire established following the Six-Day War.

An accommodation with the British and American points of view was frustrated by Arab refusal to accept any language that would label as cease-fire violations sorties against Israel by Arab commando organizations.

There had been fear that the unacceptability to the U.S. and Britain of a resolution which condemned Israel but did not also condemn the Arab terrorism which has provoked Israeli air raids would be damaging to the Big Four talks on the Mideast scheduled to begin today. But that fear, observers said, was groundless and the talks were expected to begin at the Park Ave. apartment of France's UN Ambassador Armand Berard.

Agha Shahi, Pakistan's delegate, said that the three sponsors had acted to modify their resolution to prevent a division among the Big Four, all permanent Council members, on the eve of the Big Four meetings.

Tuesday's divided vote was among the few since the Security Council adopted a resolution on Nov. 22, 1967 that established the guidelines for a peaceful settlement. The Council, considering the sensitivity of the problem, usually had sought unanimity even when compromise was involved. When unanimity could not be achieved, the Council's president sometimes had stated a "consensus" with no formal vote.

The principle operative paragraph of the compromise resolution declared that the Council: "Condemns the recent premeditated air attacks launched by Israel on Jordanian villages and populated areas in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and the cease-fire resolutions and warns once again that if such attacks were to be repeated the Council would have to meet to consider further more effective steps as envisaged in the Charter to insure against repetition of such attacks."

## Big 4 Meetings On Middle East Settlement Begin, With Procedural Matters On Agenda

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. April 3 (JTA) -- The Big Four began meeting today in an effort to formulate a solution to the Middle East conflict. The United States, Russia, Britain and France were expected, sources said, to lay the groundwork for further meetings by settling such matters of procedure as the frequency of future meetings, rotating chairmanship, sites, languages to be used and record-keeping.

The main question was when substantive talks would begin--and what and how the issues would be dealt with.

The meetings are being held at the ambassadorial level. Participants are Charles W. Yost of the United States, Yakov Malik of the Soviet Union, Lord Caradon of Britain and Armand Berard of France. Israel has made clear to the great powers its position that it will not accept any Mideast settlement that does not take into account its security interests and rights.

The envoys conferred against a background of diplomatic activity on several fronts and military action in the Middle East, where Jordanian and Israeli troops exchanged fire south of the Sea of Galilee yesterday. (Jordan also returned yesterday the body of an Israeli Air Force pilot whose jet was shot down on March 21 while he was bombing artillery emplacements near the Allenby Bridge. Israel rejects Jordanian demands that three prisoners should be released in exchange for the body.)

In Paris yesterday, King Hussein of Jordan said, after meeting with President Charles de Gaulle, that he favored the New York talks. "I believe that the Big Four meeting will help to a very large extent, if it is successful, in terms of the coordination and the agreement that will be reached there to support the efforts of the world" as represented in the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution on a Mideast settlement, he said.

King Hussein will confer next week with President Nixon in Washington. He has been invited to the White House on a state visit and was expected to outline his views on a settlement and learn the U.S. position.

On the diplomatic scene, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's chief foreign affairs adviser, Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, conferred for an hour today with Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Washington. He reportedly urged U.S. pressure on Israel for a settlement acceptable to Cairo as a condition for improved relations between Cairo and Washington. Egypt severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. during the Six-Day War. The Egyptian diplomat reportedly cautioned that time was growing short and the prospects of a renewed Mideast war were rising. Dr. Fawzi met yesterday with Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, reportedly on the resumption of diplomatic relations. He came to Washington as the personal emissary of President Nasser to attend the funeral services for former President Eisenhower. Dr. Fawzi attended a diplomatic reception at the White House Monday where he talked briefly with President Nixon and Mr. Rogers.

The official Egyptian Government spokesman, Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, reportedly said in Cairo yesterday that Egypt did not make a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories a pre-condition of a settlement. He warned, however, that unless Israel ultimately withdrew there would be war.

Mr. el-Zayyat said today that President Nasser had ordered Egyptian troops manning the Suez Canal cease-fire line to "shoot first" at any Israeli soldiers they spotted. According to the spokesman, Col. Nasser said, "The time has passed when we disciplined any of our soldiers who saw the enemy and opened fire because we were not ready for complications. Now the picture is different. We discipline the soldier who sees the enemy and does not open fire."

The announcement was the first official indication by Egypt that its troops are supposed to initiate clashes with Israeli forces; Israel has charged the Egyptians have been doing so all along. United Nations observers in the Suez zone reported that most of the recent artillery clashes across the canal were started by Egypt.

The Syrian Government said yesterday in Damascus that it will make the liberation of Israeli-occupied territories a principal objective and said it will cooperate toward this end in political and military action with other Arab nations. The statement of policy was published in the newspaper Al-Baath of the ruling Baathist Party.

(In Boston, the Christian Science Monitor said in an editorial today that the new Syrian strongman, Gen. Hafez al-Assad, appeared to be moving his country out of the isolation that has surrounded it since the 1967 war toward improved relations with Egypt, Jordan and Iraq which "should bolster the overall Arab political stance in the Middle East--and could be a prelude to Syrian cooperation with United Nations Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring." It noted that the radical Baathist regime in Damascus had been at loggerheads with the Baathists running Iraq. Now, the editorial said, "there has been an almost overnight improvement in relations with Baghdad" reflected by the reported stationing of Iraqi troops in Syria to bolster Syrian forces facing Israel.)

The Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram, regarded as a spokesman for Col. Nasser, said today that four major Arab guerrilla organizations have formed a unified command to coordinate action against Israel. The new group, it said, is called the Command for the Palestinian Armed Struggle. Its members were reported to be El Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Syrian-supported el-Saiqa, and the Democrat Popular Front.

### Mrs. Meir Reiterates Israel's Objection To Big 4; Eban Critical Of U.S. Concepts

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir has reiterated Israel's unwillingness to accept any Big Four agreement on a solution to the Mideast conflict. In an interview on Kol Israel, the new Premier told the nation that an agreement between the major powers was hard to conceive, but even if it was reached, "we shall not accept it." Mrs. Meir said despite certain differences with the U.S. on a Mideast peace settlement, Washington supports Israel's position on a number of basic issues.

Two such areas of agreement, she said, were: No withdrawal from occupied territories before peace

is reached; the 1949 armistice lines cannot be Israel's future borders.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban, on a television interview, was critical of certain aspects of Washington's working paper for the Big Four which sets forth tentative suggestions on a Mideast settlement. "The most serious deterioration in the American position," he said, "is that a paper which does not meet many of Israel's demands should be regarded by the Americans as a basis for discussion with the three other powers. None of the latter can be expected to be more amenable to Israel's wishes" than is the U.S. Interference by outside powers on crucial questions that must be resolved by the Arabs and Israel, Mr. Eban said, is damaging in that it may force the contending Mideast parties into arrangements which only they themselves should work out and agree upon.

"The main difference between our stand and that of the U.S. is that the latter feels the time has already come to discuss Israel's future borders," Mr. Eban said. "To this we reply: We shall not negotiate with the U.S. over borders. There has been no war between Israel and the U.S. We have no common border. Why should Israel conduct negotiations with the U.S. over territorial matters? Such negotiations should be held with the neighboring Arab states."

(Informed diplomats in Washington have said that the American paper was deliberately phrased in ambiguous language in order to make possible flexibility in interpretation for later changes. It called, among other things, for a "rectification" in pre-June, 1967 Israel borders.) Mr. Eban saw "calculated imprecision" in the American statements on the Jerusalem question. (The U.S. spoke of a unified Jerusalem and mentioned giving Jordan some voice in the economic, social and political life of the city.) Mr. Eban apparently took heart from U.S. statements "that the city should not be divided again."

The Foreign Minister said that Israel does not accept the American view that Palestinian refugees should be given the freedom of choice of receiving compensation for their lost lands or returning to Israel. Secretary of State Rogers had agreed to Israel's view that security considerations could preclude the return of Arabs to Israel and that Israel would reserve decision on individual cases, he said. "However, even that is not enough," he said. "The whole principle is wrong and Israel will continue opposing it. The refugee problem must be solved on a regional basis when there is peace."

#### Eban Reportedly Tells Jarring His Mission Is Sole Acceptable Peace Framework

Mr. Eban reportedly voiced anxiety to Dr. Jarring Tuesday, that attention had been diverted from the UN peace envoy's Mideast mission. Meeting here with Secretary-General U Thant's special representative, Mr. Eban was said to have noted that Israel still considered Dr. Jarring as the authoritative international framework to deal with the Mideast problem, despite the Big Four Talks. Mr. Eban gave Dr. Jarring Israel's replies to a questionnaire dealing with peace issues which the envoy had circulated among Israel and the Arab states. It was learned that the answers were based on Mr. Eban's speech last October to the UN General Assembly in which he presented a nine-point program for peace and regional cooperation. Mr. Eban was said to have given no new positions and to have refused to be drawn into territorial questions. However, the sources said that Israel's refusal to regard the present cease-fire lines as "secure and recognized boundaries" mentioned in the UN Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution means that other frontiers may be envisaged.

The Foreign Minister suggested that the Arab refugee problem may be discussed in special meetings with the Arabs because of its humanitarian considerations and that these meetings need not take place within the framework of peace negotiations. Mr. Eban reiterated Israel's willingness to hold discussions with Arab leaders under Dr. Jarring's auspices. He was said to have reiterated Israel's acceptance of the 1967 resolution but stressed that any implementation of its clauses must follow an Arab-Israel agreement and should be in the form of peace treaties signed by the parties after direct negotiations between them. Arriving in Israel, Dr. Jarring refused to comment on reporters' questions on the Big Four talks, but when asked if he was optimistic about the results of his mission said, "I am continuing my mission. You can make of it whatever you wish."

#### **Passover Celebrated Throughout Israel, Known There As The 'Feast Of Freedom'**

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) -- Jews of all shades of religious belief celebrated Passover yesterday, the festival marking the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, which is known in modern Israel as the "Feast of Freedom." They were joined by a record number of tourists, Jewish and non-Jewish, who chose to be in Israel for Passover or Easter.

Yesterday Orthodox Jews marched from the teeming Meah Shearim quarter of West Jerusalem to the Western Wall in the Old City to offer prayers and hold an outdoor seder. A new prayer was added to the ritual observed by Israelis this year. It was composed by Rabbi Isser Unterman, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi and gave thanks for the victories of Israel which secured freedom for the Jewish people. It also contained a reminder of the suffering that many Jews endure in foreign countries, specifically the Arab lands, and of the lack of religious freedom for Jews in Russia.

Passover greetings were received here from Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow's Central Synagogue and Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania. Newly arrived immigrants were guests at seders held by the Jewish Agency, local organizations and private families. Soldiers on leave who have no families were guests at a seder conducted by the Soldiers Welfare Fund at military hostels in Tel Aviv and Beer-sheba.

## AJCongress Complains, Xerox Corp. To Withdraw 'Mother Goose' With Anti-Semitic Verses

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress disclosed yesterday that the Xerox Corp. agreed to withdraw 3,000 reprints of an 1895 English edition of "Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes" following its complaint that two of the verses contained anti-Semitic and anti-Negro stereotypes. George Soll, chairman of the AJCongress' commission on law and social action, made public a letter to him from Xerox's public relations manager, Thomas D. Anglim, who apologized on behalf of the company's president, Peter McColough, for publishing the offending rhymes and promised that "this volume will be withdrawn and will no longer be available from us." The same promise was contained in another letter to Mr. Soll from Arnold Zohn, president of the Arno Press, which is the co-publisher of the Xerox "Legacy Library Facsimile" edition.

One of the verses to which the AJCongress objected began with the lines, "Jack sold his gold egg/ To a rogue of a Jew/ Who cheated him out of/ The half of his due." The other began, "Ten little Nigger boys went out to dine;/ One choked his little self, and then there were nine."

In a letter addressed to Mr. McColough, Mr. Soll noted that at the time Mother Goose verses originated, anti-Semitism and racism were traditional in some quarters but today "it is generally understood... that they are destructive of human values and even of human lives."

New York Times reporter Henry Raymont said today that "Officials of other Jewish civil rights agencies privately expressed dismay over the AJC action." He said an official of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League "who asked not to be named, declared: 'We've stopped worrying about the classics years ago. There are more pressing issues these days.'" Mr. Raymont also quoted Edward E. Booher, president of the American Book Publishers Council, Inc. as saying "the whole thing seems silly and not a very wise precedent."

Xerox's Mother Goose edition was printed by duplication rather than by setting type and is part of a four volume edition. A publisher's forward acknowledged that some parts "are strange and hard to understand today, and some of its statements are deplorable when they are not confusing." In most modern editions of Mother Goose, "The 10 Little Niggers" have been replaced by "10 Little Indians."

## Plight Of Polish And Russian Jewry Will Receive Attention At 'Third Seders'

NEW YORK April 3 (JTA) -- A fifth question addressed to the United Nations will be added to the traditional four questions asked at the Workmen's Circle's "third seder", to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel tomorrow. Addressed to the "Peoples of the World, United Nations, N.Y.," the question will focus its attention on resurgent anti-Semitism in Poland. After an historical recounting of the decimation of the Jewish community in Poland by the Nazis, the question will be posed: "Why, on this anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration--while the last tragic chapter of Polish Jewry unfolds before our eyes--are the peoples of the world silent? Why do you not speak out, where is your voice, your conscience? More than 2,000 persons were expected to attend the service.

The Israel Histadrut Campaign is sponsoring "third seders" across the country. In New York, the event sponsored by the Greater New York Histadrut Council, will hear Israeli Minister Shlomo Argov. Some 2,000 were expected Saturday at the Waldorf-Astoria. An empty chair on the dais will be reserved for the "absent Russian Jews" as a symbolic reference to the Soviet Union's Jewish community which is not free to celebrate religious festivals. The 60th anniversary of the founding of Hashomer (the Guard) will be observed; Hashomer was the first modern self-defense organization in Palestine. Guest of honor at the Providence, R.I. "third seder" will be the newly-elected Governor, Frank Licht, a Jew.

## American Jewish History Week Sets Theme: 'Discover Your Jewish Community'

WALTHAM, Mass., April 3 (JTA) -- American Jewish History Week will be observed from April 13-20 under the sponsorship of the American Jewish Historical Society. The theme will be "Discover Your Jewish Community," according to Bernard Max, Society executive director, who said there was a deplorable lack of knowledge of its own history on the part of the 400-year-old Jewish community in North America.

Mr. Max attributed the lack to "the absence of adequate information about local Jewish history on which all comprehensive studies must eventually be based." He said his group would try to remedy the situation by distributing free information kits to Jewish leaders which would furnish guidelines on how to find, collect and preserve information of historical value. He said that "the writing of a comprehensive American Jewish history has yet to be accomplished."

## Houston Paper Calls For 'Confrontation' With School Authorities Over 'Insensitivity'

HOUSTON, Tex. April 3 (JTA) -- The Jewish Herald-Voice has called on the Jewish community of Houston to confront school authorities over "insensitivity" on their part to the religious feelings of the Jewish community and Jewish students. The paper, in its current issue, editorially took exception to the scheduling of graduation exercises on a Friday evening. It pointed out that "school would conflict with the religious observances of some of the students." It noted that "when this was called to their attention in November, or perhaps October, the changes could have been made. But an insensitive school system has little use for the deficiencies which make up our democratic process." The editorial, citing previous instances in which the religious beliefs of Jewish students were ignored by school authorities, asked: "Are we to continue to countenance this insensitivity to the detriment of our religious beliefs? Should there not be a confrontation in this regard which would clear up the atmosphere and anticipate the differences which might arise without resorting to last minute appeals?" David H. White, editor and publisher of the Jewish Herald-Voice, is a former president of the Houston Jewish Community Council.