

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVI-Fifty-Second Year

Wednesday, April 30, 1969

No. 82

Eban Says Hussein's Speech Contradicts Peace Program Offered During Washington Visit

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that King Hussein of Jordan has admitted that his talk of peace during his official visit to Washington earlier this month was a matter of tactics and that he was actually preparing for a new military campaign against Israel. Mr. Eban, addressing newsmen at a Foreign Ministry briefing, referred to a speech by the Jordanian monarch in Amman yesterday which he said was a far cry from his peace program announced in Washington.

In an address to his people, King Hussein said the Arab states would end their belligerency against Israel only if and when the Israelis handed over all the occupied territory, including Jerusalem. "Either this or there can be no peace," King Hussein said, adding that he and President Gamel Abdel Nasser of Egypt supported the goals of Arab guerrilla warfare against Israel and considered it perfectly legal.

Mr. Eban said the Jordanian King's position was one of support for terrorists and restoration of the situation that existed on June 4, 1967, the day before the Six-Day War broke out. The King had said while in the U.S. that Israel could have either territory or peace but never both. Mr. Eban paraphrased those words when he said that Jordan cannot have peace and at the same time refuse to negotiate the subject matter of peace, including secure and agreed boundaries. By rejecting an agreement on boundaries that differ from the defunct armistice lines, he was rejecting peace and was rejecting the terms of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution which he professed to accept, Mr. Eban said. He noted that so far no Arab state had expressed readiness for peace, and said King Hussein's latest speech underlines the responsibility of the Arab states for the lack of progress toward peace and for the deterioration of the situation along the cease-fire lines.

Eban Voices Hope For Restoration Of Harmonious Franco-Israeli Relations

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Eban expressed the hope today that harmonious relations can be restored between France and Israel, "reflecting as they do, the feelings of the two peoples toward each other." Mr. Eban's remarks were the first comment by an Israel Government official on the resignation of President Charles de Gaulle.

"I don't know what the future will bring, but the time is ripe for expressing and reiterating our wish that France will renew her traditional understanding of Israel's needs and desires and thus contribute to the stability of the power balance in the area," Mr. Eban said.

He said that Israel had long regarded Gen. de Gaulle as one of the most energetic and gallant fighters against Nazism. "For the first nine years of his political leadership of France, the ties between the two nations were forged against a background of mutual and deep public appreciation in both countries," the Foreign Minister said. "This is why Israel viewed the changes that came about in May, 1967 as bitter and un-natural. But Israel has never given up hope that its relations with France will revert to their traditional spirit."

France's UN Envoy Seeks To Dispel Arab Fears Of Changes In Foreign Policy

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 29 (JTA) -- Ambassador Armand Berard, the French representative at the Big Four Mideast talks, reportedly was seeking today to dispel fears expressed throughout the Arab world that France will abandon the pro-Arab policies of President Charles de Gaulle who resigned Sunday after his defeat in a national referendum.

When the Four Powers met for the sixth session today, M. Berard was said to have assured his U.S., Soviet and British counterparts that Gen. de Gaulle's departure will have no immediate effect on French Mideast policy, informed sources said. The diplomats will meet again next Tuesday.

The Big Four talks themselves were believed to have reached an impasse. U.S. sources have indicated that they did not expect the meetings to continue beyond early June if there is no progress. The major obstacle appeared to be agreement among the Four Powers on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory. The U.S. maintains that Israel cannot withdraw except to previously agreed and secure boundaries. The Soviet Union and France insist that an Israeli withdrawal must come first.

State Department sources in Washington indicated yesterday that France would continue in the Big Four talks under existing authority and that no drastic changes in its policy were anticipated. The talks were advocated and brought to fruition largely through the personal efforts of Gen. de Gaulle. Washington sources said that eventually a new French Government would have to continue Gen. de Gaulle's mandate to M. Berard or make known a modification of policy.

The French Ambassador to the U.S., Charles Lucet, conferred yesterday with Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs. A Department spokesman would say only that the meeting was another in the series of bilateral discussions on the Mideast dispute being held concurrently with the Four Power talks. Mr. Sisco is also holding bilateral talks with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. The last Four Power meeting was held on April 21.

French sources here said Gen. de Gaulle's pro-Arab policies were "realistic" and not likely to be repudiated by a new Government without risking new problems in North Africa. The sources said the de Gaulle policies stemmed in large measure from his successful efforts to reach an accommodation with Algeria following seven years of war.

(British newspapers which keep in close touch with events in Arab capitals reported "dismay" throughout the Arab world over Gen. de Gaulle's resignation. The Daily Telegraph reported from Cairo that Arab leaders consider a change in France's vigorous pro-Arab policies to be inevitable inasmuch as they were personally initiated by Gen. de Gaulle. The paper reported that some Arab commentators thought a new French Government would lift Gen. de Gaulle's embargo on arms and military equipment to combatants in the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war; the embargo has mainly affected Israel which largely depended on French aircraft and other arms up to June, 1967. Egypt and Syria have been fully rearmed by the Soviet Union.

(The Guardian said today that in Arab eyes, Gen. de Gaulle was playing the role of an "honest broker" in the Big Power counsels to settle the Mideast conflict. They counted on France rather than Britain to bring about a Four Power agreement favorable to the Arab cause, especially in view of the recently improved relations between Paris and Washington. "Without de Gaulle, President Nasser of Egypt would probably have shown less persistence in his search for a peaceful settlement than he has," the Guardian said.

(The official Egyptian Government spokesman, Dr. Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, said in Cairo yesterday that Gen. de Gaulle was "a man who lived by his principles." He said Egypt always held the General in high esteem and added that "he should be a shining example for statesmen everywhere.")

Israel Begins Registration Of Arab Businesses, Professionals Without Application

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- The Justice Ministry empowered various other ministries yesterday to register Arab businessmen and professionals in East Jerusalem without requiring them to apply for licenses. The move was seen as a further step toward integration of East Jerusalem economically and legally with the rest of Israel. It was expected to bring a new protest from Jordan.

Jordan had called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council last February to protest Israeli law requiring East Jerusalem professionals, such as doctors and lawyers, as well as merchants and businessmen, to register under Israeli law or stop practicing. Jordan charged that the measure was a violation of a May 21, 1968 Security Council resolution that called on Israel to rescind measures designed to alter the status of East Jerusalem. Israel did not rescind the law but extended the registration deadline by three months, to May 23, and the Security Council meeting was called off. Secretary-General U Thant reported to the Council earlier this month that there was nothing he could do to prevent Israel from implementing the law.

The new procedure, published today in the official gazette, automatically registers and licenses Arab businessmen and professionals and subjects them to Israeli law. Informed sources here said East Jerusalem Arabs had privately asked Israel to take steps to relieve them of the onus of applying publicly for licenses which could be construed as acquiescence on their part to the annexation of East Jerusalem.

6 Israeli Jets Blast Guerrilla Bases In Jordan; Engagements Take 2 Lives

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) -- Six Israeli jets blasted guerrilla bases in Jordan today in two separate raids as Israeli and Jordanian ground forces fought with artillery, mortars and tank guns south of the Sea of Galilee. One Israeli soldier was fatally wounded in the encounter. Five other soldiers were wounded, a military spokesman reported today.

The targets of the jets were reportedly Wadi Al Yabess, Tel Al Sukkar and Mashareh, all located in the northern Jordan Valley. Israeli sources said they were being used as bases to shell Israeli settlements in the Beisan Valley. Jordan claimed that one Israeli Mystere jet was hit by ground fire and was seen crashing in the Beisan area. Amman said a Jordanian farmer was slightly wounded in the attack and that two civilian trucks and a bus were hit.

Egyptian gunners continued sporadic fire with mortars, machineguns and artillery along the canal. But the heaviest fighting occurred in the Beisan Valley region. The Jordanians opened fire on Israeli patrols in the northern section of the Valley and also fired at targets near two settlements.

Seven Arab guerrillas trying to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon were driven off by an Israeli border patrol today, a military spokesman reported. There was no mention of casualties. Premier Golda Meir said that Israel had no intention of annexing the southern portions of Lebanon and that rumors to that effect were being circulated by "enemies whose only interest is to cause tension and complications."

In a related development, life sentences were imposed today on two saboteurs, one from Jenin on the West Bank and the other from Jordan. A military tribunal rejected an appeal from the 20-year-old Jenin man that he be released and be permitted to go to Cairo for university studies. He had already confessed to firing on an Israeli patrol killing two soldiers. The Jordanian was sentenced to life imprisonment for planting explosives in the Beisan Valley.

Israeli security forces seized \$108,000 in foreign currency and Jordanian dinars from a group of Nablus residents on suspicion that the money was intended for payment to terrorist or other illegal activities sponsored by Jordan. The residents had just returned to the West Bank from a visit to Jordan

and apparently failed to declare the dollars. The rest of the currency was in dinars which is legal tender on the West Bank.

Reports Lebanon Seeks Arab League Meeting To Work Out Guerrilla Policy

LONDON, April 29 (JTA) -- The Financial Times reported from Beirut today that Lebanon was seeking an emergency meeting of the Arab League to work out a unified policy toward Palestinian guerrillas. The Times attributed its information to informed sources who said Lebanon aimed at having the other 14 member states of the League share responsibility for guerrilla activities so that Lebanon need not bear the burden alone. The Lebanese Government fell last week after three days of bloody rioting by students and Palestinian refugees who demanded closer cooperation with the guerrillas.

Bergen-Belsen Survivors Chairman Urges Pressure On France To End Exhumation Efforts

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) -- The chairman of the Union of Bergen-Belsen survivors appealed to world opinion today to bring pressure to bear on France to end its efforts to have the mass graves on the death camp site exhumed. France has asked that the graves be opened so that it could remove the remains of French victims for reburial on French soil. But Joseph Rosensaft called this "a pretext for desecration" and said that scientists had confirmed that it would be impossible to distinguish the remains of French victims from the others after so many years.

The West German Government has issued a temporary order preventing the French from opening the grave. Mr. Rosensaft said an international arbitration court in Koblenz will visit the site on May 6 to gather evidence. The case is pending before the court.

1967 War Cost Arabs \$2.9 Billion, Israel's Booty Made Up Her Losses, Russians Say

LONDON, April 29 (JTA) -- The June, 1967 Six-Day War cost the Arab states \$2.9 billion but Israel's war costs, between \$50 million and \$60 million, were more than offset by booty in the form of war materiel worth some \$2.4 billion, it was reported here by the London Jewish Chronicle.

The Arab losses were established by a Soviet investigating committee headed by Marshal Zacharov which tallied the loss of military equipment but not the cost of lost harbors, strongholds, oil fields, armaments factories, ships and other vessels. The Soviet findings, along with Israel's war losses and gains, were published in "The Military Events in the Near East, June, 1967" put out by the West German publishing house of Bernhard and Graefe which specializes in works on military affairs.

According to the Soviet source, the Arabs lost 370 aircraft, 15 complete military bases, 84 communications stations, 12 guided missile positions, eight railway stations with 12 locomotives and 600 trucks loaded with arms, 700 tanks, 8,000 vehicles, 1,200 rifles and grenade launchers, 120,000 infantry weapons and 18 munitions depots.

Rome District Attorney Appeals Acquittal Of Teacher Who Protested Deicide Sermon

ROME, April 29 (JTA) -- The case of an Italian university teacher, an ardent Roman Catholic, who publicly denounced a Palm Sunday sermon in which a priest sought to justify the ancient charge of deicide against the Jews, has stirred religious and lay circles here, reports JTA's Rome correspondent Julio Dresner. A public hearing will open tomorrow on the Rome district attorney's appeal against the acquittal of Fabrizio Fabrini on charges of interrupting a church service and insulting the priest.

Mr. Fabrini, who was once previously sentenced as a conscientious objector, shouted "buffoon" at the priest, a Father Trioli, and accused him of voicing racial concepts during a sermon in which he said that all of the sufferings heaped on the Jews were a result of their guilt for the crucifixion of Christ. Father Trioli subsequently had a reconciliation with his parishioner and considered the matter closed. But his rector brought charges against Mr. Fabrini.

He was acquitted by a judge who declared that Father Trioli's sermon could easily have been viewed as an attempt to legitimize acts of anti-Semitism from the massacres of Jews in the Middle Ages to the Nazi slaughters of modern times. The judge pointed out that the charge of deicide directly contradicted a Vatican Council declaration absolving the Jewish people of all guilt for the crucifixion and declared that it deviated so far from human ethics and the Church's commands that a public outburst against it was not unjustified.

District Attorney Dr. Alberto Antonucci, however, is attempting to get the acquittal reversed. He has presented a brief in which he cites Biblical passages to "prove" that the Jews were punished through the ages because they violated God's commandments. Observers here said Dr. Antonucci's arguments appeared to have been inspired by a theological adviser.

Strauss Reverses Position, Says He Will Vote For Bill Abolishing Trial Limitations

BONN, April 29 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Franz-Josef Strauss, Christian Socialist Union (CSU) leader, today apparently reversed himself and said that he would vote in favor of the Cabinet bill to abolish the statute of limitations on prosecution of Nazi war criminals. He had earlier expressed opposition to it.

Answering a news conference question posed by JTA's Bonn correspondent Alfred Wolfmann, Mr. Strauss said that the Bundestag (lower house of Parliament) might propose amendments to the measure. The CSU is the Bavarian wing of Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union. The party functions only in Bavaria.

United Steel Workers Buy \$500,000 In Bonds At Dinner Addressed By Labor Secretary

PITTSBURGH, April 29 (JTA) -- The United Steel Workers of America has purchased \$500,000 in State of Israel Bonds. The purchase was announced at a dinner here addressed by Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz.

The occasion was a tribute to Walter J. Burke, treasurer of the Steel Workers Union. Mr. Burke declared that the union's participation in the economic development of Israel through the purchase of bonds was "a demonstration not only of our friendship for Israel but our deep concern and interest in providing Israel with the economic strength to achieve a just and lasting peace."

Secretary Shultz and I. W. Abel, international president of the Steel Workers, spoke of the long standing cooperation of American labor in the building of Israel. Jacob S. Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, said the people of Israel gave the world an example of pioneering achievement in building a democracy.

Illinois Bell Calls Hate Messages Legal, Claims It Cannot Function As Censor

CHICAGO, April 29 (JTA) -- An attorney for the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. has claimed that an anti-Semitic, anti-Negro message that can be dialed on local phones is perfectly legal and that the phone company was not obligated to remove it.

The attorney, John Heinrich, was approached on the subject by Bob Gale, a staff member of The Sentinel, an English-Jewish weekly published here. The paper had received numerous calls protesting the message which advocates the use of force and violence to solve the "Jewish and Negro problems." The message purports to come from the American National Socialist White Peoples Party, of Arlington, Va., a successor to the defunct American Nazi Party of the late George Lincoln Rockwell.

According to Mr. Heinrich, the telephone company is not legally responsible for the contents of the message because the name and address of its sponsor is given. He suggested that any action taken would have to be against the sponsors. He also stated that "the telephone company does not want to set itself up as a censor," Mr. Gale reported.

Philadelphia Jews Remove 'Hitler Was Right' Stickers Before Memorial Program

PHILADELPHIA, April 29 (JTA) -- Several hundred anti-Semitic stickers were found pasted to seats, trees and lamp-posts on the site of the Jewish Martyrs memorial monument here shortly before 4,000 Philadelphians assembled last week for services commemorating the six million Jews slain by the Nazis in World War II and the 26th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Police and officials of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia managed to remove the stickers before the audience arrived. They were three inches wide and an inch deep and carried the words, "Hitler Was Right--Six Million More." Several were affixed to the martyrs monument itself.

Rep. Burke Asks FBI Probe Of Arab Support In United States For El Fatah Guerrillas

WASHINGTON, April 29 (JTA) -- Rep. J. Herbert Burke, Florida Republican, today asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to probe the activities of Arab supporters of El Fatah and to deport any persons who are "exploiting student visas to agitate among American militants for an extension of the leftist guerrilla campaign against Israel in the United States."

Rep. Burke, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that Arab advocates of a Mideast "War of national liberation" were stirring up students in this country. We have enough anarchists and radicals already on our campuses and in other places and do not require the importation of any more," he said. The request for investigation was made to Attorney-General John Mitchell.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported last week that El Fatah was receiving financial, moral and political support from extremists groups including the Organization of Arab Students.

Arab Residents Of Sirhan's Native Village Send Hussein Wire Begging Intervention

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- Inhabitants of Taybeh, the West Bank village where Sirhan Sirhan was born, have sent a telegram to King Hussein of Jordan begging him to intervene to save Sirhan's life. The convicted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy faces death in the California gas chamber. The Taybeh villagers appealed to King Hussein because Sirhan "has done his best to serve the Arab cause and turn his trial into a trial of Zionism."

Rabbi Irving Lehrman Named By Secretary Rogers To UNESCO National Commission

WASHINGTON, April 29 (JTA) -- Rabbi Irving Lehrman, rabbi of Temple Emanu-El of Miami Beach, Fla., has been appointed by Secretary of State William P. Rogers to the National Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization), a body of prominent citizens which advises the U.S. Government on UNESCO matters. Rabbi Lehrman, who is vice president of the Synagogue Council of America, succeeds Rabbi Julius Mark, a past president of the Council who previously served as its representative on the UNESCO Commission.

Linowitz Retires As United States Ambassador To Organization Of American States

WASHINGTON, April 29 (JTA) -- Sol M. Linowitz left his post today as American Ambassador of the Organization of American States and returned to private law practice. The former Xerox Corp. chairman was named Ambassador in 1966.