

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Majority Of House And Senate Sign Declaration Urging Arab-Israel Negotiations

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- A declaration calling for direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations, urging Arab governments to end terrorism and deploring one-sided United Nations condemnations of Israel has been signed by a majority of the House and Senate. Signatures of the declaration of sentiment have been given by 59 Senators and 229 Representatives and names were still coming in. The signatories include eight of the 15 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and 22 out of the 38 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The signatories include House Speaker John W. McCormack, Massachusetts Democrat; House floor leader Carl W. Albert, Oklahoma Democrat; House Republican minority leader, Gerald Ford of Michigan; Senate Democratic whip, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts; and Republican whip, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Thomas E. Morgan, Pennsylvania Democrat, who heads the Senate's counterpart unit did not sign. Nor did Sen. Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota Democrat. The measure was circulated by Sen. Scott; Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat; and Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, dean of the House. Parts of the declaration will soon appear as an advertisement, sponsored by the America Israel Public Affairs Committee, in major metropolitan newspapers across the country.

## Report Growing Convergence Of American, Soviet Views On Mideast Solution

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- A convergence of United States and Soviet views on a Middle East settlement appears to have developed in the round of Washington talks between Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. But the positions of the two powers have not yet drawn sufficiently close to be transferred to the Four Power Mideast talks that are being held concurrently in New York, Washington Post correspondent Robert H. Estabrook said in a report from the United Nations today. Mr. Sisco and Ambassador Dobrynin have met 12 times in Washington. The Four Powers--United States, Britain, France and Soviet Russia--held their seventh meeting in New York today. Lord Caradon, the United Kingdom's UN representative, said afterward that the eighth meeting would be held next Tuesday and that a working party of the Ambassador's deputies would meet in the interim.

Mr. Estabrook, attributing his information to Western diplomats, said that Ambassador Dobrynin has suggested that minor boundary adjustments could be negotiated if Israel committed itself to withdraw from occupied territories. The envoy reportedly indicated that the Soviet Union envisaged a phased Israeli withdrawal rather than a one-shot affair. The United States position has been that Israeli withdrawal should follow an Arab declaration of non-belligerency and that it should be to "secure and recognized boundaries." The U.S. insists that the boundaries must be negotiated. But Washington apparently agrees with the Russians that only minor border adjustments should be made and that they should "not reflect the weight of conquest," the Post reported.

According to Mr. Estabrook's sources, Ambassador Dobrynin has given reason to believe that Moscow would not object if the Syrian Golan Heights were included within Israel's new frontiers nor would it object strenuously if Israel retained East Jerusalem provided that Jordanian rights in Moslem Holy-Places were respected. "It is doubtful whether minor border adjustments could be stretched to include Sharm el Sheikh," Mr. Estabrook wrote, "but some sources have suggested the possibility of changes in the territories along the West Bank of the Jordan River if Jordan were compensated with a free port on the Mediterranean."

Another point of convergence between Washington and Moscow appears to be Soviet acceptance of the Western contention that contractual agreement must be reached between Israel and the Arab states, though not necessarily through face-to-face meetings, Mr. Estabrook reported.

(New York Times correspondent James Feron reported from Jerusalem today that reports circulating in the Israeli capital say Moscow is moving toward the U.S. and Israeli position that withdrawal from the occupied territories must be part of an overall agreement rather than a first step. The Four Powers "also are understood to have only minor differences on the question of borders," Mr. Feron reported. He noted however that Premier Golda Meir vehemently reaffirmed Israel's demand for signed peace treaties with Arabs as the only acceptable replacements for the present cease-fire agreements. Mrs. Meir addressed the opening of the summer session of the Knesset yesterday.)

Mr. Estabrook reported that Mrs. Meir's speech was softened at the last minute on the recommendation of Foreign Minister Abba Eban. "According to reports here, Eban asked Mrs. Meir to tone down her remarks on possible pressure that might be applied by friendly nations, especially the United States, to induce Israel to accept a Big Four plan," Mr. Estabrook wrote. "The revision of Mrs. Meir's speech seems to reflect a divergence of opinion in the Israel Government on what has actually been accomplished at the Big Four talks and the series of discussions being held in Washington between Sisco and Dobrynin. Eban insists there is no sign of erosion in the American position and that harsh statements now may be detrimental to Israel."

### Thant Says He Does Not Plan To Withdraw UN Cease-Fire Observers From Suez Canal

ROME, May 6 (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant said here today that the situation in the Middle East was deteriorating but he did not intend to pull United Nations cease-fire observers away from the embattled Suez Canal zone. Mr. Thant spoke to newsmen after a meeting with Pope Paul VI. He said the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France had a special responsibility to act urgently. He said the Four Powers should work to put into effect the November, 1967 Security Council resolution on the Middle East.

Rumors circulated in various capitals last week that Mr. Thant was considering the withdrawal of UN forces from the Suez Canal area unless Israel and Egypt agreed to proposals to increase their protection. UN observation posts on the Israeli-held side of the canal have been pounded by Egyptian artillery and at least one UN officer has been wounded. In a recent report to the Security Council on the collapse of the cease-fire on the Suez Canal, Mr. Thant mentioned the increasing danger to which UN personnel were exposed. Mr. Thant last week suggested that "safe perimeters" be established around UN installations. He maintained that encroachments on UN posts by Israelis and Egyptians was "a primary cause of firing on or near UN observation posts."

### Jordanians Fire On 3 Israeli Settlements; 3 Saboteurs Sentenced To Life

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- Jordanian regulars fired rockets and mortars at three Israeli settlements in the Jordan and Beisan Valleys today, a military spokesman reported. He said the targets were Tel Katzir, Hamdiya and Neve Urr. Israeli units returned the fire. There were no casualties or damage. Clashes occurred last night along the Israel-Syria demarcation line and in the Suez Canal zone which was visited today by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff, Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev.

Three Arab saboteurs, members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were given life sentences by a military court in Nablus today. The three were members of a gang that battled an Israeli patrol near Nablus recently. Their leader was killed, three of their number were wounded and the rest surrendered. Three other members of the same gang were given sentences ranging from 15 to 25 years in prison.

(In Cairo, the semi-official newspaper Al Ahram again repeated its forecast that Israel would launch a "major blow" against Egypt. The paper said that it was imminent because of the "failure" of the April 30 Israeli commando raid on the Upper Nile Valley. In Beirut today, military officials acknowledged that Government troops had clashed with Palestinian guerrillas last week when the fedayeen tried to infiltrate into Israel from Lebanese territory. The clash was reported in Beirut newspapers but there had no official confirmation until today.

(Armed Palestinian guerrillas today battled Lebanese Army troops in the streets of Hasbayeh, near the Israel border, as President Charles Helou pleaded for national unity in a nationwide radio and television broadcast. The guerrillas reportedly fired on soldiers from rooftops in the latest of a series of clashes that began when Lebanese regulars prevented Arab commandos from raiding Israel. Newsmen were kept out of the area. It was reported that the guerrillas are members of the Syrian-sponsored al-Saiqa (Thunderbolt) group.

(President Helou spoke on the occasion of Martyrs Day, honoring the heroes of Lebanese independence. He is still searching for someone to form a new Government. The Government of Premier Rashid Karami fell nearly two weeks ago in the midst of fierce rioting by Palestinian refugees and students in the streets of Beirut and other towns. Lebanon fears that giving a free hand to the guerrillas would bring severe Israeli reprisals. President Helou declared today that Lebanon has been "faithful to the Arab cause" and will remain so. The country is almost evenly divided between Christians and Moslems; the former generally favor a cautious position in the Middle East crisis but the Moslems demand a more aggressive policy against Israel.)

### Former Gestapo Official Claims He Did Not Know Fate Of Jews Sent To Camps

WEST BERLIN, May 6 (JTA) -- A former official at World War II Gestapo headquarters in Berlin claimed at the opening of his trial yesterday that he did not know about the fate of the thousands of Jews he ordered deported to Nazi death camps. Fritz Woehren, 64, is the principal defendant among nine former Gestapo aids charged with murder. They have been labeled "desk killers" by the prosecution and their trial is the first in which ex-Nazis have been indicted for murder although they were far from the scene of the crime.

Woehren, a former captain in the SS (Elite Corps), worked in the Jewish Affairs section of Gestapo headquarters. His eight co-defendants are charged with complicity in murder for having carried out his orders which resulted in the deaths of thousands of Jews between 1940 and 1945. There were originally 12 defendants but one died and two others became ill and will be tried separately.

The prosecution said that the defendants must have been aware of what happened to deported Jews because all death certificates were returned to their office so that the files could be closed. The prosecution charged in a 720-page indictment that Woehren was "filled with hatred against the Jews and had been convinced of the necessity of killing them."

### Nablus Mosque Turned Into Synagogue Is Reconverted On Orders Of Ministry

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- A Nablus mosque that had been converted into a synagogue for use by Israeli soldiers stationed there was reconverted to a mosque last week. All Jewish religious appurtenances were removed from the premises by order of the Ministry for Religious Affairs after a picture of the mosque as a synagogue appeared in a local newspaper.

## Czech Jewish Leader Views Millenium Cancellation As Sign Of Pressure

LONDON, May 6 (JTA) -- A Czech Jewish leader here expressed belief today that the Jewish community in Czechoslovakia was being subjected to "increasing outside pressure" and seemed "well on its way" to the "isolation" experienced by Jewish communities in other countries in the Soviet orbit.

Karl Baum, chairman of the Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia, commented on the news reaching here yesterday that celebrations marking the 1,000th anniversary of Jewish settlement in Czechoslovakia have been cancelled. The celebrations were to have been held in Prague July 9-14. Mr. Baum said that a Czech Jewish millenium exhibition which his Council had planned to hold in Britain under an arrangement with the Jewish State Museum in Prague will have to be cancelled. So will a special supplement that was to have been published in the London Jewish Chronicle June 6.

The millenium celebrations, originally scheduled to take place in the summer of 1968, were cancelled when the Czech Government withdrew its sponsorship in the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It was subsequently re-scheduled for the summer of 1969, apparently with Government sanction. The decision to cancel it again was reportedly taken at a meeting of Jewish community leaders in Prague April 20.

Mr. Baum said that "Jews of Czechoslovak origin in the Western world will be dismayed and disappointed at this decision which deprives them of an opportunity to identify themselves with this unique occasion and to revisit the Jewish community of Czechoslovakia and the country of their birth." He said that whether the decision was prompted by the Czechoslovak Government of its own accord or under Soviet pressure, "it is clear that neither cultural nor economic relations can be kept apart from the over-all pattern of the state controlled system."

### Prague Jewish Leader Sends Regrets To Jews Abroad

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- The Council of Jewish Religious Communities in Prague has apparently sent regrets to a number of Jews abroad who had been invited to the now cancelled millenium celebrations this summer. The existence of a letter of regret signed by Frantisek Fuchs, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia, was reported to JTA today by Jan Kolarik, director of Cedok, the Czechoslovakia Travel Bureau. He reported that Mr. Fuchs said the Jewish community decided to postpone--without fixing a new date--the millenium celebration "after scrutinizing the preparations to dignify" its "realization." The letter was dated April 25.

Cedok had been widely promoting the millenium celebration and earlier this year hired a suite in the Hotel Plaza and showed newsmen and travel journalists films and pictures of Jewish sites of interest in Prague. But today, Jan Kolarik, the director of the Cedok office here, which serves the entire United States, said he had no knowledge of the number of Jews who had signed up to attend the celebration. He said that there probably will be some cancellations.

## Thirty-One Organizations Send Delegates To Belgrade Conference Of Jewish Organizations

BELGRADE, May 6 (JTA) -- Delegates from 31 Jewish organizations participated in a conference of Yugoslavian Jewish communities here, the first to be held since 1965. The conference named a new executive of the Federation of Jewish communities and re-elected Dr. Lavoslav Kadelburg as its President.

## Turin Cardinal Raps Rome District Attorney's Legal Brief In Fabrini Case

ROME, May 6 (JTA) -- The district attorney of Rome was chastised by a Roman Catholic Cardinal for advancing, in a legal brief, religious arguments that contradicted "in letter and spirit" the Vatican Council's Declaration on the Jews. The criticism was expressed in a letter from Michele Cardinal Pellegrino, the Archbishop of Turin, to Father Ernesto Balducci of Rome. It was intended for use in the defense of Fabrizio Fabrini, a law instructor at the University of Florence, who was tried for interrupting a Palm Sunday church sermon in which a priest sought to justify the ancient charge of deicide against the Jews. Mr. Fabrini received a two month suspended sentence and is appealing his conviction.

The district attorney, Dr. Alberto Antonucci, reopened the Fabrini case after the latter was acquitted. In his brief seeking a reversal of the acquittal, which was made public before the trial, he quoted Biblical passages to "prove" that the Jews were punished through the ages because they killed Christ. The content of the brief, in what amounted to little more than a case of disorderly conduct against Mr. Fabrini, outraged religious and lay leaders. Apparently under pressure, Dr. Antonucci substituted a new brief that was limited to the charges.

Cardinal Pellegrino wrote his letter two weeks before the trial. In it he said he was amazed that a high judicial officer, in an appeal against an acquittal, saw fit to inject theological matters and base an indictment on his own conclusions. He said it was "absurd and grotesque" to read a judicial writ that misquoted and misused Biblical passages for the express purpose of contradicting the "letter and the spirit" of the Declaration on the Jews. The letter was offered in Mr. Fabrini's defense but he declined to have it used in court.

## British Ambassador Is First Envoy To Speak Hebrew In Credentials Ceremony

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) -- Britain's new Ambassador to Israel, John Barnes, presented his credentials to President Zalman Shazar today and was the first foreign diplomat in the country's history to go through the formalities entirely in Hebrew, a language he studied in London before taking his new post.

## New Approaches Held Vital To Holding 'Alienated' Jewish Students

DETROIT, May 6 (JTA) - An official of the American Jewish Committee has said here that the so-called "alienated" Jewish youth on American campuses are not trying to escape from Jewishness but are "concerned that Jews in America are becoming less Jewish and more indivisible from the Protestant establishment." Yehuda Rosenman, director of the AJCommittee's Jewish communal affairs department, reported on a recent conference in Tarrytown, N.Y. in which 33 college students from all over the country "probed their innermost feelings on Jewishness and Jewish life." Mr. Rosenman addressed the Detroit chapter of the AJCommittee.

He said that in the area of religion and the synagogue, these students "want exciting, meaningful changes; they want to be inspired. The sophisticated ones said the synagogue reflects the values you find in suburban homes. They want simpler services, perhaps with group study--not a country club atmosphere but a 'Jewish happening,' " Mr. Rosenman said. He said the Tarrytown students wanted to create a "free synagogue," meaning free from the denominational divisions of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform.

Mr. Rosenman thought it was "a waste of time" to try to reach the "way out leftist students." "We've got to reach not the radicals but those who have some ties, the liberals, who are miserable on campus." He said they needed not control but "guidance and help from any group that doesn't seek to promote the students for its own propaganda purposes." He said Jewish organizations must help finance campus groups "without any kind of implied control over young people seeking to do their own thing as Jews."

## Brooklyn Police Hunt Youths Who Threw Fire Bomb At Hasidic Synagogue

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) -- Police today were searching for two youths who allegedly threw a fire bomb into a Hasidic synagogue in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn during Lag B'omer celebrations yesterday. Rabbi Jacob Wertzberger of Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar, said no one was injured and the damage was slight. He said "I don't think there is any anti-Semitic factor involved. We haven't had any trouble like that here recently."

But police reported that sporadic trouble has occurred between the Hasidic sect and Negro and Puerto Rican residents of the surrounding neighborhood. Rabbi Wertzberger said some youths from his congregation had been involved in a fist fight with Puerto Rican boys who, he claimed, attacked them with bottles and garbage cans last week. He said the Puerto Ricans did not voice any racial or religious feeling but seemed to be "just looking for trouble." Police said the fight resulted in the arrest of three youths, two of them Puerto Rican. One Hasidic boy and one Puerto Rican were hospitalized for injuries.

## Dade County School Board Orders Full Recognition Of Jewish Holidays

MIAMI, Fla., May 6 (JTA) -- The Dade County School Board has instructed school heads to give full recognition to major Jewish holidays and the Sabbath in mapping various school events and to excuse Jewish students from classes and other activities at those times. "No issue should be made of the possible absences of these students on Jewish holidays," the directive said.

The action was the result of representations made by the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami which released a Jewish calendar through Rabbi Irving Lehrman, chairman of its religion and school committee, and Rabbi Solomon Schiff, executive vice president. The calendar gives precise information on the holidays and their observance by the three branches of Judaism. It has been distributed to teachers and principals throughout the Dade County school system, to the Broward and Monroe County school systems and to the University of Miami and Miami-Dade Junior College.

## Two Letters For 'Chai' Used As Slogan At GE Valley Forge Space Center

PHILADELPHIA, May 6 (JTA) -- The two letters of the Hebrew word "Chai" appear all over the plant of the General Electric Company's space and technology center at Valley Forge, Pa. The word was selected by the firm as a slogan because it represents "the world's oldest language" and signifies "life" and best fits the company's aims which are to create spacecraft to have "long life" a GE official explained. "Chai" is imprinted on doors, signs, posters and security badges.

## Pupils In Grades 5 And Up In Miami Jewish Schools To Study Holocaust

MIAMI, Fla., May 6 (JTA) -- The Bureau of Jewish Education has announced that the Nazi Holocaust will be the subject of two sessions in all Jewish schools in Miami from grade five upward. Albert Ossip, bureau president, said that the bureau had published a bulletin for teachers on the Holocaust for use in the courses.

The bulletin, now being distributed to teachers in the Jewish schools, is part of recent special materials prepared by the bureau on Jews in the Soviet Union and Israel Independence Day. The bulletin outlines a rationale for teaching the Holocaust in Jewish schools. It includes a summary of the Nazi period, topics for discussion, references, the poem "Babi Yar" and information on the Jewish uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto.

## JDC-Malben To Aid Israeli Communities In Planning Care For Their Aged

TEL AVIV, May 6 (JTA) -- An independent association to assist Israeli communities in planning services for care of the aged has been set up by Malben, the Joint Distribution Committee institution for the aged in Israel, with a five year, \$8.6 million budget. The chairman of the association noted that the percentage of aged over 65 has jumped in the last ten years from 4.5 to 6.5 and is expected to reach eight percent of the population by 1980.