

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Abe Fortas Resigns From Supreme Court, Was 5th Jew To Serve As Justice

WASHINGTON, May 15 (JTA) -- Abe Fortas, the fifth Jew to serve on the United States Supreme Court and the first to be nominated for the post of Chief Justice, resigned today under fire for accepting--but later returning--a \$20,000 fee from the Wolfson Foundation. President Nixon immediately accepted the resignation.

Louis Wolfson, founder of the family foundation, is now serving a prison term for stock manipulation. The nomination of Mr. Fortas to be Chief Justice in June, 1968, touched off a battle in Congress in which charges of anti-Semitism were made but never confirmed. The then President Johnson withdrew the nomination at Mr. Fortas' request.

Louis Brandeis was the first Jew to be named to the Supreme Court. Since then there has been a tradition that one seat on the court is to be filled by a Jew. That seat has been filled since Mr. Brandeis' term by Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter and Arthur J. Goldberg, as well as Mr. Fortas.

A Supreme Court spokesman said Mr. Fortas submitted his resignation to President Nixon in a letter delivered to the White House last night. At the same time, the spokesman said, Mr. Fortas sent a letter to Chief Justice Earl Warren concerning the Wolfson Foundation fee transaction. Mr. Fortas was appointed by President Johnson to the Supreme Court in 1965.

## Israel Will Send Delegation To French Air Show--A Sign Of Rapprochement?

PARIS, May 15 (JTA) -- A major break-through in the cool Franco-Israeli relations that prevailed under former President Charles de Gaulle was seen today with the announcement that Israelis will attend the May 29 international air show here. Air show authorities said last night that an invitation to the show had been extended to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and that an Israeli delegation will attend. It was understood that Gen. Zvi Tsur, special adviser to the ministry, will head it.

Earlier this year the French Defense Ministry, headed by Pierre Messmer, said France had decided not to invite any delegations from Mideast countries. The decision to reverse the invitation policy apparently came following Gen. de Gaulle's resignation last month. Political observers here (and in Jerusalem) were speculating whether the first step had been taken toward a rapprochement that might involve lifting of the de Gaulle embargo on 50 Mirage jets that Israel had paid for but never received. The air show is run annually by the French Defense Ministry.

## Assails Soviet Union, Raises Question About Its Role In Mideast Peace

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 15 (JTA) -- Israel today seemingly called into question, in a letter to Secretary-General U Thant, the Soviet Union's qualifications to contribute to a Mideast peace through the Big Four talks. Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said in a letter to Mr. Thant, which was in reply to one sent to the Secretary-General by Soviet Ambassador Yakov A. Malik last week, that Russia unreservedly identifies itself with "Arab aggression and intransigence." The Soviet Union's "disregard for facts can hardly be considered as qualities capable of establishing peace," Mr. Tekoah said in commenting upon the Malik letter in which the Russian had blamed Israel for aggravation of Suez Canal tensions in order to block a settlement called for in the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution.

The "vilification and unfounded accusations" against Israel, Mr. Tekoah asserted, threw additional light on Israel's opposition to the current discussions--the eighth of which was held this week. He reaffirmed Israel's "readiness to accept" the Security Council measure "for the promotion of agreement between the parties of a just and lasting peace."

In his letter Mr. Malik said that normalization of the area required that the Security Council's cease-fire resolution be carried out. Mr. Tekoah said that if Russia really wanted the cease-fire observed, it should "impress upon the United Arab Republic" its responsibilities for "persistent violations." Egyptian responsibility for aggravation of the Suez situation, he said, was made clear from UN reports submitted by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of the UN observer mission in the sector, and by official Cairo statements "announcing" a policy "of increasing tension and generating violence" along the canal.

Mr. Tekoah reiterated Israel's continued willingness to observe the cease-fire on a reciprocal basis. He said that the Soviet Union could "contribute constructively" to peace by "lending its official support to the requirement that the parties to the conflict themselves devote their efforts to the conclusion and signature" of peace agreements. In a letter to Mr. Thant yesterday, Egyptian envoy Mohamed Awal el-Kony said that Lt. Gen. Bull had been informed by Undersecretary of State Salah Gohar that fortification of UN observer posts on the canal's west bank had begun. Posts on both sides of the canal had been subjected to "grave danger" and "heavy damage," Mr. Thant had complained earlier. Mr. el-Kony blamed Israel for the "deterioration" of the situation.

### Four Israelis Wounded During Egyptian Shelling Across Canal

TEL AVIV, May 15 (JTA) -- Four Israeli soldiers were wounded last night during a renewal of Egyptian artillery shelling across the Suez Canal from Qantara northwards. The fire was returned.

A number of mortar shells were fired last night from Jordanian territory against the Neot Hakikar settlement at the southern tip of the Dead Sea but officials said no casualties or damage resulted. In another incident, an Israeli farm vehicle was damaged and its operator injured when the machine detonated a mine east of the Geshur settlement while Jordanian mortar and automatic fire was aimed at Israeli forces in the Ashdod Yaacov area in the northern Beisan Valley. The fire was returned and no casualties were reported.

The Egyptian military command said yesterday that Israeli troops had tried to cross the Suez in rubber boats but had been repulsed. It said their aim was infiltration of Egyptian positions south of Port Said at the northern end of the waterway. One boat, Egypt said, was sunk, and two others retreated. Police Minister Eliahu Sasson told Israelis yesterday that Egyptian attacks across the canal were the harbinger of a "crossing to establish a bridgehead."

The El Fatah Arab guerrilla organization has claimed responsibility for the killing of Hassan Habran, a Nablus resident, earlier this week, officials reported today. They said that handwritten notices had been found pasted on walls of Nablus declaring that the victim, a former police sergeant, had been "a collaborator" with "the enemy" and that a similar fate awaited "anyone else who does as he does." Police announced the arrest of 20 suspects in the slaying. Habran was shot dead at close range. He survived an earlier attempt on his life more than a year ago, when he was wounded in a leg.

### Mark 2nd Anniversary Of Jerusalem's Reunification, 21st Year Of Statehood

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- Israel marked today the second anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem and the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Jewish State against a background of Arab-inspired incidents and some efforts to shut down schools and businesses in the occupied areas. Israelis celebrated the anniversary of statehood on April 23 in accordance with the Hebrew calendar. Today's anniversary was based on the Gregorian calendar. When Old Jerusalem was surrendered by the Jordanians on June 7, (27 Iyar) to Brig. Gen. Uzzi Narkiss, the central command chief, all of Jerusalem came under Jewish jurisdiction for the first time in nearly 2,000 years.

Police reported that 30 Arabs were detained for questioning today following two grenade explosions in East Jerusalem near Herod's Gate last night. There were no injuries from the blasts. East Jerusalem shopkeepers delayed opening their shops this morning but the Old City was back to business almost as usual by noon. Strike calls for the anniversary had been distributed by several clandestine organizations but apparently were largely ignored. The day was a Catholic holiday and Christian schools had no classes. The appearance of many pupils on the streets spurred reports of a general school strike but classes were normal in Moslem and Government schools.

In the West Bank, Nablus was reported to be the only town in the occupied areas to be observing a total strike on the anniversary of Statehood. Partial strikes were reported in Hebron, Tul-karem and Kalkilya but conditions were normal generally in Jenin and the Gaza Strip. The day was marred in Gaza town by the detonation of two explosive charges in local markets in which some 25 Arabs were injured. Israeli soldiers broke up a march in Ramallah by 150 Arab women protesting the occupation of the West Bank town.

Israeli police and security forces took special steps to prevent any large scale disorders but most incidents were minor. A hand grenade was tossed last night at an Israeli Army jeep near the Old City wall but there were no casualties. Public transit was reported normal in the occupied areas.

Wreath were placed today at graves of Israelis killed in the battle for East Jerusalem during the Six-Day War. The main commemoration ceremony was held in Jerusalem at Ammunition Hill, scene of the fiercest fighting in that battle. The event was attended by Mayor Teddy Kollek and the then commander of the paratroop brigade which spearheaded the fight, Brig. Motta Gur. Jerusalem Day was marked in schools throughout Israel. Classes were opened with assemblies addressed by school principals. A special parade will be held tomorrow at all Army bases and installations in commemoration of the Six-Day War.

Prayers were chanted at the Western Wall yesterday and some 3,000 members of B'nai Akiva, the National Religious Party youth organization, met for early morning prayer services at the Western Wall after a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The observance began with the naming yesterday of a main road leading to a new housing project in East Jerusalem for the late Premier Levi Eshkol. The housing project, for both Arabs and Jews, was named Ramat Eshkol. Participants in the ceremony included Premier Golda Meir, Mayor Kollek, Housing Minister Mordecai Bentov and several of the Army commanders who led troops in the battle for the Old City. The first families are expected to move into Ramat Eshkol next September. Elsewhere in the city, kaddish was recited at East Jerusalem cemeteries by families of some 90 Israelis who were killed in the first day of battle.

### Syrian Military Delegation Visits Communist China, Reportedly Seeking Rockets

LONDON, May 15 (JTA) -- A Syrian military delegation arrived in Peking today, according to reports here from the New China News Agency against a background of unconfirmed reports from East

European sources that the Syrians may try to get rockets and maintenance technicians from Communist China. According to the Communist news agency report, the Syrians were greeted with pledges of "firm support for the just struggle of the Arab people against United States-Israeli aggression."

The Syrians, led by Syria's first deputy defense Minister, Maj. Gen. Moustapha Tlass, were reported to have been invited by Chinese Army leaders. Most of the major weapons with which Syrian forces are equipped have come from the Soviet Union. A Beirut report said that Syria was turning to China, Russia's arch-rival, because of Soviet unwillingness to provide new arms and demands by France for cash payment for arms.

### **Brandt, Ehmke Pledge To Resist Efforts To Alter Decision On Abolishing Statute**

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Kurt Grossman of New York, an American authority on German affairs, today released letters he had received from West German Foreign Minister Willy Brandt and Justice Minister Horst Ehmke pledging to resist efforts to alter the Cabinet's decision to abolish the statute of limitations on genocide and murder. Mr. Brandt said in his letter that "desk murderers would escape prosecution for their deeds" under the measure proposed by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its sister party in Bavaria, the Christian Social Union.

Mr. Ehmke's letter also cited the "danger" that "organizers of murder programs...will benefit" from any legislation seeking to distinguish between active and passive war criminals.

The American Jewish Congress called today on West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger to reject pressures by "neo-Nazi and other right wing elements" aimed at watering down the Cabinet decision to press for abolition of the statute of limitations, which is due to take effect Dec. 31.

Dr. Joachim Prinz of Newark, N.J., chairman of the AJCongress' commission on international affairs, said in a cable to Bonn that "political barter of the principle that Nazi war criminals must be held accountable affronts every canon of public decency." Dr. Prinz cited reports from West Germany that members of the CDU and the CSU would seek legislation in the Bundestag differentiating between major war criminals and those who allegedly only followed orders. The later group would no longer be liable to prosecution if the statute of limitations is amended. Dr. Prinz said that under present German law "persons guilty of lesser war crimes are already protected against prosecution."

Dr. Prinz, a former rabbi of Berlin expelled by Hitler from Nazi Germany, declared in his message to Chancellor Kiesinger, "The world simply cannot be expected to sit back indifferently and allow those who carried out Hitler's brutal programs 30 years ago to escape trial and accountability because of the growing influence of those who would today reintroduce those same Nazi doctrines into German public life."

### **Tourist-Development Minister Says Israel Will Be Able To Meet Jumbo Jet Challenge**

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Moshe Kol, Israel's Tourism and Development Minister, expressed confidence here today that Israel's tourist industry will be able to meet the challenge of the jumbo jets which will soon be going into service on world airways.

Mr. Kol, who is making a 12-city United States tour on behalf of a \$20 million investment program to expand Israel's tourist services, said that "right now," more investors were interested in Israel's tourist industry than ever before. He said the prospective investors were both Jews and non-Jews in the United States, Europe and South America. His tour is sponsored by Capital for Israel, an agency set up by the Israel Government to promote various aspects of Israel's economy.

He said most investors approached the Tourist Industry Development Corp., the investment agency of the Tourism Ministry, to ask for participatory loans to build hotels and other such projects in Israel. He added that the \$20 million program is in the form of Tourist Industry Development Corp. stock and that the funds "will allow us to continue the encouragement of these investment projects. In this way we will meet the challenge of the jumbo jets."

Noting that his Ministry's development budget for such projects was dependent on the quick sale of the \$20 million issue, he said he hoped that the American Jewish community would help to dispose of the issue. He said there were now about 2,500 hotel rooms under construction in Israel as either new hotels or expansion of existing ones and that another 4,500 more rooms were planned for the next two years. He also reported that in 1968, 432,000 tourists visited Israel and produced an income of \$95 million dollars, compared with 252,000 visitors and \$50 million in 1964.

### **Orthodox Faction, In Apparent Electoral Move, Seeks No Confidence Vote On TV**

JERUSALEM, May 15 (JTA) -- The tiny Agudat Israel faction in the Knesset has called for a no confidence vote, to be debated Monday, over the Cabinet's decision to inaugurate television seven days a week in Israel. Political observers saw in the Orthodox faction's move an effort to embarrass the National Religious Party since it was obvious that Agudat could not round up enough support to have the effort succeed.

As members of the Government coalition, the National Religious Party, which also opposed the seven day programming, was seen as being obliged to vote for the Government position. This would be exploited by Agudat Israel in the battle for Orthodox votes in the coming national election.

## Roadblocks To Social Club Membership Hinder Jews' Executive Climb, AJCommittee Finds

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Because Jews are often unable to acquire the kind of social club membership considered a virtual necessity in the world of big business, they are seriously hampered in their effort to climb the executive ladder, the American Jewish Committee reported today at its 63rd annual meeting here.

The finding was based on a seven-year study by Dr. Reed M. Powell, dean of the Ohio State University business school, who made the study in Los Angeles and San Francisco when he was on the University of California at Los Angeles faculty. In making public Dr. Powell's findings, AJCommittee officials said that the fight against such exclusion is important not only to Jews but also to members of other minority groups, who, as they move increasingly toward professional levels already attained by Jews, are bound to encounter the same barriers at the executive level.

Dr. Powell found that among religions, as distinct from racial ties, Judaism "stands alone as a major negative factor in the lives of American business executives," an "almost insurmountable barrier" to significant promotion because the dominant group members "naturally turn to the ranks of those they know."

Dr. Powell interviewed 825 upper and middle-level West Coast corporate executives, as well as community and business leaders belonging to major social clubs in the two cities. He reported that three out of four persons interviewed stressed the desirability of membership in social clubs and the disqualification for promotion of those who did not belong. He cited as a complicating factor the fact that American Jews seek to achieve "total acceptance into the dominant American society without the loss of their own personal identity or their way of life" as Jews. Almost half of the interviewed executives felt that Jews were subject to particular barriers in social ties which negatively affected their promotability. The comparable figure for Catholics was given at 14 percent. Protestant religious affiliation was considered a "virtually non-existent hindrance factor."

The study was one of several commissioned by the organization, all of them revealing that a small number of Jews, in proportion to the number of Jewish college graduates, held executive posts in major corporations. The organization has been conducting a campaign of meetings with industry leaders with "positive results" in many large corporations, it said. Local chapters have fought anti-minority barriers in the clubs with some success but, officials said, the most prestigious clubs remained closed to Jews.

Bertram H. Gold, executive vice-president, warned delegates against indiscriminate demands for ethnic quotas for college admission and other programs. He said "it is right to create programs that give preferential treatment to deprived and handicapped groups" but, he added, this does not justify attempts to impose indiscriminately quotas based solely on racial or ethnic identification. He also cautioned against feelings of collective guilt about the plight of black people on the part of the white community and American Jews. Such attitudes, he said, could result in an inverted racism which could contribute to irrationality among both whites and blacks.

The AJCommittee presented its first annual Joseph Ross Award to its Pittsburgh chapter for the development of an innovative approach to meeting the needs of low income families for housing. The program involves rehabilitation of substandard dwelling units by owners or neighborhood corporations, leasing of rehabilitated dwellings by the local housing authority at market rent levels and sub-leasing them to poor families at rents they can afford. The difference between the market price and the rents charged is subsidized by Federal funds under the National Housing Act. The annual Institute of Human Relations mass media award was presented to Edward W. Barrett, former dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and now director of the Communication Institute of the Academy for Educational Development.

## Israel Bond Organization Clerical, Professional Employees Strike Across Country

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- Some 450-475 clerical and professional employees of the Israel Bond Organization went on strike across the country today following expiration of their contract at midnight and a deadlock in negotiating a new one.

Offices remained open and were manned by executive and supervisory personnel not affiliated with the striking union. Talks on the outstanding issues involved in negotiating a new two-year contract were held today between Bond officials and representatives of Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees, an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. At issue were minimum wage scales and across-the-board increases for clerical workers, a minimum hiring scale and general increase for professionals, cost-of-living allowances and severance pay.

## City Council Asked To Name Plaza On Lower East Side For Adolph Held

NEW YORK, May 15 (JTA) -- The City Council of New York was asked today to name a plaza on the Lower East Side for Adolph Held, newspaper and labor official, who died yesterday at the age of 84. A bill to that effect was introduced by councilman Saul S. Sharison, who represents the area. The plaza is near the Educational Alliance and Jewish Daily Forward, the Yiddish language daily that Mr. Held had served as general manager and city editor. Earlier in the day, Mayor John V. Lindsay signed a bill also sponsored in the Council by Mr. Sharison which re-named Columbia St., on the Lower East Side, as Kazan St. for Abraham Kazan, a Jewish needle trades pioneer here who was instrumental in developing labor-sponsored cooperative housing in the city.