

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVI-Fifty-Second Year

Tuesday, May 20, 1969

No. 96

Connect Mrs. Meir's Planned Visit To U.S. With Possible Erosion Of Pro-Israel Stance

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- Diplomatic sources today linked plans for Premier Golda Meir to visit the United States within the next few weeks with growing concern here that there may be some erosion of the hitherto warmly pro-Israel position of the United States in its bilateral talks in Washington with the Soviet Union. The American Embassy in Tel Aviv was reported today to be in communication with the State Department on the timetable and schedule for the proposed visit.

The concern over possible erosion of the American position stems from a mounting realization here that the Israeli position is not fully understood abroad and that without a full appreciation of the situation that confronted Israel in May, 1967, foreign powers and their statesmen cannot fully understand the reasons for Israel's unyielding demands today on direct negotiations with the Arabs for peace and secure and agreed borders before Israel will cede any military or trading advantage it won by the occupation of territories in the Six-Day War.

One reason for Mrs. Meir's visit to the U.S. would be to explain these reasons to President Nixon. For the same reason, Israel's diplomatic representatives abroad will be instructed to stress the events preceding the Six-Day War in 1967, reminding foreign statesmen of the massing of the Arab armies on Israel's borders, the closure of the Strait of Tiran and Israel's utter isolation when no power or combination of powers came to its help or even promised to do so within a reasonable time.

Mrs. Meir Outlines Views On Mideast Peace To 'Time' Editors

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel said her country would be "much happier" if the U.S. and other countries saw the situation in the Middle East as Israelis did, but she asserted that "if I am to choose a good press in the world with many things about an Israel that isn't here any more, or unfair criticism of an Israel that is still in existence, then I choose the latter."

In an interview with Hedley Donovan, editor in chief, and Henry Grunewald, managing editor of Time, appearing in the current issue of the magazine, Mrs. Meir expressed conviction that, in the same circumstances, the U.S. and other countries would act "exactly as we are." She said Israelis were vitally interested in an understanding between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, "but to say it very bluntly, not at our expense."

Mrs. Meir told her interviewers that she found no difference in the mood of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, and said that while Israel did not believe a new war was imminent, "we have to be prepared also in case we misjudge." She pointed out that "if we lose a war, for us that is the last war. Then we are not here any more. If one doesn't understand this, then one doesn't understand our obstinacy."

Asked how she visualized a settlement, Mrs. Meir declared: "Agreed, secure boundaries. Both adjectives have equal importance." She declined to discuss what these boundaries would be, asserting that when Col. Nasser comes to the negotiation table, the boundaries will be worked out. She stressed, however, that Israel would never permit Syrian reoccupation of the Golan Heights.

Asked what Israel would do if the Big Four agreed on a Middle East settlement that Israel did not like, Mrs. Meir said she had "no illusions" about the difficulties that would arise but insisted that "we will say no. It won't be easy." Asked why she thought the Arabs would respect a signed agreement in view of her references to "Arab perfidy," Mrs. Meir said the answer was in the phrase, "secure borders." She made it clear that the new borders would have to be wide enough to prevent Israel from being cut in two and she stressed that "I am not prepared that anybody should safeguard for me the free shipping through the Strait of Tiran." She said that Foreign Minister Abba Eban "will never have to do what I had to do in 1957: To stand up before the United Nations and say, we will withdraw. I did it on behalf of the Government, but that was not my greatest hour."

Report Increase In Commando Activity Accompanied By Cooperation By Jordanian Forces

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- An increase in activity by Arab commando forces along the Jordan River has been accompanied by a visibly increased degree of cooperation between regular Jordanian forces and Arab terrorists, Israeli military sources said today. This cooperation has not only been tactical but also operational, as was evidenced in an attack on a fortified Israeli position Saturday morning when Jordanian Army artillery provided a "softening-up" barrage for the guerrillas prior to their attack, and later covering fire for their retreat. In some cases, Jordanian units went into action but the guerrillas failed to follow up.

Israeli Air Force jets went into action this afternoon attacking the Jordanian positions from which mortar and tank fire continued to be directed against Israeli patrols in the area of the Allenby and Abdullah bridges. The shelling which started in the morning was intensified and continued until about 7 P.M. There were no Israeli casualties. A Jordanian communique charged that the Israeli planes had attacked the villages of Karameh and Kureimah, killing one civilian and wounding five others.

An increase in hostile activity along the Jordanian cease-fire line and in the number of attempts at deep penetration into Israel coincided with the May 15 anniversary of the proclamation of the State of Israel. From April 19 to May 19, military sources reported, there were 28 terrorist attempts to cross into Israel. Sixty-five saboteurs were killed in these attempts.

Jordanian forces opened fire against Israeli patrols Sunday night and again this morning in the area just north of the Dead Sea, below the Allenby Bridge. There were no Israeli casualties. Kallia, at the northern tip of the Dead Sea, was the target of shelling last night.

Israeli patrols combing the Arava area, south of the Dead Sea, where a guerrilla band was routed Sunday, found that the guerrillas had set up two 82 mm. mortars with which to shell the settlement of Hatzeva. The guerrillas got two rounds off before an Israeli patrol put them to flight, but the shells caused no damage and no casualties. A supply of mortar shells, a bazooka and bazooka shells and a quantity of mines were also found abandoned by the guerrillas.

Israel Voices 'Angry Bewilderment' To France Over Purported 'Jewish Gold' Remark

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- Israel has expressed to France its "angry bewilderment" over a statement attributed to Armand Berard, its Ambassador to the UN, that "Jewish gold" was involved in Gen. Charles de Gaulle's defeat last month at the polls, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in a radio interview. He commented that France had replied that the statement was never made.

Mr. Eban declined to try to forecast what position France would take on the Mideast after its Presidential election. He said that "immediately after a new Government is formed in France, we will present it with our appraisal of the situation and our demands for an essential and basic change in relations."

He expressed satisfaction with what he called Premier Golda Meir's plan to propose a limited but significant proposal for rehabilitation of Arab refugees under Israel control. Details of the proposal have not been made public. Mr. Eban voiced support for collective compensation as part of the solution to the refugee problem, saying it would be more effective than compensation to individual refugees.

UN Commission Finds Anti-Semitism In Texts Used By Arabs, Recommends Modifications

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 19 (JTA) -- A commission of educators, assigned by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to investigate the textbooks used in Arab schools maintained by UNESCO and the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Arabs has recommended that eight of the textbooks be withdrawn and that "certain modifications" be made in 58 others. The survey commission, composed of American, French and Turkish educators, examined 127 textbooks used in these schools. It found that many of the textbooks gave a distorted view of the history of the Middle East region and some employed the "deplorable language of international anti-Semitism."

The educators had "no objections" to 33 of the 127 books examined. It found that most of the remainder were "very poor in presentations" and that many had a "political slant." They said that the repetition of this theme in books for children was likely to "form, create or strengthen frustration or the idea of revenge in the minds of children." They noted that the Arab Israeli conflict held "a central place" in some of the textbooks which, they said, were likely to "advocate an appeal to violence" against Israel. The commission recommended that "all terms contemptuous of a community as a whole should be prohibited. It noted that some of the terms applied to Jews in the textbooks were "liars, cheats, usurers, idiots." It was understood that both Lebanon and Egypt, where many of the UNESCO-UNRWA schools are located, protested against the fact that the books "used by the other side" (Israel) had not been similarly examined.

Knesset Rejects Non-Confidence Vote On Issue Of 7-Day-A-Week Television

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- The Knesset rejected today, by a vote of 69 to three, with 19 abstentions, a motion of non-confidence in the Government presented by the Agudat Israel Party on the issue of the Cabinet decision to permit television broadcasting seven days a week, including the Sabbath. Among the abstentions were the members of the National Religious Party and the Agudat Israel Workers Party, which are partners in the national coalition.

Speaking for the resolution, Moshe Unna of the National Religious Party charged that the decision to begin TV broadcasting on the Sabbath was an unnecessary affront to Orthodox Jews. Rabbi Kalman Cahane of the Agudat Israel Workers Party said that he opposed television in general. He said that it was only because of their consciousness of national responsibility in these times that the two parties would not vote against the Government but would abstain.

Speaking in reply, Premier Golda Meir said that every member of the Cabinet respected religion. She stressed that there was no difference between television on the Sabbath and radio on the Sabbath and the religious parties were in the coalition despite their disapproval of this on principle. The State radio broadcasts every day except Yom Kippur.

West Germany Ratifies UN Convention To Eliminate Racial Discrimination

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. May 19 (JTA) -- The West German Federal Republic has subscribed to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and has deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations. West Germany became the 36th state to ratify the convention which entered into force last Jan. 4.

Council Of Europe Will Bring Soviet Jews' Treatment To Attention Of UN, Parliaments

STRASBOURG, France, May 19 (JTA) -- The treatment of the Jews in the Soviet Union will be brought to the attention of the United Nations, other international bodies and the national parliaments of the 18 nations represented in the Council of Europe in accordance with a series of resolutions adopted here by the Council's plenary assembly.

The assembly acted on a report prepared by a committee headed by Dr. Bruno Pitterman, former Austrian Vice-Chancellor, which had previously been approved by the assembly's judiciary and political committees. The report quoted Soviet Jews directly in testimony on discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union as well as anti-Jewish statements appearing recently in the Soviet press. Members of nine national delegations took the assembly floor to speak on the report and to urge action by the Council of Europe which is a non-official, advisory body seeking the unification of Europe.

Resolutions adopted by the session also called on the Soviet Union and other states of Eastern Europe to end their anti-Semitic propaganda and urged the Soviet Union to grant to the Jews of the Soviet Union the same rights and privileges which are enjoyed by other national minorities.

Mexican Writers, Artists Urge End To Discrimination Against USSR Jewry

MEXICO CITY, May 19 (JTA) -- The Mexican press has prominently reported a statement signed by 60 of this country's outstanding writers and artists calling on the Soviet Union to halt discrimination against Soviet Jewry, to give the Jews their rights as a national, religious and ethnic minority and to permit those Jews desirous of emigrating permission to leave the country. Signatories to the manifesto included Dr. Luis Garrido, former dean of the Mexican National University; Pedro Gringoire, a Protestant leader and one of the country's best known journalists; and Dr. Raul Carranca Rivas, noted jurist.

Czech President Svoboda, Dubcek Honor Dead At Site Of Theresienstadt Camp

LONDON, May 19 (JTA) -- President Ludvik Svoboda of Czechoslovakia led an assemblage officially estimated at more than 50,000 yesterday at a peace rally at Terezin honoring the more than 30,000 men, women and children who died there in the Theresienstadt concentration camp which the Nazis frequently described as a model Jewish ghetto.

The meeting was held on the site of the camp and the raised platform for the notables and speakers overlooked the rows of Jewish graves in the national cemetery. Among those with President Svoboda were Alexander Dubcek, former First Secretary of the Communist Party, and leaders of the reform movement. Mr. Dubcek, the principal speaker, noted that most of the concentration camp victims had been Jewish and denounced the "inhuman ideology of anti-Semitism."

ICAO Sets Up Unit To Deal With Aviation Security, Won't Handle Israel Complaints

MONTREAL, May 19 (JTA) -- The council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has set up a special, 11-member committee from among the 27 council members to consider measures and procedures to protect international civil aviation against unlawful seizure of aircraft, sabotage or armed attack against air transport and ground facilities used in international civilian air transport. A representative of Lebanon will serve on the special committee.

The committee has been empowered to deal only with future problems and not with "any previous incident." It will deal "only with the aeronautical aspects of cases involving unlawful interference and shall refrain from considering any case which may involve matters of a political nature of controversy between two or more nations."

The committee is authorized to invite the advice and recommendations of ICAO member states on "non-political aspects" of cases, the announcement pointed out, and, through the states, from airlines, airport authorities and other possible sources of information. In view of its terms of reference, the ICAO committee will not deal with the complaints Israel made to the ICAO following the hijacking of an El Al airliner to Algeria and the attacks on El Al planes at Athens and Zurich.

Ben-Gurion Arrives In Brazil, Slated To Confer With President Costa E Silva

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 19 (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel arrived here yesterday on a seven-day visit to Brazil during which he was scheduled to be received by President Costa E Silva at the capital in Brasilia. Plans for a mass reception at the airport were scrapped for security reasons but within a few hours of his arrival, Mr. Ben-Gurion had an enthusiastic meeting with some 1,500 Brazilian Jewish youth. He told them that they had to learn Hebrew because "the greatest danger to the Jewish people is the lack of a common language and understanding."

Italian Communist Party Is Financing Arab Students' Pro-Terrorist Demonstrations

ROME, May 19 (JTA) -- The Italian Communist Party is financing a group of Arab students, estimated to number about 150, in arranging demonstrations of solidarity with the Arab terrorists in university cities throughout the country. The most recent demonstration was held at the University of Siena where the itinerant Arab students organized a public meeting in the streets of the town to show solidarity with "the freedom fighters." Israeli students at the university circulated among the spectators, passing out leaflets giving information on the situation in Israel and the occupied territories. The two groups came face to face on the steps of the town hall and engaged in heated argument but there was no clashes. Observers here warned today that the buildup being given to the Arab terrorists and guerrillas was making an impact on the Italian public to whom they were being depicted as "freedom fighters" comparable to the anti-Nazi underground of World War II and the Algerians fighting against the French for independence.

Newark Police Search For Suspected Black Militants In Fire-Bombing Of Prinz' Temple

NEWARK, N. J., May 18 (JTA) -- Newark police today were continuing their search for suspected black militants in the fire-bombing last week of Dr. Joachim Prinz's synagogue, Temple B'nai Abraham. The incident followed the failure of a plot allegedly involving extremist Black Panthers aimed at extorting five thousand dollars from Dr. Prinz. Authorities were investigating a possible link between the fire, officially listed as arson, and the alleged kidnapping of Alfred Whitters, the synagogue custodian, by two men who demanded but failed to get Dr. Prinz' address and telephone number, police said.

Firemen fought the blaze, apparently caused by incendiary objects hurled through a window that had been forced open, for nearly an hour last Thursday night. Four rows of pews in the rear of the large temple were burned out, several memorials were damaged and part of the structure was burned.

Leaders of Newark's black community denounced the fire and the kidnapping in a statement read to the congregation by Dr. Prinz last Friday. Several of the black leaders were present at the time. "The fire bombing of this temple," they said, "finds its only likeness in barbarity in the fire-bombing of black churches in Selma, Ala. and other Southern towns. "We deplore violence by anyone and we cry out against its madness by blacks as fiercely as we condemn its use by whites." Dr. Prinz, who has long been in the forefront of the civil rights movement and is well known as a champion of the cause of Negro rights, said: "We will not yield to any kind of terror...and will not be intimidated by arson or threats on our lives."

Dr. Prinz said that he did not know why B'nai Abraham had been singled out for the attack. He was convinced, he said, that it was the work of a small group of hoodlums. The alleged plotters last week did not reach Dr. Prinz, 67, who lives in Orange, a Newark suburb. The custodian refused to tell where the rabbi lived despite threats on his life, police said. The alleged plotters sought money to pay for legal aid for an unidentified "brother," police said. A Jersey City man was arrested and charged with threatening to kill and kidnapping. The man's car was filled with Black Panther literature and posters.

Arthur Goldberg, Former Associate Justice, Disputes Concept of High Court 'Jewish Seat'

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- Former Associate Justice Arthur J. Goldberg criticized, in a news conference yesterday, the concept of a "Jewish seat" on the Supreme Court and affirmed that President Nixon was not under any obligation to designate a Jew as successor to Abe Fortas who resigned from the court last week. "I did not consider when I was appointed to the Supreme Court that I was occupying a Jewish seat," Mr. Goldberg said. "There is no need in our democracy to appoint a man to any institution of government to preserve a so-called racial balance."

Mr. Goldberg was appointed to the Supreme Court by the late President Kennedy in 1962 and resigned in 1965 to accept appointment as United States Ambassador to the United Nations. On his resignation, President Johnson named Abe Fortas who became the fifth Jew to serve on the nation's highest tribunal.

NYANA Reports Aid To 3,200 Newcomers In 1968, Re-Elects Howard M. Harris President

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- The New York Association for New Americans, which aided 3,200 Jewish newcomers to settle in New York in 1968, provided agency services to 1,672 in the first four months of this year, Howard M. Harris, NYANA president, reported to its annual meeting here today. Of these, he said, nearly 1,000 required full settlement and relief services, including housing, initial maintenance, medical and dental care, family counseling and youth services. In all of 1968, 1,200 required such services.

The increased number of arrivals for settlement here was attributed by Mr. Harris to increasing anti-Semitism in some Eastern Europe and Arab countries. Many of the refugees, he said, arrived here without funds or possessions and required immediate financial assistance.

During the first four months of 1969, it was reported, the NYANA vocational services department aided nearly 800 newcomers with job counseling, training, placement and intensive English language courses. During the same period, 240 scholarships were granted as against 213 in all of 1968.

Mr. Harris noted, that while initial settlement costs had risen sharply, the period of dependency had fallen dramatically. In 1949, the average family was dependent on the organization for eight or more months. Today, he said, the average is less than three months.

In its 20 years of refugee settlement work here, NYANA, which is supported by the United Jewish Appeal, has settled 54,029 families, including more than 125,000 individuals here. Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice president of UJA; Louis Broido, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee; Harold Friedman, treasurer of the United Hias Service; and Monroe Goldwater, honorary president of the UJA of Greater New York, addressed the annual meeting. Mr. Harris was re-elected to a second term as president.

National Foundation For Jewish Culture Announces Awards For 28 Scholarly Projects

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- The National Foundation for Jewish Culture announced the award of grants for 1968-69 for 28 scholarly projects of which nine deal with the history of Jewish communities and movements in Jewish life. Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver, Foundation president, said 14 of the grants went to graduate students completing their work for doctorates. All 14, he said, plan to teach on the college level. Five of the grants are intended to assist in preparation for publication of research to be completed during the coming year.