

JTA daily news bulletin

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Vol. XXXVI-Second Year

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The three have denied a charge of attempted murder and illegal possession of the weapons. Police said the Arabs planned to arrive at Rio's Gallao International Airport a few minutes before Ben-Gurion's plane was to come in. They planned to kill him then, the officers said. Sources close to Danish security police said prosecution evidence included detailed instructions issued in the name of El Fatah for shooting or bombing Ben-Gurion shortly after his landing. The instructions allegedly included plans of the airport. Police also produced suitcases with false bottoms in which were hidden three revolvers and 12 hand grenades.

According to police, air bookings were to be arranged for the Arab pair so that they would land at the Rio airport 10 minutes before Ben-Gurion's arrival. To do this the Arabs had to catch a plane from Zurich. Security officials say the Swede was instructed to fly to Copenhagen to receive and hide the couple and then get them on an aircraft which would connect with the Swiss flight. Danish and Israeli agents traced how the Swede made the bookings for the Arabs and took them to their hotel. Danish security police and Israeli authorities have asked Swedish security police to investigate the Swedish side of the case. Israel has supplied the Danish security police with a list of identified members of El Fatah. The three were arrested after a chambermaid had seen their weapons.

(In Jerusalem, Premier Golda Meir expressed satisfaction that the plot had not succeeded. She made her statement at the beginning of today's cabinet meeting.

(Mr. Ben-Gurion addressed a gathering in Rio of over 2,000 school children, telling them to study Hebrew and spend one year or more in Israel. He met with Guanabara state governor Negrão de Lima and invited him to visit Kibbutz Sde Boker.)

Prinz, Muravchik Rap West German Supreme Court Decision Freeing Nazi Murderer

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Dr. Joachim Prinz of Newark, chairman of the Commission on International Affairs of the AJCongress, and a rabbi in Berlin until he was expelled by Hitler, declared "the court ruling confirms our worst fear that West German statutes of limitation will exonerate hundreds if not thousands of those directly implicated in Hitler atrocities. Statutes of limitations already in effect in West Germany are now interpreted as granting absolute immunity to supposedly 'lesser' war criminals," said Dr. Prinz. "This formula is further stretched to exempt from prosecution all those who allegedly killed under instructions." The Jewish Labor Committee protested the court decision in a statement issued by its executive director, Emanuel Muravchik. "The court decision achieves what reactionary legislators have not yet achieved in the Bundestag," he said, "the exemption from criminal prosecution of those Nazis who acted under orders. World indignation must compel a change in the statute to prevent the arbitrary protection of those guilty of such infamous crimes."

The high court's decision held that a 1968 adjustment in the penal code established a 15-year statute of limitations in cases where the murders were committed without "base motives" such as racial hatred. The statute of limitations on murder and genocide, originally scheduled to expire in 1965, was extended to the end of this year after bitter protests. Recently, Horst Ehmke, the Social Democrat Minister of Justice, submitted a draft calling for the abolition of the statute in all cases of murder, Nazi or otherwise. Under rightist pressure, Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Party has moved for retention of the deadline for those facing prosecution for murdering "under orders."

The court ruling is expected to affect hundreds of similar cases, including 18 cases in which more than 100 Nazis are under trial in West Berlin for their activities in the Nazi secret police. The Supreme Court decision is final and the prosecution has no further recourse. Justice Werner Sarstedt, court president, said the decision was unanimous. The penal code revision reduced from 20 to 15 years the statute of limitations for prosecution of those who abetted in the murder under orders, and reduced the maximum penalty for conviction from life imprisonment to 15 years. Thus the altered statute, running from the end of World War II, expired in 1960. The Heinrich case was not opened until 1965, a date that would have fallen within the old deadline.

UN Council Tied Up In Parliamentary Wrangle On Non-Governmental Status Of Jewish Unit

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The procedural wrangle was further complicated last Thursday when a Tanzanian motion to refer the entire question of the Board's status back to the ECOSOC committee on NGOs was given precedence over an American motion that, pending a final decision, the Jewish NGO should enjoy the right to appear before ECOSOC agencies. The Arab representatives took the position that until the committee reported, the Board, which represents the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the B'nai B'rith, had no standing.

On Friday, when the ECOSOC resumed sessions, the American delegate, Walter E. Kotschnig, asked the chairman whether the U.S. resolution of the day before was receivable. The chairman ruled it was, but again, the resolution was not put to a vote, priority being given to the Norwegian motion to put over action until June 2.

Soviet Union Assailed For Anti-Semitism In Rally Held By Youth In New York

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union was accused here of being the world's leading exponent of anti-Semitism and with carrying out a "policy of massive cultural persecution and spiritual slavery" against its 3,000,000 Jewish citizens. The protest was made at an all-night teach-in in honor of Russian youth beginning Wednesday night. Three hundred high school and college youth from the east coast attended the event. The sit-in, with services, was held in connection with Shavuot and was sponsored by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, a body representing the major religious, secular and civil Jewish organizations in the United States.

The students conducted six hours of prayer and discussions on Soviet Jewry at the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations. Large placards on the walls appealed to Soviet authorities to restore the cultural and spiritual rights of Jews. Rabbi Saul I. Teplitz of Woodmere, N.Y., vice chairman of the American Jewish Conference, cited the USSR's "vitriolic anti-Zionist and anti-Israel propaganda, which feeds the prejudices of the anti-Semites both within the Soviet Union and throughout the world." Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary said the Jews of Russia "will not be blackmailed into committing suicide." Author Elie Wiesel said, "I believe with all my soul that despite the suffering, despite the hardship and the fear, the Jews of Russia will withstand the pressure and emerge victorious."

The meeting called for the immediate release of two young East European Jews. One, Boris L. Kochubiyevsky, of Kiev, was arrested in December, 1968 after communicating with Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev demanding the right to live in Israel. Another young man, Ilya Kipps, a Latvian mathematics student, reportedly set himself afire at the foot of a liberty monument in Riga April 13 and was arrested. The act reportedly was in protest against Soviet repression of Jews.

(A Jewish college student group in Philadelphia known as Lapid (Torch) recently bought a \$100 Israel Bond to be held in escrow in Israel for Mr. Kochubiyevsky against the possibility that he may emigrate there.)

Soviet Dissidents' Message To UN Cites Wishes Of Russian Jews

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Meanwhile, Ilya Burmistrovich, 31, a Soviet mathematician, was sentenced to three years in prison for circulating typewritten copies of works of authors banned in the Soviet Union. One of the authors, Yuli Daniel, is Jewish. He and Andrei Sinyavsky were sentenced to long prison terms three years ago for distributing anti-Soviet works.

'Soviet Anti-Semitism Is Not Like Hitler's,' Says Rabbi Hollander

LOS ANGELES, May 25 (JTA) -- Rabbi David Hollander of The Bronx, past president of the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox) declared here that the Soviet Government "is not anti-Semitic in the sense that the German nation was under Hitler." He spoke at the 21st annual dinner of Young Israel of Los Angeles. "There is no legal barrier to the observance of the Jewish religion in Soviet Russia," he said. "But there is no religious education permitted for Jewish children. Soviet Russia's anti-Semitism is like anti-Semitism in many other countries. But Soviet Russia is definitely anti-Israel and anti-Zionist."

"For some reason," he said, "anti-Semitism, anti-Israel view and anti-Zionism expressed officially somehow awaken a yearning in Soviet Jewish youth, who may have already been almost totally assimilated, for some relevance with Judaism and Israel."

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"For some reason," he said, "anti-Semitism, anti-Israel view and anti-Zionism expressed officially somehow awaken a yearning in Soviet Jewish youth, who may have already been almost totally assimilated, for some relevance with Judaism and Israel."

"The miracle as far as Soviet Russia is concerned," he said, "is that after 50 years of persecution and pressure on its Jewish citizens, the anti-Semites have not killed the spirit of Judaism." Rabbi Hollander attended recent Moscow events honoring Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin in that city's Central Synagogue.

Eban Visits Sharm el-Sheikh, Tells Israeli Troops Israel Will Never Give It Up

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban, in a visit to Sharm el-Sheikh on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, said that Israel would never relinquish the base overlooking the Straits of Tiran. Israel seized Sharm el-Sheikh from Egyptian troops in the Six-Day War.

Mr. Eban said Israeli control over the Straits of Tiran was in the national interest and "never again will be put in jeopardy." Sharm el-Sheikh controls access to the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel's only southern sea route from the port of Eilat. Speaking to Israeli soldiers, he said, "there is no doubt that the question of Sharm el-Sheikh will be one of the main points in any negotiation because it is a question of securing freedom of passage here. Any arrangement must insure Israel's control in this place." He visited the site two years after President Nasser of Egypt announced that the Aqaba Gulf was closed to Israeli shipping, a move regarded as a critical one in precipitating the war.

Israel Tells UN Council Jordanians, Irregulars Increase Attacks On Civilian Targets

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 25 (JTA) -- Israel complained to the Security Council Saturday night about increased attacks by regular and irregular Jordanian forces on civilian targets in Israel. It reported 57 such attacks between May 11-17. In a letter to Council president Agha Shahi of Pakistan, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said Jordanian forces opened fire on the Ethiopian monastery at Kaser el-Yahud while a funeral was being held for an Ethiopian monk. Mr. Tekoah said the Ethiopian consul in Jerusalem was attending the rites. He complained that a vehicle sent by Israeli forces to rescue the participants in the funeral was also attacked, and that fighting in the area continued for two hours.

"Saboteur camps and training bases operate openly and enjoy the sanction and aid of Jordanian authorities," he said. "Jordanian forces collaborate with Arab irregulars in a deliberate violation of the cease-fire." The envoy told the Council if the cease-fire is to be maintained, it must be observed in "strict reciprocity."

Israeli Soldier Killed By Sniper At Canal. Others Injured

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed Saturday night when hit by sniper fire in the Suez Canal area. During the last two days, two Israeli soldiers were injured in the Canal sector when an army vehicle hit a mine south of Port Tewfik. A civilian bus also struck a mine in the same area but there were no passengers in it. Two tractor drivers were injured in the Canal area on Shavuot eve.

During the holiday, Jordanians shelled religious settlements of Tirat Zvi and Ein Hanaziv. The Katyusha rockets caused fire in fields which were dry because of unusual heat in the area. A border policeman was injured Friday when an Israeli patrol was attacked near Beth Yossef in the Beisan Valley.

Egypt claimed Thursday to have downed an Israeli jet and routed five others that attempted to invade Egypt air space 300 miles south of Cairo. Cairo radio said the French-built Mirages were intercepted by Soviet-built Mig 21s over the Red Sea. It claimed one plane was seen plunging into the sea while the others fled. An Israeli spokesman denied the report. "None of our planes has been shot down," he said. "There are no grounds for the announcement whatsoever."

The effective use of the Hawk ground-to-air missile Wednesday when the American-made high speed missile destroyed an Egyptian MIG-21 and possibly destroyed a second Egyptian fighter was believed here to have taken the Egyptians completely by surprise. Aviation authorities said that there was no case on record in Vietnam in which the Hawk missile hit a Russian-built or Chinese-built Mig and that it was entirely likely that the Israeli crew manning the Hawk missile launcher had scored a "first."

U.S. Naval Operations Chief Says Israel Would Start Any New War

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, U.S. chief of naval operations, says if war breaks out in the Middle East, Israel will start it. Adm. Moorer said in a speech that he felt the timing of a new outbreak in the Mideast would depend on when Egypt builds up enough military strength to launch an offensive against Israel. Israelis are watching Egyptian strength and when they feel Egypt has the ability to attack, "I think they're going to attack themselves," he said.

Thousands Make Traditional Pilgrimage To Jerusalem To Observe Shavuot

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA) -- Thousands of persons made the traditional pilgrimage to Jerusalem over the Shavuot holiday, many to practice the tradition of studying the Torah throughout the night. The streets were also filled with tourists and curiosity-seekers. Torah Scholls were provided in great number at the Western Wall for those who visited there for prayer.

Shavuot, which is a harvest festival and the anniversary of the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai is one of three holidays in the year on which pilgrimages are made to this city. Synagogues throughout the country were decorated with green boughs, flowers and plants. Biblical plays were enacted and children observed the ritual of offering the first fruit.

Seminaries Rapped As 'Placid, Past-Oriented, Pedantic' By Culture Foundation Head

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- America's Jewish seminaries came today under a barrage of criticism by the president of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture who described their mood as "placid, past-oriented and pedantic." Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver of Cleveland, the son of the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, the Zionist leader, said that a major overhaul of the seminaries is needed to transform them from mere "trade schools" for rabbis serving empty synagogues to training centers for Jewishly-formed social workers, youth leaders and scholars. He also endorsed the principle of feminism, calling the present "womanless ministry" an "imbecility." He asked, "Why alone among the professions is the rabbinate in violation of the Fair Employment Practices Act?" Rabbi Silver was the principal speaker in a symposium on "The Future of Rabbinic Training in America sponsored by "Judaism," a quarterly journal published by the American Jewish Congress. Eight other leading rabbis served on the panel.

Rabbi Silver, religious leader of the Temple in Cleveland, said that seminary graduates should serve not only in congregations but also in colleges and cities, working with the "urban-unaffiliated, the apartment-alienated, the campus disenchanting." He charged that pressures to provide congregational rabbis have led the seminaries to be "technical schools" and to lower admission standards and achievement levels. The institutions have fallen, he said, into "that unhappy pattern in American education which has transformed our schools into essentially apprentice-training centers" in which "scholarship is sacrificed to courses in technique."

He assailed as an "intolerable scandal" the sectarian separation of Jewish seminaries. Although seminary students need "courses, teachers, perspectives and ideas which no insulated seminary can provide, almost all rabbinical training is carried out in splendid isolation, even in the middle of New York," Rabbi Silver said. He proposed an inter-disciplinary approach which would permit students of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform) to take Codes or Talmud at the Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative) and a Yeshiva University (Orthodox) student to take Bible and hermeneutics at Hebrew Union. "A mind trained only to parrot a sectarian party line can hardly teach Israel to love all Israel," he said.

Rightist Unit With Anti-Semitic, Anti-Israel Views Seeks To Counter Student Revolt

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- An extreme right-wing student organization espousing a philosophy that is anti-Semitic and anti-Israel and is committed to theories of Nazi racialism is seeking to become a countervailing force to the student revolt on the American campus. The organization is the National Student Alliance, an offshoot of last year's youth for Wallace organization. The "philosophical basis of the movement is a book, "Imperium," by the late Francis Parker Yockey, which is an adaptation of Hitlerism and describes Jews, Negroes, Indians and other minorities as "parasites" who must be eliminated from Western culture.

The organization is headed by Louis T. Byers, 37, a former Wallace organizer, and claims 2,000 members. It is currently running a drive for new members from a mailing list of 15,000 former Wallace youth supporters and a campaign for funds from 200,000 adults on another list. It has an "adult advisory board" composed of five of the most notorious anti-Semites in the United States. It works in close relationship with The Liberty Lobby, an extreme right-wing propaganda organization.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Byers conceded that his advisory board members were considered anti-Semitic and said that "the kids on the campus aren't going to be bothered by that." He would not say they were anti-Semitic--"maybe anti-Zionist. There's a difference, you know...I don't care if some of them are anti-Zionist." Byers defined anti-Zionism to the Washington Post as a movement against creation of an "artificial Jewish state to be used as a geopolitical base for international control of the free world."

Mr. Byers praised "Imperium" as a "great book" and said he re-read it every year. The book praises anti-Semitism, terming it "precisely analogous in culture pathology to the formation of antibodies in the bloodstream in human pathology. In both cases, the organism is resisting the alien life."

Michael M. Sacher Is Named To Board Of Directors Of Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- Election of Michael M. Sacher of London to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was announced today by Robert H. Arnow, JTA president. Mr. Sacher, a director of Marks & Spencer, Ltd., is chairman of the British Committee of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and chairman of the Joint Palestine Appeal in England. He is a member of the Council of the Jewish Colonization Association and a past president of the Jewish National Fund in Great Britain.

Orthodox Leader Urges 'Crash Program' To Retain Loyalties Of College Students

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- Rabbi Zev Segal, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox body, called today upon Orthodox Jewry to launch a "crash" program on college campuses to retain the loyalties and participation in Jewish life of the young people. He proposed a mass effort directed towards the campus, which would include strengthening of Jewish agencies currently working on the campus; establishment by congregations near campuses of centers for the students; efforts by congregations to give young people a greater voice and role in the conduct of congregational affairs; frequent student "dialogues" with Jewish religious leaders and a program of publications to present Jewish ideals in the "language of today's intellectual community."

Bond Organization Strike Over, Clerical And Professional Employees Return To Work

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- Clerical and professional employees of the Israel Bond Organization who went out on strike May 15 following the expiration of their contract, returned to work Thursday when agreement was reached between the Bond Organization and the employees' union on terms of a new agreement.