

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

Wednesday, July 2, 1969

No. 12

Zionist General Council Opens Sessions, Presented With \$330 Million Budget

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA) -- The Zionist General Council opened a series of meetings yesterday with pleas by Premier Golda Meir and Jewish Agency chairman Louis A. Pincus to world Jewry to support Israel's development and quest for peace. A \$330 million 1969-70 budget was also submitted to the Council.

Mrs. Meir said the question of peace was not a matter of territory or navigation rights but concerned Israel's basic right to exist, on which there can be no compromise or concession. The Premier decried certain "influential Jews" abroad, un-named, who, she claimed expressed doubts of the validity of some of Israel's political demands. She said on these matters "there must be clear and open discussion among ourselves" so that all doubts are laid to rest.

Mr. Pincus said Zionists everywhere must use every opportunity to explain Israel's demand for peace through direct negotiations with her Arab neighbors. He said they must help Israel counter a world-wide anti-Israel propaganda campaign mounted by 20 Arab and Communist states. He said that the Zionist movement could provide the present generation of Jewish youth with an ideology they are searching for and woo them away from the New Left.

Ehud Avriel, chairman of the General Council, the supreme governing body of the Zionist movement between Zionist congresses, urged Zionists everywhere to maintain their identity with Israel in its political struggles.

Jewish Agency treasurer Leon Dultzin submitted the \$330 million budget which he said was based on the Agency's estimated cash income from the regular and emergency fund campaigns this fiscal year and from other sources. He said the budget was constructed to meet the needs of increased immigration and the expanded activities of the Zionist movement all over the world. Mr. Dultzin broke down the budget as follows: \$200 million for housing, health education and social services to immigrants; \$40 million for resettlement; \$6 million for youth aliya; \$12 million for educational and organizational activities abroad; \$48 million for higher education; \$4.7 million for general administration; \$12 million for payment of debts and \$2 million in reserve.

Mr. Dultzin said that 1,316,200 immigrants came to Israel since the State was established 21 years ago. They included 11,000 from the United States of which 4,000 arrived during the past year; 46,000 from Western Europe and 24,000 from Latin America. He said 7,000 immigrants were expected from the U.S. and Canada and 8,000 from Western Europe during the current fiscal year.

Shouting Match Between Youth, Veteran Zionists Disrupts Parley

A shouting match between youth representatives and delegates of the older generation threw a General Council plenary session into chaos today. The youngsters shouted, "you are old men" and intimated that they thought it was time for the present leaders of the movement to retire. The older members shouted back, "you've done nothing for the state until now" and youths replied, "you never did anything and you are still doing nothing."

The clash developed when student representative Dan Shnitlich took the podium to voice his group's demand for ideological changes in the Zionist movement. Amid applause from the younger element, he declared that the students wanted an early meeting of the Zionist Congress to introduce changes and demanded the direct personal election of Congress delegates who are now selected by their respective parties.

Jewish Agency chairman Louis A. Pincus reprimanded the youngsters for bringing up the matter on the floor and by-passing the usual procedure of bringing proposals for a resolution to the prior attention of the presidium. He called the proposal out of order. The youngsters shouted that they did not want to wait for the closing session when it would be too late for action. Oldtimers shouted at the youngsters to "be quiet" and "behave." One veteran Zionist, 80-year-old Abraham Harzfeld, nearly collapsed.

There are 25 representatives of student and youth organizations in the General Council out of 140 members. Mr. Pincus said he had agreed to have two of them attend a special meeting this evening to consider youth demands. Some order was restored in the hall when youth leader S. Tsur of Israel, told his contemporaries that the Jewish Agency was sincere in its approach to youth and student demands.

A festive note was introduced today when Dr. Israel Goldstein announced plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Keren Hayesod next year. The Keren Hayesod, of which he is chairman, is the fund-raising arm of the Zionist movement. Dr. Goldstein recalled that it was established in 1920 to provide the financial means for Jewish settlement in Palestine and to develop the country for the benefit

of its Jewish and non-Jewish inhabitants. He said the aims of Keren Hayesod are basically the same today. He called the institution a rallying point of the Jewish people everywhere for the "gigantic task of financing immigration, absorption and settlement."

Security Officials Believe Israeli Arabs May Have Been Involved In Tel Aviv Blast

TEL AVIV, July 1 (JTA) -- Security officials believe that Israeli Arabs may have been involved in yesterday's blast near Dizengoff St. in the heart of Tel Aviv and are considering measures to control Arabs passing through the city and the many thousands who work in Tel Aviv and often spend the night here. The explosion of a parked vehicle laden with TNT shortly after midnight yesterday injured 11 persons and caused extensive property damage.

Police said the vehicle, described as an Israeli Army car, was stolen in Jaffa. Investigations of the explosion are centered in that ancient largely Arab seaport town which was absorbed by the Tel Aviv municipality after the 1948 war. Police believe the explosives were smuggled into Jaffa bit by bit by Israeli Arabs and loaded into the car after more than 50 kilograms of dynamite was accumulated. The blast was set off by a timing device. Security officials think there may be a connection between the Tel Aviv explosion and the sabotage of an oil pipeline in the Haifa Bay area last week for which El Fatah has claimed credit.

Israelis Strike 4 Guerrilla Bases In Jordan In Wake Of Premier Golda Meir's Warning

TEL AVIV, July 1 (JTA) -- Israeli jets struck four guerrilla bases in Jordan in a pre-dawn bombing and strafing attack today. A military spokesman said the targets were near the villages of A Salt and El Nimrin. He said all aircraft returned safely to their bases. The attack, the second by Israeli jets in two days, followed Premier Golda Meir's warning yesterday that attacks against Israeli border settlements would bring "sevenfold" retaliation.

A significant drop in the number of guerrilla forays since Israeli jets went into action against their bases was noted by Israeli officials today. And for the first time there was no Israeli interference with Jordanian workers repairing the East Ghor irrigation canal damaged by Israeli commandos recently. Mrs. Meir said yesterday that Israel would allow the repairs on the assumption that the Jordanian Government would restrain its Army and guerrillas from further attacks on Israeli settlements.

In other fighting yesterday, two saboteurs were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol in the Arava district south of the Dead Sea. One Israeli soldier was wounded in an artillery exchange with Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal and one Israeli civilian was injured. A military spokesman said the Egyptians opened fire with artillery and small arms in several sectors during the night.

Israeli officials meanwhile adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward yesterday's military and political shake-up in Jordan. King Hussein appointed his uncle, Maj. Gen. Nasser ben Jamil, as commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Army, a post the King himself had held. He also demoted his pro-guerrilla Minister of Interior, Akef Fayes, and replaced him with former intelligence chief, Mohamed Rasoul al-Kailani. Gen. Ben Jamil and Mr. al-Kailani have both opposed the presence of Arab guerrillas in Jordan and have warned the King against the guerrillas' rising power and influence with the Army. Observers here believe King Hussein acted to gain firmer control over his 50,000-man Army and to restrain guerrilla activity which could bring heavier reprisals from Israel.

But Gen. Ben Jamil, in his first statement after assuming supreme command, pledged his full support of what he called "properly organized" commando action against Israel. He said he supported guerrilla sorties that struck the enemy in places the regular armed forces could not reach. He singled out last week's sabotage of an oil pipeline in Haifa and yesterday's bomb blast in the heart of Tel Aviv as the type of guerrilla action he approved. "We expect war at any time and we are preparing for it," Gen. Ben Jamil said.

International Panel Assembles In Israel To Consider Restoration Of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA) -- A distinguished panel representing 21 countries whose members share a "love of Jerusalem" assembled here yesterday to assist Israeli city planners in the restoration of Jerusalem, especially the old walled city and its environs. The panel was assembled at the invitation of Mayor Teddy Kollek who believes that such matters as landscaping and architectural improvements in a city holy to three faiths should not be left to Israelis alone to decide.

Members of the panel include Thomas P. Hoving, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City; Lewis Mumford, the American author and specialist in urban affairs; Henry Moore, sculptor; Pablo Casals, cellist; Isamu Noguchi, architect; William S. Paley, chairman of the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Museum of Modern Art in New York; Rep. Ogden Reid, of New York, a former U.S. Ambassador to Israel; Lord Goodman, chairman of the Art Council in Britain; Vittorino Veronese, former director general of UNESCO; and Pastor Marc Boegner, past president of the World Council of Churches.

More than 40 of the 70 members of the panel have arrived here for its first meeting. Mayor Kollek said it would be concerned with the creation of a national park surrounding the walled city and various architectural plans. He said he hoped members would enlist the cooperation of the various religious groups in the Old City whose assistance would be needed in over-all restoration.

Big 4 Suspend Middle East Peace Talks For Summer, But 'Little 4' Will Continue

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 1 (JTA) -- The Four Power talks on the Middle East ended here today for the summer. The United Nations Ambassadors of the Big Four--United States, Soviet Russia,

Britain and France--met briefly at the residence of the British representative, Lord Caradon, and then recessed the talks for the summer. It was their 15th meeting since the talks began three months ago at the initiative of France. But to date, no noticeable progress has been made toward an agreement on the shape of a Middle East peace settlement. The talks are expected to resume in September.

The bilateral talks between the United States and the Soviet Union which have been going on concurrently in Washington are expected to continue during the summer months. In addition, the four UN Ambassadors agreed to have the "little four"--a working group made up of their deputies--meet "on matters of substance" occasionally over the summer. Lord Caradon said they would meet "as often as there is something to deal with."

Acrimonious Debate Continues In Security Council Meeting On Status Of Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 1 (JTA) -- Acrimonious debate continued in the Security Council today over the status of Jerusalem. The meeting was called yesterday on a complaint by Jordan over the eviction of Arab families and the demolition of Arab-owned houses in the old walled city. Jordan urged the Security Council to warn Israel that sanctions would be imposed if it failed to rescind its annexation of East Jerusalem and appealed to Security Council members to withhold arms from Israel until it complied.

The debate yesterday was characterized by bitter exchanges between Mohammad H. el-Farra, the Jordanian representative, and Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, the representative of Israel. Mr. Tekoah charged that the Jordanian complaint was "a maneuver to divert attention from the fact that the Arab Governments have hardened even further their refusal to conclude peace with Israel and that Arab aggressive warfare against Israel continues unabated." He said Jordan had come before the Security Council "to plead the cause of its 1948 invasion."

Mr. el-Farra asked the Council to condemn in the strongest possible terms Israel's failure to comply with the Council's previous resolutions calling on Israel not to take action that tended to change the status of Jerusalem and to rescind measures already taken. Mr. Tekoah said the actions about which Jordan complained were regulations that simply facilitated the continued and lawful conduct of Arab business and professions in Jerusalem.

The Jordanian envoy charged that Israel had conducted a "blitzkrieg" in Arab Jerusalem, destroying more than 140 buildings, 437 business establishments and 1,048 apartments housing more than 5,000 people. Mr. Tekoah said that Israeli evictions and demolitions in the Old City were matters of security.

He referred to the terrorist bombs which exploded 10 days ago in a Jerusalem street used by worshippers going to and from the Western Wall. If Jordan would abide scrupulously by the cease-fire, Israeli security measures near the Western Wall would be superfluous, he declared. He said Israel and the world would follow with interest the Council members' views on "the outrageous assaults by terrorists on peaceful worshippers."

The Jordanian complaint was brought to the Security Council against a background of increasing violence in the Middle East and an apparent impasse in the Big Four talks on a Mideast settlement. Some diplomats here thought Jordan was seeking to influence the U.S. to bring pressure on Israeli Premier Golda Meir when she visits Washington, probably in August, to relax Israel's conditions for a settlement. The Jordanians were also apparently trying to induce non-Arab Moslem states such as Turkey and Iran to join in protesting Israeli control of the holy places in Jerusalem. Most observers here see little chance of the Security Council voting sanctions against Israel but they thought the passage of less severe measures such as a condemnation was likely.

Mr. Tekoah said yesterday that Jordan does not speak even for the Arab minority in Jerusalem. He said "Israel will maintain and protect the city's growth, welfare and security" and "will make certain that Jerusalem, holy to so many, remains a source of light and pride to all religions."

Israel, British Board Of Deputies Present At Investiture Of Prince Charles

CAERNARVON, Wales, July 1 (JTA) -- The State of Israel and British Jewry were represented at the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales in the 700-year-old Caernarvon Castle today. Mr. Raanan Sivan, counsellor and consul-general of the Israel Embassy in London, was among the scores of foreign dignitaries attending the historic ceremony. British Jews were represented by Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Earlier, Mr. Fidler sent telegrams of congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles. The message addressed to the Queen said, "The Board of Deputies of British Jews has the honor of conveying to your majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh warm and loyal greetings on the occasion of the investiture of His Royal Highness Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. We pray that he be blessed with abiding good health to enjoy his high historical office in the service of his countrymen."

The telegram to the 20-year-old Prince read, "On the occasion of your investiture as Prince of Wales, the Board of Deputies, the representative body of the Jewish communities, extend their warmest greetings and good wishes for every success in your future efforts and activities in the service of the British people."

\$2,500 Memorial Award Given By Bergen-Beisen Group To New Polish Immigrant In Israel

TEL AVIV, July 1 (JTA) -- A \$2,500 memorial award of the Bergen-Belsen Survivors Union was awarded yesterday to Jewish writer and poet Stanislaw Yehoshua Wigodski, a new immigrant from Poland.

'Washington Post' Cites Finkelstein Incident In Criticizing White House Services

WASHINGTON, July 1 (JTA) -- The Washington Post today expressed reservations about certain aspects of religious services in the White House in the wake of the participation Sunday in such services by Dr. Louis Finkelstein, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The Post, while not disputing President Richard M. Nixon's "right" to hold services in the executive mansion, felt that the manner in which the current weekly services was being held lacked dignity.

"Unfortunately, the way religion is being conducted in the White House these days--amid hand-picked politicians, reporters, cameras, guest-lists, staff spokesmen--has not only stirred needless controversy but invited...the suspicion that religion has somehow become entangled...with politics," it said. Dr. Finkelstein had been invited to play a role in the seventh Nixon private service in the East Room. He was the first rabbi to participate in a White House worship service. He delivered a sermon and ended the service with the song "Adon Olom."

"When Mr. Nixon said last Sunday that Rabbi Finkelstein had already served three Presidents, we flinched," the Post said. "Served? Are rabbis, or priests or ministers in the business of serving political leaders or the causes they represent? Is it really in the best of taste, with the White House as the setting, for Rabbi Finkelstein to pray that 'future historians...may say that in a period of great trials and tribulations, the finger of God pointed to Richard Milhous Nixon, giving him the vision and wisdom to save the world and civilization?' Or for the President to praise the Rabbi as 'one of the most distinguished leaders of our time--one of the few who have been on the cover of Time Magazine?'"

The Post commented that the practice of holding the White House services--which are billed as non-denominational--"invites more trouble than it's worth--as witness the controversy which quickly developed about the inclusion of Christian dogma into Rabbi Finkelstein's services, attended by a large number of Jews." This reference was to the singing of a Doxology which contained the words "Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost," a reference to the Christian concept of a holy trinity which plays no role in Judaism. Dr. Finkelstein did not sing the hymn and said later that he had no criticism of its inclusion in the service. He said that his presence did not imply any acceptance of the ideas contained in the hymn and that from a Jewish viewpoint, participation in such a service was not incorrect. The service, he said, was "done with great dignity."

NCRAC Says Some Protestant Church Groups Help Spread Notion That Israel Is 'Obdurate'

PITTSBURGH, July 1 (JTA) -- The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council charged yesterday that some major Protestant church groups, whose overseas missionary activities play a dominant role in shaping church policy, were among the "major vendors" of the notions that Israel is "inflexible and obdurate" about a Middle East peace settlement. The charge was made in an assessment of international issues at the closing session of the NCRAC's 25th annual conference.

The 250 delegates representing the group's nine national and 82 local Jewish organizations also found "widespread emotionalism" among the American public over such issues as the plight of Arab refugees and the administration of Jerusalem, "but little general knowledge of the basic political, territorial and security issues between Israel and the Arabs."

The group said for example that Soviet-Arab propaganda has systematically distorted the intent of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution so that many Americans were not aware that the document was not self-implementing but called for negotiations by the conflicting parties toward a comprehensive settlement. The NCRAC attributed the "explicit and sometimes strident" pro-Arab, anti-Israel sentiments of some Protestant groups to their upper-echelon administrative executives.

On the situation of Jews in Soviet Russia, the NCRAC said there were indications that the Kremlin was not insensitive to the pressure of world opinion. It noted Soviet toleration of open demonstrations of interest in Judaism on the part of young Russian Jews, the availability of matzoh for the Passover holidays and last year's visit of Moscow rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin to the U.S. with official consent. The NCRAC urged the Jewish community to keep up its public agitation, particularly for the fulfillment of Premier Alexei Kosygin's 1966 promise to permit Soviet Jews to emigrate in order to be reunited with their families.

Hadassah Youth Center On Mount Scopus Will Receive Americans, First Guests From Abroad

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA) -- The Hadassah Youth Center, the first structure to be restored on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem since the June, 1967 war, will receive its first guests from abroad this month--a group of 130 American students who are leaving for Hadassah-sponsored summer programs in Israel July 7. Mrs. Everett A. Kalb, chairman of the organization's youth activities department, said the students, ranging in age from 15-18, are travelling under scholarships granted by the Hadassah Zionist Youth Commission for work and study in Israel. Some senior members of the group will work in kibbutzim, attend lectures and seminars and work at archeological excavations, Mrs. Kalb said. Others will work and study under a seven-week "tour for teenagers" program.

Jewish Center Of Buffalo Sets Up Military Information Service Center For Young Men

BUFFALO, N.Y., July 1 (JTA) -- The Jewish Center of Greater Buffalo has established a military information service to inform young men of draft age of their responsibilities and options under the Selective Service Act. According to Mrs. Alvin Small, director of adult and young adult activities, the service provides information on draft classifications, enlistment opportunities in the various services, officer training programs and procedures for requesting deferments and other information. The data was gathered by Jewish Center volunteers from Selective Service offices and recruiting centers.