

# 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, August 19, 1969

No. 157

## **Eban, For First Time, Admits Possibility Of Separate Palestine Entity**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that a possible solution of the Palestine problem might be the creation of a politically separate Palestinian entity. It was the first time Israel's Foreign Minister said publicly that the idea of a separate Palestinian state was supportable.

Mr. Eban told a Montreal United Jewish Appeal delegation that Israel would not totally debar all the Palestinian Arabs from a separate political destiny. However, he argued against any attempt to delineate Israel's future borders before peace negotiations with the Arabs. The extent of our control over our own home is no less important than the dimensions of our homeland, he said. That is why most planning for peace in Israel today seeks ways to improve our territorial security without acquiring an Arab population of 1.5 million which would be permanently dissident and totally committed in its deeper loyalties to our neighbors, Mr. Eban said.

Asked about the possibility of Soviet intervention in the Middle East, the Foreign Minister said Russia clearly had reservations over direct involvement in the area. He said he detected a common interest in both the United States and the Soviet Union to prevent the globalization of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## **Quaker Parley Urges Palestinian Arabs To Become Factor In Situation**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- A convention of Quakers attended by Americans and a number of Palestinian Arabs on the island of Cyprus has called upon the Arab nations to make peace with Israel. The deliberations were reported by the newspaper Yediot Achronot, which said the convention is sending a report of its debate to President Richard M. Nixon, himself a Quaker. The United States Consulate in Jerusalem was said to have been represented at the meeting along with other diplomats.

According to the newspaper, resolutions urged Palestinian Arabs to become a factor in settling the Middle East conflict. They reportedly called on the Arab states to recognize Israel and on Israel not to demand conditions that the Arabs would regard as degrading or that would put them in the role of a defeated party.

## **U Thant Bids Israel, Lebanon Accept UN Observers On Both Sides Of Frontier**

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant disclosed today that he had requested Israel and Lebanon to agree to the stationing of United Nations observers "in adequate number" on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanese boundary "with the function of observing and maintaining the Security Council cease-fire."

Mr. Thant took the initiative on Saturday when he addressed his proposals to the permanent representatives here of the two countries. He acted after another inconclusive meeting of the Security Council on Friday to consider the Lebanese and Israeli cross-complaints filed after last Monday's air attack on a guerrilla-controlled enclave on the slopes of Mount Hermon in Lebanese territory. In that attack, Israeli planes bombed and strafed guerrilla bases from which attacks had been launched on Israeli territory.

The suggestion that the UN observers be placed on the Israeli-Lebanese border was made last week by Charles W. Yost, the American representative, as the Security Council discussed the complaints each country had filed after Israeli planes bombarded a guerrilla-controlled enclave on the slopes of Mount Hermon in southern Lebanon.

No success had been achieved by Friday's meeting in reaching agreement on a draft resolution to deal with the complaints or on a consensus to which all members of the Security Council could subscribe.

A resolution sponsored by Pakistan, sharply critical of Israel had been circulating among the delegations but as of Monday afternoon was short of the required votes for passage. There was some speculation that the Western Powers, who wanted a more even-handed resolution, might circulate a draft of their own.

## **Security Council Fails To Take Action, Plans Further Meeting**

The Council meeting today opened 90 minutes late due to consultations on procedure. It heard a proposal from the Paraguayan representative that it defer action until it heard the Israeli and Lebanese replies to Mr. Thant's proposal.

Jaime de Pinies, this month's Council President, speaking as head of the Spanish delegation, roundly denounced Israel for premeditated aggression and insisted that the Council must adopt a resolution condemning the Israeli attack on Lebanon and warning of other measures under the UN Charter if acts of aggression are repeated.

Members of the Council met privately with the President after the session adjourned to decide on the next step. It was considered possible that the Security Council would recess indefinitely, without taking action, pending the replies from Jerusalem and Beirut to Mr. Thant's proposal for the stationing of observers.

The Israeli delegation here would not comment on the nature of the Israeli response. A spokesman said Mr. Thant's communication had been transmitted to Jerusalem for consideration. Israel, in the past, has not been receptive to the presence of UN observers on Israel territory.

In his letter to the two governments, the Secretary-General pointed out that "since June, 1967, there has been no effective United Nations observation operation in the Israel-Lebanon sector." He pointed out that there was "only token United Nations observer representation on the Lebanese side and none at all on the Israeli side." As a result, he noted, it had not been possible for him to provide the Security Council with reports on developments in the area.

His proposal that both sides now accept UN observers was necessitated, Mr. Thant pointed out, "in view of the increasing seriousness of the situation in the Israel-Lebanon sector."

Mr. Thant's letter stressed that the UN representatives would be there "with the function of observing and maintaining the Security Council cease-fire" and compared this with the stationing of UN observers in the Suez Canal zone sector in July 1967. He asked "urgent consideration" of his proposal. He said the Security Council had been advised of his action and would be informed of the replies.

### **More Soviet Naval Units Moving Through Straits Into Mediterranean**

LONDON, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The heaviest Soviet naval traffic since the Six-Day War in 1967 passed through the Turkish straits today into the Mediterranean, presumably headed for Port Said. Observers noted that the ships carried unusually large amounts of anti-aircraft equipment.

The Soviet ships included the 25,000 ton helicopter carrier, Moskva, which has two systems of anti-aircraft missile launchers and a complement of 30 helicopters. Observers reported a cruiser, a destroyer and a fleet tanker. Turkish port authorities said today that they expected more Soviet units.

### **Israeli Officer Is Killed On Suez Front As Minor Exchanges Continue**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- An Israeli officer was killed in the Suez Canal zone today by explosives presumably planted by an Egyptian commando unit that is believed to have crossed the canal last night. The deceased was identified as Second Lt. Herman Mordechai. The explosion took place on a water pipeline that runs parallel to the canal between Ismailia and the Firdan bridge.

An Israeli soldier was killed yesterday when his vehicle struck a mine on Mt. Hermon in the Golan Heights. The mine was attributed to saboteurs from Lebanon. It brought to seven the number of sabotage incidents from Lebanese territory during the past week.

A military spokesman said that incidents along the Jordan River declined slightly last week to 49 compared to 53 the week before. But Jordanian regulars participated in only two of the latest incidents. So far Jordan has not made an attempt to repair the Ghor irrigation canal damaged by an Israeli air raid Aug. 10. The fields watered by the canal are reported to be yellowing for lack of irrigation.

Small arms and mortar exchanges took place along the Suez Canal last night and early today. But there has been no Egyptian artillery fire since yesterday's Israeli air raid which blasted gun positions at Dever Swair, near the Bitter Lakes. Israeli observers claimed the Egyptians suffered at least 30 casualties and some of their batteries were destroyed. A mortar shell exploded near Port Tewfik today but there were no Israeli casualties.

An Israeli unit came under mortar attack in the Golan Heights this morning but suffered no casualties. The fire was returned. Israeli workers demolished three houses in Nablus belonging to suspected saboteurs. The buildings were dismantled piece-by-piece so as not to damage adjacent houses.

### **Hussein To Visit Cairo To Confer With Nasser On Next Steps**

LONDON, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- King Hussein will visit Cairo soon to discuss with President Nasser the possibility of calling an Arab summit conference on the Israel situation, the semi-official Cairo daily, Al Ahram, reported Monday. The visit would follow that of President Nouredin Al Atassi of Syria, who left Cairo Sunday.

A conference of the countries actively involved in war with Israel was believed more likely to emerge from the consultations than a full summit conference. This would bring together Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. Both Iraq and Syria now have forces stationed in Jordan.

According to the Times of London, the Egyptian and Syrian leaders wound up their three days of talks in Cairo in apparent agreement on the use of force rather than diplomacy to eject Israel from occupied Arab territories.

### **Betar Youth Demonstrate In Temple Mount Defying Government Ban**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Members of a militant French Zionist youth group staged a parade and prayer service on the Temple Mount in Old Jerusalem today in defiance of a government ban on sectarian activities on that site. The youths, wearing the uniform of Betar, the youth organization associated with the Zionist-Revisionists, held their ceremonial in front of the El Aksa mosque, a Moslem sacred shrine.

They chanted the "minha" prayer and sang a hymn, but dispersed quietly when police approached. The leader of the group declared, "This is the most holy place of the Jews which is held by aliens. Let the Temple be rebuilt."

## Rafi Faction Votes Heavily Against Split From Israel Labor Party

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The Rafi faction voted 39-6 against splitting away from the Labor Party in secret balloting here last night. The vote came after Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, leader of Rafi, urged party unity in view of Israel's "grave political and military situation."

Gen. Dayan said the agreement hammered out with Labor Party leaders over the weekend on policies in the occupied territories was acceptable to Rafi and that the faction achieved organizational gains. Gen. Dayan will retain the portfolio of Defense Minister in the new government to be formed after the October elections and an additional cabinet post will be awarded to Rafi. It probably will be filled by Shimon Peres, a former Deputy Defense Minister, who was Rafi secretary-general before its merger with Mapai and Achdut Avodah to form the Labor Party early this year.

Not all Rafi members were satisfied. In addition to the six votes cast for a split there were six abstentions. Some members claimed the agreement with the party leaders was a "trap" to silence Rafi and a few said they would resign from the party and would not vote for it in the elections. But a majority was apparently convinced by Gen. Dayan's assertion that the Labor Party offered the "best prospects" for solving the numerous problems facing Israel. Gen. Dayan had praise for Premier Golda Meir's handling of her job, though he added wryly, "there can be a better Premier just as there can be a better Defense Minister." He made it clear that he would not head a new list should Rafi break away from the Labor Party and present its own candidates for election. In any event, he said, as matters now stand with the political issues settled and Rafi representation arranged, there can be no question of splitting.

## Peres Says National Interests Require Party Unity

Mr. Peres said in his address that he thought Rafi could win more Knesset seats with a separate list than the nine allotted it by agreement with the Labor Party leaders. Nevertheless, he said, the present situation is not the time for a split and national interests are best served by party unity.

The Labor Party's secretary-general, Pinhas Sapir, said today that he was pleased with the outcome of the Rafi vote. "There are no victors and no losers, only the party emerged victorious," he said.

Unity was achieved on the basis of a compromise between the views of Gen. Dayan, a strong advocate of rapid Israeli settlement in the occupied territories, and those of Foreign Minister Abba Eban who argued for a slower approach that would not create the impression that Israel was annexing the territories. The party's platform plank on which the agreement was based, called on the government to decide on the "permanent" establishment of settlements in the occupied areas according to "security requirements." On that basis, numerous new settlements have risen already in the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley and parts of Sinai.

The concept of "permanent" settlements was a concession to Gen. Dayan and the qualification on "security requirements" was a gesture toward Mr. Eban. But use of the term "permanent" in the platform may bring trouble with Mapam, the left-wing faction that has entered into political alignment with the Labor Party. Mapam is opposed to the "hard line" of Gen. Dayan and does not entirely agree with Mr. Eban. The faction may abstain from voting on the controversial platform plank. But if it votes against it, the entire agreement could be in jeopardy.

## Reject Rabbis' Demand To Cancel Performance of Casals' Oratorio In Israel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The directors of the Israel Music Festival have rejected a demand by the Chief Rabbinate that they delete from the program an oratorio by the world famous cellist, Pablo Casals on the grounds that it is Christian in theme and might encourage "missionaries." Mr. Casals arrived here yesterday to conduct his work, titled "The Crib."

Earlier Chief Rabbis Nissim and Untermann urged Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol to use his influence to have the oratorio banned. They said it was based on the birth of Christ and would give a "green light" to proselytizing by Christian missionaries in Israel. The rabbis were given to understand that the oratorio is a musical composition, not a religious observance. Local newspapers chided the Orthodox clerics for their "lack of elementary familiarity with musical tradition." They pointed out "few men are further removed from religious bigotry" than the 94-year-old Casals, a self-exiled Spaniard who left his home years ago in protest against the Franco regime. Mr. Casals makes his home in Puerto Rico.

## Supreme Court Supports Government In Banning Book On Eichmann's Capture

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice today rejected an action brought against the government by the former head of Israel's secret service, the "Shin Beth", for barring him from publishing a book on the capture of Adolf Eichmann. The book was written by Isser Harel who was in charge of the operation that led to the apprehension of the Gestapo deportation chief a decade ago. The court decided that the book should not be published but did not disclose the details of its ruling.

## New Swastika-Daubing Campaign Reported In West German Cities

BONN, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Brown and white swastikas were painted on the walls of the Braunschweig municipality and other buildings last night. Such daubings have grown to serious proportions in West German cities in recent months but have not been reported by the press to avoid reaction from abroad.

The West German authorities are particularly sensitive on the subject of swastika-daubing and the West German police have been pursuing quiet but intensive investigations. So far, there is no indication that they have uncovered an organized plan.

## Rabbi Trainin Says American Jews Should Continue Anti-Bias Pressures On USSR

NEW YORK, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- An American rabbi, reporting on a 14-day visit to four major Soviet cities, said today his findings indicated there was no question but that pressures from American Jews on the Soviet Government to ease its restrictions on Jewish practices were effective and should be continued unceasingly.

Rabbi Isaac M. Trainin, director of the commission on synagogue relations of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, who made the visit in a private capacity, noted, in citing the usefulness of American Jewish pressures, that the Soviet Government had permitted the publication of an edition of the Jewish prayerbook and that matzoh baking facilities had been made available. He described the matzoh bakery he saw in Kiev as tiny. He cited a conversation with a Jew he met in one of the synagogues who told the rabbi he had four children and that none had any interest in Jewish religious practices. He also told Rabbi Trainin that he went regularly to services and that ten years ago he would not have done so, but that now he was not afraid.

Rabbi Trainin said he spent much of his time visiting synagogues in Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad and Riga. He confirmed earlier reports that young Russian Jews largely ignored such services. He estimated the average age of worshippers in Moscow's Central Synagogue as about 75. He said the average was a little lower among worshippers he saw in Leningrad and Kiev synagogues. Young Russian Jews he met, he reported, were uniformly and often strongly anti-Israel and indicated they could not care less about Jewishness. He disclosed that when he asked about the absence of young Jews from synagogues he was told there were two reasons: many do not care and those who do care fear economic reprisals, since the Government controls virtually all employment.

### Says Jews and Non-Jews Both Fear Being Seen Talking To Foreigners

Discussing widely-reported assertions by other visitors that Russian Jews lived in an atmosphere of fear, particularly in regard to talking to foreign Jewish visitors, Rabbi Trainin said it was his impression that the average Russian Jew in the synagogue and on the street shared with Russians general fears of being seen talking to foreign visitors.

He said he had completed his visit with a feeling that there was discrimination against Jews in government and industry but that he felt there was no official Government anti-Semitism as distinct from the official policy of opposition to all religions. He agreed, however, that while other Soviet minorities had opportunities for cultural expression if religious expression was denied to them or made difficult, Jews were denied those other cultural avenues as well.

Rabbi Trainin said his question at the Leningrad synagogue as to whether there was ever a Bar Mitzvah there was greeted with sorrow. One worshipper told him there were neither Bar Mitzvahs nor circumcisions. He said "we do get kosher meat, but for how long?" as he pointed to the only ritual slaughterer, who is 80 years old. Cultural genocide of the Jews is well underway, Rabbi Trainin concluded. A worshipper in one of the synagogues, who was 81 years old, told him: "You see this synagogue? The Government won't close it. In ten years, it will close by itself."

## Jews And Southern Baptists Hold Their First Interfaith Dialogue

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The first interfaith dialogue between Jewish and Baptist scholars opened here today at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The conference, which will continue through Wednesday, has brought together 50 prominent Baptist and Jewish theologians and Biblical scholars from all parts of the United States. It is sponsored jointly by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee. The Southern Baptist Convention, with more than 11 million members, is the largest non-Catholic denomination in America.

The conference opened with scene-setting presentations on Jewish history in the southern United States, and images of the Jew in Southern Baptist Literature. The papers were delivered respectively by Dr. Leonard Dinnerstein, professor of history at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Dr. A. Jase Jones, of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Kansas City, Mo.

## Massachusetts Rabbis Propose Community Courts To Handle Landlord-Tenant Cases

BOSTON, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Court of Justice of the Associated Synagogues of Massachusetts has recommended establishment of special community courts to handle disputes between landlords and tenants and will sponsor a bill in the Commonwealth Legislature for establishment of such courts.

Pending their establishment, the Rabbinical Court of Justice has offered to work with community agencies in establishing courts to deal with rent cases and landlord-tenant disputes. The court was instrumental a year ago in settlement of a dispute involving 40 buildings in the South End of Boston.

Under the proposed plan, the major religious denominations in Massachusetts would name a panel of 50, three of whom would be assigned to each community to act as an arbitration board. The board's decisions would have legal authority.

## ADL Conducting Urban Affairs Seminar At University Of Connecticut

STORRS, Conn., Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is conducting a two-week workshop at the University of Connecticut and its four affiliated state colleges financed by a \$32,000 Federal grant from the U.S. Office of Education. The goal of the project is to introduce new urban teacher and administrator programs on the five Connecticut campuses by Sept. 1970 to tackle the problems of inner city education.