

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## **Baghdad Regime Announces That 15 'Spies' Would Be Executed At Dawn Today**

LONDON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The Baghdad Radio announced today that 15 men and women - two of them identified as Jews - had been convicted by a revolutionary tribunal of having been spies for Israel and the United States and would be hanged at dawn tomorrow. The identities of the two condemned Jews did not tally with that of the two Jews listed last week when Baghdad announced 12 arrests, including two Jews, Meir and Sassoun Abdou. The two Jews who will be hanged tomorrow morning were identified as Itzhak Eliyahu Dallal and Raphael Yehezkiel Yaacob. There was no indication of the fate of the Abdou brothers.

The scheduled executions are the first that Iraq has announced in several months following an international outcry over the barbaric practice of public hangings before screaming mobs. Nine Jews were hanged in this manner last January in Baghdad and Basra despite international protests and efforts at intervention.

The Baghdad regime first revealed last Tuesday that more men and women were facing death as "agents of Israel and the CIA" and Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban of Israel immediately asked United Nations Secretary-General U Thant to intervene to protect the arrested men and women and to secure the departure from Iraq of the Jews still living there in peril.

### Jewish Organizations Seek International Intervention For Jews In Iraq

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Efforts to bring aid to the threatened Jewish community in Iraq and to protect two Iraqi Jews accused of spying for Israel along with nine Christians and a Moslem from hanging, were launched this weekend by national American Jewish organizations.

In a message to President Nixon, UN Secretary-General U Thant, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Ambassador Charles W. Yost, the American Jewish Congress called for "vigorous denunciation" of the trumped-up charges and immediate action. "At the very least," the agency said, "the United Nations Human Rights Commission, presumably mandated to investigate the treatment of minorities in the Middle East and elsewhere, must be called upon to direct its attention to this newest expression of barbarism in Iraq. Under these emergent conditions, there can be no justification for the UN to continue studiously to turn away from inquiry into the treatment of Jews in Arab countries."

The B'nai B'rith asked Secretary of State Rogers for "prompt action" through the United Nations, to prevent the threatened executions. Dr. William A. Wexler, its international president, said Iraq's rapacity tested "the conscience and capacity for moral outrage of free peoples everywhere."

In Los Angeles, the annual convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States called for mobilization of world public opinion in behalf of Iraqi Jews.

## **Jerusalem Quieting Down After Australian's Arrest In El Aksa Fire But Tension Continues**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Jerusalem was quiet but tense today in the aftermath of Thursday's fire that severely damaged the 1,400 year-old El Aksa mosque, the third holiest shrine of devout Moslems. Friday's announcement that a 27-year-old Australian was being held on suspicion of arson mollified the Moslem Religious Council to a degree. But passions still ran high among Arabs in East Jerusalem and the occupied territories. There was no lessening of incitement by Arab guerrilla spokesmen and broadcasts from the various Arab capitals which blamed Israel for the blaze and exhorted 500 million Moslems around the world to launch a holy war against Israel.

The Moslem Council expressed satisfaction over the arrest of Michael Denis Rohen, a member of the Church of God, a fundamentalist Protestant sect, a little more than 24 hours after the fire. Israeli police stressed that the tall, blond Australian was apprehended as a result of a description given them by a Moslem gate-keeper at the mosque. But the Moslem religious leaders did not call off the Arab general strike yesterday. It brought activities to a virtual halt in the Arab quarters of Jerusalem, in the Gaza Strip and the larger towns of the West Bank. But the day passed without incident except for anti-Israel demonstrations in Nablus which had to be quelled by Israeli troops.

Rohen was remanded by a Jerusalem Magistrate for 15 days. He will be brought to trial before a district court panel of judges. The trial will be held in one of the largest halls available in order to admit as many members of the public as possible, it was learned today. Israeli police said Friday that they had enough evidence against the suspect to assure a conviction. One report said today that Rohen had confessed though his motives remain unknown.

The arrest of a suspect came none too soon. An ugly mood had been developing among East Jerusalem Arabs since the fire. On Friday, the Moslem sabbath, some 2,000 Arabs shouting anti-Israel slogans descended on the mosque area several hours before Rohen's arrest was announced. Israeli troops dispersed them with shots fired into the air. But some of the soldiers were pelted with stones. Re-enforced patrols guarded the Old City as a curfew was lifted on the Temple Mount area to permit Moslems to go to prayer. But the tension did not interfere with the flow of tourists into the Old City.

About 10,000 poured through the various gates on Friday and Saturday to visit religious shrines and other sights.

### Investigation Committee Will Begin Open Hearings In Jerusalem Today

Judge Abraham Granott, president of Israel's Supreme Court, announced the composition of a special committee to investigate the causes of the mosque fire. Its chairman is Dr. Joel Silberg, a justice of the Supreme Court, and it includes two Arabs, Judge Mouhamed Nimri el Hiwari, of the Nazareth District Court and Mayor Moussa Kthilli, of Nazareth. It was still unclear however whether Moslem religious authorities in Jerusalem would cooperate with the committee.

The committee will hold its first meeting tomorrow morning. Its sessions will be open to the public. Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that anyone interested could attend the hearing and that the invitation applied to persons from any country. He said that Israel would also invite experts and engineers from any country who could expedite repairs to the Moslem shrine. He said experts from the Arab countries would be admitted if the Moslem Religious Council in Jerusalem requested it.

### Government Denounces Arab Campaign To Blame Israel

The Israeli Government issued an official statement expressing its revulsion at the efforts now being made in official quarters in certain Arab states to falsely attribute to Israel culpability for causing the fire. This vicious libel, which is designed to exploit the fire for purposes of political and religious incitement, merits the unqualified condemnation of all enlightened mankind, the statement said.

Mr. Eban denounced the Arab states which have accused Israeli authorities of burning the mosque and were demanding a holy war against Israel. He called the Arab charges "seditious libel" and said that Arab leaders were trying to arouse religious hatred for political ends. Mr. Eban reported at today's cabinet meeting on the political reaction to the mosque fire. He noted that whereas the Arab states have used the incident to arouse religious hatred against Israel, two non-Arab Moslem states, Turkey and Iran, refused to join in the accusations although they expressed sorrow over the fire.

Israeli authorities will place extra guards around holy places in Jerusalem as a result of the El Aksa mosque fire, it was learned today. Special attention will be given to Christian holy places where retaliation from Arab extremists is feared. Plans have been proposed to install fire alarm systems in mosques and churches.

### Arab Fury Is Fanned Against Israel As Nasser, Faisal Call For 'Holy War'

LONDON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Fury against Israel mounted in Arab and other Moslem countries over the week-end as a result of Thursday's fire in the El Aksa Mosque in Old Jerusalem. Government and religious leaders were unanimous in blaming Israel and called Friday's arrest of a 27-year-old Australian sheep herder on suspicion of setting the fire an attempt by Israeli authorities to shift the blame from themselves.

In Cairo, the representatives of 24 Moslem nations appealed to United Nations Secretary-General U Thant for an impartial UN investigation of the fire. The Arab League called for an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss what it called "Israel's contempt for religious sacraments."

The Jordanian Government announced in Amman that it would ask for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider the question of Jerusalem and Israel's alleged failure to comply with Security Council resolutions calling on Israel not to proceed with measures to incorporate East Jerusalem into Israeli territory. Amman said that Ambassador Muhammad el-Farra, head of the Jordanian mission to the United Nations would also call for sanctions against Israel.

(At the United Nations, the Pakistani mission issued a statement "on behalf of the missions of Islamic countries from Africa and Asia" announcing that they had unanimously agreed at an urgent meeting Friday "that responsibility for this outrage lay squarely on the shoulders of Israeli occupation authorities."

(Secretary-General U Thant said that he was "greatly shocked and saddened by the fire" and hoped that "the full and verified facts of this most distressing occurrence will be promptly ascertained.")

### Arab Rivals Issue Calls For 'Holy War' To Free Jerusalem

A day of mourning was observed in Moslem countries Saturday though calls for a general protest strike were largely unheeded. Shops remained open in the Arab capitals. But Amman, Jordan, was the scene of a major demonstration yesterday when an estimated 50,000 Arabs marched on the United States Embassy shouting for action to "free the sacred places desecrated by Israel."

Calls for a holy war against Israel were issued by President Gamal Abdel Nasser, of Egypt, and King Faisal, of Saudi Arabia, two heads of state who have been at odds over the struggle against Israel. President Nasser pledged that Egypt would "fight to free Jerusalem." In a message to his Defense Minister, Mohamed Fawzi and the armed forces, he said, "The enemy of God and our enemy has closed the doors to peace. There is no use resorting to any quarter in the quest of justice." King Faisal said the UN had proved incapable of forcing Israel to abide by its resolution so it depended on the Islamic world "to liberate the holy places in Jerusalem."

## Canal Zone, Jordan River Weekend Incidents Cost Lives Of Four Israeli Soldiers

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- An officer and three Israeli soldiers were killed and eight soldiers and a civilian were wounded in incidents in the Suez Canal zone and the Jordan Valley over the week-end. Four Arab children were killed while playing with a live shell in Raffah in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Two children and 13 other persons were injured when a grenade was thrown into a market place in Raffah.

The latest Israeli casualty was identified as Pvt. Urri Bublin, 18, of B'nei Brak, who was killed by Egyptian gun fire near the southern section of the Suez Canal Saturday night. Lt. Ben Ami Schwartzbourn, 31, was killed Friday night when he stepped on a mine near the Damiya bridge in the Jordan Valley. Sgt. Yonatan Levy, 20, was killed when he stepped on a mine south of Ras Sudar on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Suez Friday. Pvt. Eliezer Kahan, 19, died of wounds he received in another mine explosion.

Four Israeli soldiers were injured this morning, one of them seriously, when their vehicle struck a mine north of Kantara. Two Israeli soldiers and a civilian were injured by Egyptian gun fire near Port Tewfik Friday. Three soldiers were injured in mining incidents along the Gulf of Suez.

Ten Katyusha rockets exploded at Shear Yashuv and Dafnah settlements in Upper Galilee last night. The rockets, fired from Lebanese territory, caused no casualties or damage. Several Katyusha rockets fired from Jordanian territory landed near Daganya and Beth Zera settlements yesterday smashing windows but causing no casualties. An Arab saboteur was killed Friday night in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near Beth Joseph in the Beisan Valley. Another saboteur escaped across the Jordan River.

## 1,850,000 Israelis Register To Vote in October National Elections

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Election officials reported today that 1,850,000 Israelis have registered to vote in the Oct. 29 national elections. Israel has a population of over 2.5 million.

The registration books, which have closed, contain for the first time, the names of Israelis residing in the occupied Arab territories, including Hebron, the Etzion region and the Golan Heights. For the first time, Israeli seamen and passengers aboard Israeli ships at sea will be permitted to vote by absentee ballots. The same applies to soldiers in Army camps and civilians working in defense plants away from their homes.

Israeli politicians meanwhile showed concern that their election campaign might peak too soon. Leaders of the Labor Party-Mapam alignment have agreed to a three-week hiatus in campaigning to begin after the Histadrut elections Sept. 2 and last until Sept. 26. This will allow approximately one month for electioneering. Under Israeli law, campaigns must end a day prior to elections, in this case on Oct. 28.

The political parties have been given an extra day to file their lists of candidates for the Knesset elections. The deadline is Sept. 24, two days after Yom Kippur. Originally, the law provided that lists must be filed one day after the Day of Atonement.

## Warns Argentine Jews Leftist-Arab-Rightist Cooperation Poses New Anti-Semitic Danger

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The general secretary of DAIA, the representative organization of Argentine Jewry, warned 300 delegates attending the organization's national convention at Mar del Plata that a new form of anti-Semitism, originating with the Left, functioning in cooperation with the Arabs and the extreme Right, posed a threat to Argentine Jewry.

Dr. Jose Kestelman also noted the great increase in Arab propaganda here and other developments which, he said, sharpened the situation of Argentine Jewry. He noted with approval the increasing activity of the organized Jewish youth in Argentina in such causes as the defense of the Jews of the Soviet Union.

Gregorio Faigon, president of DAIA, who reviewed world developments concerning the Jews and the State of Israel, noted a lessening of activities by Argentine anti-Semitic organizations but warned that they continued to be fully organized and ready for action at any moment.

Dr. David Elnecave told the convention that Arab anti-Israel propaganda was on the increase and complained that Israeli counter-measures were not adequate.

Gregorio Fainguersch, president of the Buenos Aires Kehilla, called for the unification of various bodies and committees conducting activities in behalf of Israel in order to eliminate duplication. He described Argentine Jewry as essentially a Zionist community. The convention heard a strong plea for support of youth emigration to Israel from Menachem Boaz, a youth leader, who accused the older generation of obstructing the youth pioneering movement.

## Jewish Community Will Not Cooperate With Oganía Regime In Its Political 'Reform'

Dr. Faigon, in a statement to the convention, announced that the Jewish community as such would not take part in the new projects being evolved by the Oganía government to set up a new representative format to replace the outlawed political parties and the system of parliamentary debate.

In another statement dealing with Latin American developments, Dr. Marc Turkow, general secretary of the Latin American Jewish Congress, a branch of the World Jewish Congress, voiced concern over the orientation of the new regime in Peru, describing it as a nationalist movement which would be inclined to work with the socialist countries. Other speakers at the convention included Marc Uveeler of New York, executive director of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and Dr. Moises Goldman, chairman of the Latin American Jewish Congress, who paid tribute to the first Jewish settlers in Argentina who arrived 80 years ago.

## Neo-Nazi Group Fails To Make German Newspapers Print Its Election Advertising

BONN, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The neo-Nazi National Democratic Party suffered a setback in its drive to win seats in the West German Parliament when it failed in legal efforts to compel German newspapers to publish its political advertising. Many German newspapers have refused to take the NPD election advertising, including announcements of NPD political rallies.

In an effort to compel the press to give it access to the electorate, the NPD sued a newspaper in Doppingen but the court there refused to order the newspaper to publish the advertisements offered by NPD. The Interior Ministry said yesterday that under this decision, a local independent paper could not be made to accept advertising from political parties if the paper was opposed to them politically.

## Rumanian Jewry Joins In Celebration of Republic's 25th Anniversary

LONDON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, sent a message of congratulations to Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Rumanian Peoples Republic. The anniversary was celebrated yesterday. Dr. Goldmann said "World Jewry derives great satisfaction from the fact that Rumanian Jewry, under your guidance, continues to exist as a distinctive community and makes efforts to ensure the continuity of the Jewish tradition."

Rabbi Rosen, who edits the Journal of Religious Jewry in Rumania, wrote in an editorial on the anniversary that "the Jewish population celebrates with joy." He said the occasion "completes for us a quarter of century of freedom. Rumanian Jews have lived in these parts for hundreds of years and have shared the good as well as the bad times. They have also made their contributions to Rumania's economy, science and culture and now they benefit, together with the rest of the population, from the blessings of Aug. 23."

## Baptist, Jewish Theologians Conclude First Dialogue With Agreed Program For Future

LOUISVILLE, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Baptist and Jewish scholars called this weekend for a joint effort to defend the religious liberty of Baptists and Jews in the Soviet Union and other countries where both groups suffer discrimination. The call was issued at the closing session of a three-day interfaith dialogue here sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Convention and the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee.

The 70 assembled theologians and educators of both faiths also agreed that churches and synagogues had a moral responsibility to become involved in finding solutions to today's social problems. The group decried the present national priorities of the United States which commits \$80 billion annually to nuclear arms and the defense budget. They also criticized the inadequacy of the "war against poverty" in America's affluent society.

The co-chairmen of the meeting, Dr. Joseph R. Estes of the Home Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, and Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum, director of the AJCommittee's inter-religious affairs department, were requested to organize an ad hoc committee to follow up the accomplishments of the dialogue. During the three days of almost continuous meetings and panel sessions at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the participants discussed such topics as the meaning of Israel to Jews and Christians, the concepts held by both faiths of the Messiah, conversion, church-state relations and social responsibility.

## New York Human Rights Body To Investigate Respect For Guidelines On Sabbath Observers

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The New York State Division of Human Rights has ordered a review of compliance by employers of a Division ruling last year that employers must attempt to accommodate the religious needs of Sabbath observers. Commissioner Robert J. Mangum said that the Division's Bureau of Employment Rights would sample a selected group of industries, particularly the larger accounting firms, banks and insurance companies and public utilities.

The guidelines adopted by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1967 require an employer to make "reasonable accommodations" to the religious needs of prospective employees and specify that a blanket policy against the hiring of Sabbath observers is discriminatory.

The New York commission action was taking following intervention by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs. Marvin Schick, retiring head of the commission, disclosed that the commission is currently negotiating with the U.S. Civil Service Commission for the promulgation of rules requiring all federal agencies throughout the country to accommodate the religious needs of Sabbath observers.

## Obituary Notices

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Samuel Pinsker, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, died Friday in a Brooklyn Hospital after suffering a heart attack and stroke. He was 60 year old and was elected to the ADL chairmanship last April after having served the ADL in various capacities for many years.

BOSTON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Rabbi Joseph S. Shubow, a national vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America and a candidate for the presidency this year, died in Beth Israel Hospital after a brief illness. He was 69 and was rabbi of Temple Bnai Moshe here.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Dr. Simon Federbush, former Chief Rabbi of Finland and onetime member of the Polish Sejm (Parliament), died here at the age of 77. He was one of the founders of the Mizrahi religious Zionist movement.