

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## French Ministerial Committee Is Studying Possible Refund Of Money Paid For Mirages

PARIS, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- A French ministerial committee is studying ways to refund as estimated \$60 million that Israel paid for 50 Mirage III supersonic jets that were never delivered because of the embargo imposed by former President Charles de Gaulle after the Six-Day War, it was learned here. Most observers here believe the Government has already decided in principle to keep the planes and return the money to Israel. The committee's task is to devise a way of accomplishing this without creating serious economic, diplomatic and military repercussions, it was reported.

Official French sources said, however, that no decision has yet been made by the Government. Israeli diplomatic circles here said they knew nothing of the matter beyond what they read in the local press. (An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Jerusalem today that Israel would rebuff any refund offer because "we want the 50 Mirages for which we paid. They belong to us." He said France has made no approaches to Israel about a refund.) Israel has repeatedly demanded that France honor the contract for the Mirages which it ordered from the Marcel Dassault works in 1966 and for which it made final payment last year despite the embargo.

According to French Defense Ministry sources, a study of the consequences of a refund was initiated by President de Gaulle's Defense Minister, Pierre Messmer, and is being continued in the Pompidou Administration by Defense Minister Michel Debre. A special committee was set up for the purpose several weeks ago consisting of representatives of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministries, members of the general defense headquarters and representatives of the three armed services, reports here said. The committee is responsible to M. Debre and is believed to have been established originally at his prompting. Mr. Debre, who was Foreign Minister in the de Gaulle regime, has advocated refunding Israel the money it paid for the planes as "the only way to end the Franco-Israeli discord."

The main problem facing the committee is how to dispose of the 50 Mirages. It is generally assumed that they will be turned over to the French Air Force although they were built to Israeli specifications and do not fit into France's strategic needs. Israel had the planes designed for tactical infantry support whereas the French Air Force is built around long-range bombers. Another major problem is what to do if Israel refuses to ask for its money back and insists on the planes.

## Congressman Discloses U.S. Secretly Sold Military Equipment To Egypt After 1967 War

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- A Republican Congressman disclosed today that the United States has secretly sold military equipment to Egypt since the June, 1967 Six-Day War. According to Rep. R. Lawrence Coughlin of Pennsylvania, the sales were authorized by the Johnson Administration after the war and deliveries took place during fiscal 1969. Rep. Coughlin said the items shipped to Egypt were military communications equipment, generators and spare parts valued at \$300,000. They were paid for by the Egyptian Defense Ministry, he said.

He expressed dismay that export licenses for war material were issued by the State Department despite the fact that Egypt broke diplomatic relations with the U.S. and the presence of thousands of Soviet Army advisers and technicians in that country. Rep. Coughlin said such a policy was unfair to Israel which depends upon U.S. arms purchases and was contrary to the national security interests of the U.S.

Meanwhile, the office of Gen. Robert Warren, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military assistance and sales, has confirmed that \$1.4 million worth of military equipment has been sold to Egypt between the fiscal years 1962-1968. A determination was apparently made after the Six-Day War to continue a secret policy of supplying Egypt with a limited quantity of equipment and spare parts that Cairo could not obtain from Russia. U.S. arms are also supplied to Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the three Persian Gulf sheikhdoms of Qatar, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

Rep. Coughlin said he intended to pursue the issue of arms sales that he considers "counter-productive" and a threat to peace. He charged that the Government's worldwide arms sales policy was such that it "brought down friendly governments, bankrupted treasuries and encouraged the outbreak of wars."

## Dayan Says Egyptian Efforts To Dislodge Israel From Canal Zone Failed Last Summer

TEL AVIV, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday that Egyptian efforts to dislodge Israeli forces from the Suez Canal zone failed decisively last summer. He warned, however, that Egypt would renew its efforts on a larger scale next summer if it is unable to force an Israeli withdrawal through diplomatic pressure.

Gen. Dayan spoke at a meeting of Beisan and Jordan Valley settlers in the village of Sammak. He said that President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt was sure last spring that he could destroy Israeli fortifications on the east bank of the Suez Canal by concentrated artillery barrages and commando raids.

## Israeli Jets Hit Egyptian Positions; Fire Exchanged With Jordanians

TEL AVIV, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian positions in the central section of the Suez Canal today. An Israeli soldier was killed in a heavy Egyptian artillery and mortar attack across the canal last night. Israeli and Jordanian forces engaged in a mortar duel in the Beisan area today after Israeli patrols came under bazooka fire near Kfar Ruppin and Beth Joseph. One Israeli was injured when a civilian jeep struck a mine near Nahal Oz in the Gaza Strip.

A military spokesman said all planes returned safely from today's attack in the Canal zone. He reported heavy Egyptian anti-aircraft fire today and in yesterday's two attacks on Egyptian positions on the Canal's west bank. Military sources here indicated that the almost daily Israeli air raids were aimed against radar tracking stations, anti-aircraft missile sites and artillery batteries. They said that since the beginning of September, Israeli air attacks have destroyed at least eight Russian-made ground-to-air missiles of the SA-2 type.

Israeli security forces detained 60 Arabs in the Hebron area following yesterday's grenade attack on an Egged bus in nearby Halhul village. The bus was en route from Jerusalem to Beersheba and was climbing a steep road in low gear when a grenade smashed through a closed window. The passengers took cover under their seats and no injuries were caused by the explosion.

## Israeli Philharmonic Bows To Outraged Public, 'Postpones' Performance Of Strauss Piece

TEL AVIV, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, bowing to heavy pressure and threats of demonstrations outside the Mann Auditorium here, has indefinitely "postponed" a performance of Richard Strauss' tone poem, "Till Eulenspiegel" which was on the program of next Sunday's concert. The orchestra announced today that it would submit the controversy to a high level public committee for decision.

Bitter protests were mounted against the work by organizations of concentration camp survivors and ghetto fighters on the grounds that Strauss was an anti-Semite and a Nazi-sympathizer. They were joined by many concert subscribers and others. Israeli writers, journalists and intellectuals who usually abhor censorship and take a sophisticated view of such matters have privately advised the orchestra management to drop the performance. Their argument was that it would be "offensive" to many Israelis and might reflect unfavorably on the entire country. No works of Richard Strauss or of Richard Wagner, also reputedly an anti-Semite, have ever been performed in Israel though compositions of other German and Austrian composers have. The Philharmonic management, while refusing to admit that it gave in to pressure over a work of art, nevertheless has indicated that it will not perform the works of Strauss until a different atmosphere prevails in the country.

## Israeli Attorney General Denies Opening Of Heights Court Is Step Toward Annexation

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Israel's Attorney General Meir Shamgar said here yesterday that the opening of a magistrate's court in the Golan Heights next Monday does not constitute a move toward annexation of that Israel-occupied former Syrian territory. Speaking on a television program, Mr. Shamgar said the court was necessary because there was no court system in the Golan Heights when Israeli forces captured it during the Six-Day War. He observed that the situation was different on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip where courts, judges and law books were found.

Inauguration of the court at Kuneitra, the largest town in the Golan Heights, will mean the replacement of Syria's legal code by Israeli law. Opening ceremonies will be attended by Israel's Minister of Justice, Yakov Shapiro and other ministers, Members of Parliament and Israeli dignitaries. It will be more than a routine event and observers here expect it to raise new outcries in the Arab world. Mr. Shamgar said the court was a practical measure required to settle land disputes, property claims and other legal matters among the 6,000 Druze who still inhabit the area. Tens of thousands of Syrian and Druze villagers who once lived in the Golan Heights fled as Israeli troops advanced.

Mr. Shamgar's assurances are not considered likely to avert Arab charges of annexation by Israel. Of the Arab territories seized during the war, Israel has annexed only East Jerusalem and a strip outside the city once known as the Jerusalem Corridor. But Israel has already established settlements in the Golan Heights and is planning to have at least two dozen with a population of 12,000 there by 1973. Israeli officials have said that apart from Jerusalem all territorial issues with the Arabs are negotiable. But several Israeli leaders have stated on more than one occasion that the Golan Heights was vital to Israel's security and would not be given up.

## Soviet Navy Moves Most Of Warships Out Of Mediterranean, Possibly For Winter

NAPLES, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- NATO sources today reported that the Soviet Navy has moved the bulk of its warships out of the Mediterranean in recent weeks. The fleet has been reduced from an unprecedented strength of 55 to 60 combat units to what was described as a mere "token" presence of 10-12 combat vessels in the area. Some submarines have been left in the Mediterranean along with 10 to 14 supply ships which would permit the Soviets to rapidly reassemble their Mediterranean fleet if necessary.

Sources here expressed "surprise" at the move. Western defense experts said the Russians were probably pulling their warships back to base for the winter, as they did last year at about this time. But it was thought that the vessels might be assigned to other areas, possibly the Far East.

The rapid Soviet naval build-up in the Mediterranean last spring and summer alarmed NATO. It represented the largest concentration of Russian sea power in the Mediterranean in history.

## Leaders Of Yugoslavia Jewry Play Host To Visitors At Federation's 50th Anniversary

BELGRADE, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The leaders of Yugoslav Jewry played host this week to representatives of overseas Jewish communities and organizations at celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia. About 800 persons attended a public meeting presided over by the Federation's president, Dr. Lavoslav Kadelburg. The Belgrade and Zagreb Jewish choirs performed as did several Yugoslavian Jewish artists.

The Vice President of Yugoslavia, Miso Pavichevich, addressed the local Jewish leaders and their overseas guests, speaking of Jewish losses during the Nazi era and the contributions of Yugoslav Jews to the partisan resistance movements of World War II. Dr. Kadelburg noted in his response that Yugoslavian Jews enjoyed full equality with all other national groups in the country.

The visitors from abroad represented Jewish communities from 18 cities in 13 countries, including Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. A large delegation of the World Jewish Congress was headed by its president Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Ariele Tartakower and Dr. Gerhard M. Reigner. Others included Simon Edenburg, representing the Jewish community of Argentina; Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; Theodore J. Kolish, a vice president of the American Jewish Congress, and Mrs. Kolish; and the organizations of Jews of Yugoslav origin in the United States and Israel.

## Indians Condemn Moslem Summit Conference In Morocco; Hindu Urges Israel Relations

NEW DELHI, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- An official of a Hindu opposition party and the Arab Students Association of India have both condemned last month's Moslem summit conference in Rabat, Morocco at which India's attempt to participate was rebuffed. India this week recalled her senior envoys from Morocco and Jordan in retaliation for her exclusion from the Rabat parley.

Prakash Veer Shastri, general secretary of the Indian Revolutionary Party, declared in Jaipur that the only way India could avenge its "humiliation" was by establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. He told the closing session of a conference of the Rajasthan state unit of his party that if any other nation had suffered the "ignominy" of Rabat its Government would soon have fallen.

The secretary of the Arab Students Association said in a letter published in the Hindustan Times that "the Muslim leaders at Rabat attempted to make our struggle against world Zionism a fight between Muslims and Jews. We are not against Jews. We are not against any race or religion. But we refuse to surrender our land to foreign occupiers." The letter claimed that there were large numbers of Jews opposed to the Zionist policies followed by the rulers of Israel and that there were many Christians among Arab guerrilla fighters against Israel.

## Charge Franz Paul Stangl, Former Treblinka Commandant, With Murder Of 400,000

BONN, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- A former Nazi death camp commander who was captured in Brazil two years ago was charged in a Dusseldorf court yesterday with the murder of at least 400,000 Jews during World War II. The prosecutor accused Franz Paul Stangl, former commandant of the notorious Treblinka camp in Poland, of acting "cruelly, perfidiously and out of base motives" in directing mass murders. No date has been set for the trial. Stangl escaped to Brazil after the war and hid out there for 20 years.

Earlier this week, a 64-year-old former aid to Gestapo deportation chief Adolf Eichmann was sentenced by a Berlin court to 12 years' imprisonment at hard labor for participation in mass murder. The prosecutor had asked a life sentence for the prisoner, Fritz Woehrn.

West Germany's outgoing Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger was expected to testify for the defense in a trial of Nazi war criminals accused of killing mentally ill people during the Hitler era. Egon Geis, the defense lawyer, asked Kiesinger to testify in July, 1968 and has now renewed his request.

An officer of the West German border guard was arrested on charges of participation in the mass murders of 1,000 Jewish women and children in Russia in 1941. The charges were made against Wilhelm Ratke who was a senior officer in the Nazi occupation police at the time.

## Belgian Newspaper Implicates Arab Embassies In Grenade Attack On El Al Office

BRUSSELS, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The newspaper Le Soir has implicated two un-named Arab Embassies here in the Sept. 8 grenade attack on the El Al Brussels office by teen-age Arab commandos. The newspaper ascribed its information to "knowledgeable sources."

It said that two Arab youngsters arrived at an Arab Embassy "involved in the struggle against Israel" by taxi on the day of the attack. A short time later they left, accompanied by two members of the Embassy staff and walked to an "African Arab Embassy."

One of the youngsters was reported to have escaped later and flown to Baghdad with the aid of the Iraqi Embassy in Paris. Le Soir published claims by witnesses that the boy who appeared in Baghdad was not the grenade thrower, implying that the latter may still be in Belgium. The Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on these allegations. The police is conducting its investigation in secret, Le Soir said.

## See Possible U.S. Vote Against Syria's UN Council Candidacy Over Detention Issue

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- A possibility emerged that the United States vote seating Syria as a member of the United Nations Security Council might be influenced by whether the Syrians release two Israeli passengers detained since Aug. 29 when a TWA airliner was hijacked to Damascus.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey told newsmen that the continued detention of the two may be a factor (affecting the American stand at the UN) but I am not committing the U.S. Government on that point.

Mr. McCloskey deplored Syria's action involving the release of the two Arab terrorist hijackers while the Israelis were kept in custody. He said that "we hope the Syrian Government will realize that its acts are incompatible with its international obligations and will soon release the two passengers held." The spokesman asserted that the acts constitute "defiance of world opinion and the opinion of the international aviation community."

Meanwhile, the Organization of Latin American Trade Unions appealed to UN Secretary General U Thant today to intervene with Syria for the release of the two Israelis. The group, meeting here, denounced "air piracy." It represents trade unions in Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Bolivia, Salvador, Ecuador and Honduras.

The wives of the two prisoners, Mrs. Shlomo Samueloff and Mrs. Sallah Muallem, were received today by Roger Davies, a State Department official who deals with Near Eastern affairs. They were scheduled to be received tomorrow by House Democratic leader John McCormack of Massachusetts, Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, Maine Republican, and other members of Congress. They have an appointment with Mr. Thant at the UN on Monday after which they will see Miss Angie Brooks of Liberia, president of the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Davies assured the women that the U.S. Government was doing everything it could to obtain the release of their husbands.

The continued imprisonment of the two following the release of the two Arab hijackers was depicted yesterday as a "very grave" development by the wives. Mrs. Samueloff, speaking for herself and Mrs. Muallem, said their hopes for reunion with their husbands were falsely aroused when word came of the release of the Arab commandos earlier this week. She said she waited in vain by her telephone for news of their release. Mrs. Samueloff told the closing banquet of the convention of Pioneer Women that time was passing and "the world seems to forget our problem."

## Greater New York Bond Organization Launches Drive With Sale Of \$5 Million

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The Greater New York Israel Bond Organization launched its fall campaign here today at a dinner at which more than \$5 million in bonds were sold to help advance Israel's economic development. The event was addressed by Maj. Gen. Itzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States. Irving Mitchell Felt, chairman of the board of the Madison Square Garden Corp., was dinner chairman. Thirteen men and women of the New York metropolitan area were honored for their leadership of the Bond drive.

## Texas Philanthropist Gives Yeshiva University \$75,000 For Chair On Holocaust

NEW YORK, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- A Texas philanthropist has donated \$75,000 to Yeshiva University to further the study of the Holocaust -- the destruction of six million Jews by the Nazis during World War II. Dr. Samuel Belkin, university president, announced that it has established a chair on the Holocaust for the duration of the grant in the names of the donor, Paul Lewis and his wife Leah.

Mr. Lewis, a builder, has donated memorials to synagogues in Texas and other states to preserve the memory of Jews slain by the Nazis.

In another Yeshiva development, the institution said it will open a branch in Jerusalem next spring. The project has been advanced by a \$1 million donation by Joseph S. Gruss. It will contain three dormitories for 300 students.

## Herb Grey Named By Trudeau As First Jew To Become Federal Cabinet Minister

MONTREAL, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- The first Jew to become a Cabinet Minister in the Federal Government, Herb Grey, was appointed yesterday by Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Mr. Grey represented a Windsor area in the House of Commons. Before his appointment as Minister Without Portfolio assigned to bring before Parliament the tax reform program of the Government, he had been chairman of the Commons Finance Committee.

## 6 Peace Demonstrators --4 Israelis, 2 Americans -- Arrested In Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- Six peace demonstrators -- four of them Israelis and two Americans -- were released from jail today following their arrests for unlawful assembly.

The Israelis were Uri Davies, head of the so-called peace faction in the forthcoming municipal elections, and three of his associates who are out on bail. They were arrested Monday after holding a demonstration for peace in downtown Jerusalem's Zion Square without a permit. The group advocates Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the establishment of a separate Arab government in East Jerusalem.