

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXVI - Fifty-Second Year

Tuesday, December 30, 1969

No. 246

## Mrs. Meir Tells Knesset U.S. Proposals Would Threaten Israel's Survival

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said today that the very survival of Israel would be at stake if the recent American proposals on future boundaries and the repatriation of Arab refugees were ever implemented. She said the implementation of either proposal alone would place Israel's security in grave jeopardy.

Mrs. Meir spoke before a packed Knesset today. The legislators expressed unanimity in rejecting the United States recommendation that Israel withdraw to the pre-June, 1967 boundaries and that Palestinian refugees be given the choice of returning to Israel or accepting compensation. Her speech was a reiteration of an earlier Cabinet statement that characterized the proposals made Dec. 10 by Secretary of State William P. Rogers as an infringement of Israel's sovereignty that restricted Israel's bargaining position in negotiations with the Arabs.

Mrs. Meir warned that Israel must "gird its loins" for a prolonged struggle. She said the Four Power Mideast talks in themselves aggravate the situation in the area and that the arrangements proposed by Washington are even less binding on the Arabs than the 1949 armistice agreements. The Premier said Israel continued to believe in America's deep friendship for it. Nevertheless, she said, America's legitimate interests must not be pursued at Israel's expense nor should the present differences between the two countries be minimized.

(Wire services reported that Mrs. Meir had charged that the United States had stopped consulting with Israel - a reference to the fact that the latest American proposals for agreement with Jordan and settlement of the refugee problem - had not been communicated in advance to Israel although Secretary of State Rogers had seen Foreign Minister Abba Eban 30 hours before the proposals were sent out.

(Karl Barch, State Department spokesman, replying to questions on this in Washington today, asserted that he "would expect consulting to continue, not only with Israel, but with others on a Middle East settlement."

(Mr. Barch declined further comment on the most recent Soviet communication with regard to the American proposals. He said, however, that no new American-Soviet meeting had been scheduled on the Middle East.)

(Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin met today with Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph Sisco. It was their first meeting since Gen. Rabin's return from Israel. Details of their discussion were not revealed.)

### Warns Policy Of Appeasing Arabs Has Never Worked

Mrs. Meir said that a policy of appeasing the Arabs never yielded results. She said Britain tried it for many years and lost one position after another. She observed that following the 1956 Sinai campaign, the U.S. teamed up with Soviet Russia to force an Israeli withdrawal from the peninsula. But Egypt has reserved all of its thanks for the Russians and has never shown a sign of gratitude to the U.S., she noted.

Mrs. Meir rejected the contention that Israel was responsible for the turmoil in the Middle East. She said that President Gamal Abdel Nasser, of Egypt and King Faisal, of Saudi Arabia, were enemies even before they clashed at last week's Arab summit conference in Rabat. Their point of contention is South Yemen, where Egyptian and Saudian forces have battled each other, she said.

Mrs. Meir said Americans must realize that the Soviet Union does not want peace in the Middle East but conditions favorable to the renewal of hostilities. She thanked the Jewish communities of the United States, Latin America, South Africa and other countries for rallying behind Israel in the latest crisis.

### What Was Taken By Force Must Be Regained By Force, Nasser Tells Libyans

LONDON, Dec. 29 (JTA)--President Nasser of Egypt told a wildly cheering crowd of Libyans at Benghazi that the Arab world "feels deep inside that what was taken by force cannot be regained except by force."

Tens of thousands jammed a sports stadium to hear Nasser proclaim that "the Arab nation has decided to liberate what was taken by force." He referred to Israeli-occupied territories. Nasser praised the Libyan leftist revolution and complimented Libya for ousting the United States from Wheelus Air Base.

## French Cabinet To Discuss 'Gunboat Affair' At Wednesday Session

PARIS, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources here said today that no official French statement about the five gunboats will be made until after Wednesday's Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet is expected to decide how the Government will respond to the alleged Israel take-over of the gunboats in violation of France's arms embargo against Israel. Some sources said President Georges Pompidou would mention the gunboats during his year end television broadcast tomorrow.

Several French government agencies are reportedly investigating the mysterious departure of the gunboats from Cherbourg on Christmas Day, allegedly flying the Norwegian flag and under Norwegian ownership. A spokesman for the Prime Minister's office indicated today that their inquiry disclosed that Israel had renounced all claims to the gunboats before they were sold. According to the spokesman, this was contained in a letter written by Rear Admiral Mordechai Limon, the Israeli Defense Ministry representative in Europe. The French Defense Ministry has made no comment so far.

French newspaper comment on the affair was mixed today. *Combat* said the Government "cannot afford not to react." The newspaper *Figaro* thought the affair stemmed from "contradictions in French internal policies." *France Soir* advised the Israel Government to maintain the civilian status of the boats in order to keep up good relations with France. *Le Monde* said that any French accomplices in the affair should be punished.

### Eban Summons French Envoy Following French Foreign Ministry Rebuke

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban summoned the French Ambassador, Francis Hure, to his office today amid unconfirmed rumors that France might take diplomatic steps against Israel as a result of the gunboat affair. An Israeli newspaper reported from Paris today that France was considering the recall of its Ambassador to Israel, thus reducing the mutual representation of both countries to the charge d'affaires level.

Israel's Ambassador to France, Walter Eytan, is home on leave. French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann summoned the Israeli charge d'affaires, Eytan Ron, to the Ministry last night. In a ten-minute interview he reportedly told the Israeli diplomat that France considers the gunboat affair "reprehensible." According to reports reaching here, Mr. Ron replied that he knew nothing of the affair.

Today's meeting with the French Ambassador was attended by Dr. Theodore Meron, the Foreign Ministry's legal advisor. A Ministry spokesman said later that the meeting took place as a consequence of the French Foreign Minister's talks with the Israeli Minister in Paris. He gave no further details.

The diplomatic repercussions revolve around five gunboats built in France for the Israel Navy but embargoed by France. The speedy craft, designed to carry the Israel-made "Gabriel" sea-to-sea missile, slipped out of Cherbourg on Christmas Day and were later sighted in the Mediterranean, reportedly heading for Israel. The boats were claimed to have been sold by Israel to a Norwegian firm for civilian purposes but Norway has denied that any of its nationals were in any way involved.

According to reports from Palermo, Sicily yesterday, an Italian fishing boat sighted the gunboats escorted by a tanker and numerous other naval units including two submarines believed to be Israeli. Italian naval sources reported an unusual volume of wireless signals between Israeli naval units in the Tyrrhenian Sea area between Sicily and Sardinia. Some sources reported that the gunboats were refueled in the Mediterranean by an Israeli tanker and were under escort by the Israel Navy.

### Hundreds Of Israelis Scan Seas For First Sight Of Gunboats

HAIFA, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Hundreds of Israelis mounted vantage points on Mt. Carmel today, scanning the sea with binoculars in the hope of sighting the five French-built gunboats that defied the arms embargo and are reportedly headed for Israel. The Israeli Government has maintained strict silence about the affair. The gunboats passed through the Straits of Gibraltar on Saturday. Later dispatches indicated that they had rendezvoused with Israeli warships somewhere between Sicily and Sardinia. The boats were reported to have been refueled from an Israeli tanker in the Mediterranean.

The boats are capable of 40 knots (46 land miles per hour) and if run at full speed should be in Israeli waters sometime today. Haifa is the home base of the Israel Navy.

### Washington Unofficially Sees Gunboat Affair As Great Coup

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (JTA)--High-ranking U.S. officials privately expressed great admiration today for the daring and imagination in the escape of five Israeli gunboats from the French arms embargo. One official described it as "a great intelligence coup, a brilliant operation." The Israeli Navy was lauded by some American authorities who are known to have criticized Israel on various issues in the past.

U.S. naval officers appeared pleased that the five gunboats had escaped. The event was the topic of amusement and admiration at U.S. naval headquarters.

(In London, the *Daily Mail* said that "in one blow, the Israelis have freed their boats, undermined the confidence of the Arabs in President Pompidou and revenged the big arms deal that France is negotiating with Libya.)

## Israeli Jets Hit Egyptian, Jordanian Targets, Repulse Flight Of Syrian MIGs

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Israeli Air Force jets roared over the Egyptian and Jordanian fronts last night and this morning and drove off a flight of Syrian MIGs that attempted to penetrate Israeli air space from the north. The Israeli fighter-bombers were also in constant action yesterday against Katyusha rocket transports on a road east of the Jordan River. All aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Yesterday's prime target was the Jordanian radar station at Ajloun which a military spokesman described as the "eyes" of the Jordanian Army covering all of Israel. The station was destroyed during the June, 1967 Six-Day War but has since been rebuilt and is defended by a heavy concentration of anti-aircraft batteries. The Israeli attacks which began at 10 p.m. local time and continued until 1:30 a.m. penetrated the defenses without loss and scored direct hits. A military spokesman said the radar installations were put out of action and badly damaged if not destroyed.

On the Suez Canal front, Israeli jets continued their almost daily assaults. This morning's targets were military positions and artillery batteries at the southern end of the canal zone.

Katyusha rockets and mortar shells were fired from Jordanian territory last night at Ein Yahav in the area south of the Dead Sea. Mortar shells also hit Grofit in the same region. There were no Israeli casualties. Yesterday mortars were fired from Lebanese territory at a civilian bus near Kfar Ajar on Israel's northern frontier. There were no casualties or damage.

A military spokesman said today that the stepped-up assaults on Jordan were the result of increased military activity from Jordanian territory aimed mainly at Israeli settlements in the Beisan and Jordan valleys. He said 120 acts of aggression were carried out from Jordan during the past week. They included 27 Katyusha rocket attacks and artillery and mortar shellings of settlements and 88 attacks on Israeli military positions and patrols. He also listed three mining incidents. He said 26 attacks occurred in the last 24 hours.

## Arrests Made Of Tourist Bus Ambush Suspects; New Precautions Ordered

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Israeli authorities reported a number of arrests today in connection with the bus ambush near Dura village in the Hebron area Saturday in which an American tourist, Leon Holz, of Brooklyn, was fatally wounded. The suspects were rounded up in a police dragnet that combed the area immediately after the incident.

Authorities announced meanwhile that more stringent security measures will be taken to protect civilian vehicles from attacks. Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol indicated that he would recommend that the Jerusalem-Hebron-Beersheba road where the ambush occurred no longer be used by tourist buses. He also said it would be wise if busses travelling through the occupied territories were armed. Such measures have been avoided in the past because of the negative impression they might have on tourists. Mr. Kol said in a radio interview yesterday that his ministry had approved the route taken by the tourist bus but may have to reconsider it as a result of Saturday's tragedy.

The body of Mr. Holz, 48, was flown back to the United States today at Israel Government expense for burial. Authorities said that the victim's wife and 14 year-old son will be entitled to survivors' pensions and other payments under a new law providing for the victims of terrorist actions which passed its first reading in the Knesset last week. The bill applies to visitors as well as to Israeli citizens. Although it has not become law yet, the National Insurance Institute said it would act in the case of the Holz family as if the measure were already passed.

## Arab Terrorist Parley Decides To Step Up Activities Against Israel

LONDON, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Arab terrorist groups meeting in Beirut have decided to intensify their activities against Israel, including attacks on Israeli civilian aircraft, the London Daily Telegraph reported today from Beirut.

The leaders of six Arab commando groups, including El Fatah and The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, decided at their emergency two-day meeting that, despite the failure of the Arab summit conference at Rabat, they will renew and intensify attacks on targets both inside and outside Israel and Israeli-occupied territories. The stepping up of activity, according to the Daily Telegraph, may mean new friction with Arab governments.

## Ralph Bunche Declares Solution Can Be Found To Arab-Israeli Conflict

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Dr. Ralph Bunche, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his service as mediator at the 1949 Israeli-Arab armistice negotiations at Rhodes said yesterday that he did not think the Middle East conflict was "insoluble."

"It is not insoluble but of course it is highly emotional. You must break it down into its components," Dr. Bunche told a panel of newsmen on the ABC "Issues and Answers" television program. He said "The biggest problem is that of refugees -- it can be solved but it will take a lot of money. So too with the matter of a guarantee of secure boundaries -- the Big Powers are willing to make these guarantees," he said. According to Dr. Bunche, "The problem here is to get the definition and agreement on boundaries. Boundaries are the most difficult, but the questions are not insoluble." He thought that Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, of Sweden, the United Nations special peace envoy for the Middle East, could bring about a Mideast settlement "if any man can do it." He said the world must realize that there was "an active war in the Middle East, not just incidents."

## West Germany Denies It Is Supplying Arms To Israel

BONN, Dec. 29 (JTA)--A spokesman for the West German mission in Cairo has categorically denied an East German allegation that the Federal Republic was supplying Israel with weapons and training Israeli pilots. Walter Jesser told Egyptian authorities that the statement of East German Communist Party propaganda chief Albert Norden was completely false.

Norden who visited Egypt recently told the newspapers Al Ahram and Akbar El-Yom that there was a department of the West German Defense Ministry devoted solely to fulfilling Israeli military demands.

## World Jewish Congress Executive To Meet In Jerusalem

LONDON, Dec. 29 (JTA)-- The executive of the World Jewish Congress will meet in Jerusalem on Jan. 7 for a week of discussions on global Jewish problems. The meeting will open formally in the Knesset auditorium. Working sessions will be held in Tel Aviv.

The gathering will be addressed by Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Other scheduled speakers include Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WJC; Prof. Aryeh Tartakower, May Teddy Kollek, of Jerusalem and Knesset Speaker Reuben Barkat.

The meeting will deal with Israeli relations with diaspora Jewry, the Jewish position in Eastern Europe, the Americas and other areas, Arab propaganda, youth problems and cultural work.

## Young Trotskyist Group Calls For Renewed Fight Against Zionism

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Anti-Zionist slogans were shouted from the floor at the Young Socialist Alliance convention here yesterday where delegates demanded that the organization accelerate its support of the "Arab revolution and Palestinian liberation."

The four-day convention at the University of Minnesota drew about 600 delegates. The Young Socialist Alliance is a Trotskyite-Marxist group affiliated with the Socialist Workers Party. It claims 10,000 members, a majority of them students.

YSA national chairman Larry Seigle said the organization's existing policy in favor of the Arabs would get new emphasis. Its proponents contend that as the Middle East conflict escalates, students would become more receptive to the YSA's "defense of the Arab struggle against Zionism." It was learned that three Arab students helped set the stage for the new emphasis. Heavy applause greeted their slogan, "Death to U.S. Imperialism. Death to Zionism. Long live the Palestinian revolution." One of the Arab students brought greetings from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a guerrilla organization. A YSA officer said later that the organization supported no particular Arab group and that while it opposed Zionism, it supported "Socialist revolution" in Israel.

## Center For Jewish University Students Will Be Established At Sao Paulo

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--A center for Jewish university students will be established in Sao Paulo, Brazil, under the direction of Prof. Jaime Pinsky of the University of Sao Paulo. Prof. Pinsky has been in the United States for the last two months studying the operation of the Hillel student houses at universities. The Sao Paulo student headquarters will be located at the outset in the headquarters of B'nai B'rith, which will sponsor it. B'nai B'rith sponsors the Hillel Foundation movement in the U.S. and other parts of the world.

## Rabbi Sandrow To Conduct Chaplains' Retreat At Berchtesgaden

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow of Temple Beth El, Cedarhurst, will conduct a religious retreat in Berchtesgaden, Germany, for Jewish Army and Air Force chaplains in the European theatre. Rabbi Sandrow, who is chairman of the commission on Jewish chaplaincy of the National Jewish Welfare Board, was designated for the mission by the Department of Defense. He will leave for Germany on Jan. 8.

Rabbi Sandrow, an army chaplain during World War II, is past president of the Rabbinical Assembly and former president of the New York Board of Rabbis, of whose board of governors he is now chairman. He is a former vice-president of the Association of Jewish Chaplains of the Armed Forces of the United States.

## Simmons, Hebrew College Establish Joint Studies Program

BOSTON, Dec. 29 (JTA)--Simmons College and Hebrew College here announced today establishment of a joint studies program which will permit qualified students in either institution to pursue courses of study in the other. The joint studies program will become operative in the 1970-71 academic year.

Simmons College has no department of Judaic and Hebraic studies, William E. Park, its president, pointed out. Its students now, however, will be able to take these courses at Hebrew College. Students at the latter school, which has no science laboratories or other facilities, will be able to take these courses at Simmons.

Eisig Silberschweig, president of Hebrew College, said the new arrangement could be a solution to the "double-schooling" problem facing many students in Jewish institutions. The two colleges will establish a joint committee to plan programs of undergraduate study for the students of both colleges. Programs of study at the graduate level in the fields of education, social work, library, science and social sciences will be explored in the future. There will be a double degree program.