

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## French Government Under Attack By Gaullist Faction For 'Gunboat Affair'

PARIS, Jan. 5 (JTA)--The French Government is still feeling the repercussions of the "gunboat affair." An organization of leftist Gaullists, the UDT, has accused it of "complicity" with Israel. Defense Minister Michel Debre has demanded more "energetic" action against Israel for taking over the five boats in defiance of the French arms embargo. And an officers' revolt appears to be brewing in the French Army over the dismissal of two high ranking generals in connection with the gunboats' departure, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today.

The UDT is a small group led by two ultra-orthodox Gaullists, Louis Vallon and Rene Capitant. But its demand for a thorough investigation and severe punishment for French officials allegedly involved in the gunboat episode could be troublesome. Its charge that the Government has "betrayed" former President de Gaulle's Middle East policy is embarrassing to the Pompidou regime which strives to maintain the appearance of continuity with the General's programs and needs the support of all Gaullist elements to remain in power. The UDT has claimed to see a link between President Pompidou's statement of July 10 hinting that the total arms embargo against Israel might be eased and the gunboats' departure from Cherbourg on Christmas Day.

### Admiral Mordechai Limon Attacked By Debre

M. Debre, who served as Foreign Minister in the de Gaulle cabinet, is trying to forestall any softening of France's attitude toward Israel. He is known to have proposed a break in diplomatic relations with Jerusalem in the wake of the gunboat affair. In an interview broadcast by Radio Luxembourg last night, he made a personal attack on Admiral Mordechai Limon, the head of Israel's arms purchasing mission in Europe. He accused him of having written him "false letters" and said, "I find it hard to believe that he knows the meaning of a senior officer's honor." The reference was to Admiral Limon's letters clearing the way for the sale of the gunboats to a private firm for commercial purposes.

(In Jerusalem today, Foreign Minister Abba Eban asked French Ambassador Francis Hure to clarify the truth of press reports that M. Debre had accused Admiral Limon of falsehood. He also handed M. Hure his government's note rejecting France's views on the gunboat affair.)

M. Debre claimed in the broadcast interview that "President Pompidou had been considering reverting eventually to a selective embargo but now, after the Cherbourg affair, this is obviously out of the question."

### Dissatisfaction Grows Among French Army Officers

Meanwhile widespread dissatisfaction with the way M. Debre administers the Defense Ministry has been reported among high ranking French Army officers. They have been especially incensed by the suspension, pending a hearing, of Gen. Louis Bonte who headed the interministerial commission on arms exports which approved the gunboat sale. The officers have reportedly informed the Chief of Staff that they "are tired of being made scapegoats for the mistakes of politicians." They are also bitter over the reduction of France's defense budget. Their feelings are said to have been communicated to the Elysee Palace.

A sharp attack on France's arms embargo against Israel was published today in the leftist weekly *Nouvel Observateur* which does not normally take a pro-Israel stand. An editorial signed by the editor, Jean Daniel, asserted that the embargo is opposed by public opinion in France, civilian and military, because it is "contrary to the country's sense of honor." M. Daniel wrote that President Pompidou has not given in to Defense Minister Debre's demand for harsh action against Israel in the gunboat affair because he knows it would not be tolerated by the French public. Instead, the President decided on a relatively moderate course of action after consulting with Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas and Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann.

## French Government Position Criticized By Israel's Cabinet

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Israel's Cabinet has sharply criticized the French Government for demanding the recall of Admiral Mordechai Limon, head of Israel's military purchasing mission in Europe, in connection with the gunboat affair. A statement issued by the Cabinet after its meeting yesterday, insisted that Israel had violated no international law when it took over five French-built gunboats at Cherbourg on Christmas Day and sailed them to Israel in defiance of France's arms embargo.

The Cabinet statement said the French demand was "unjustified" and placed the onus on the arms embargo that "withholds equipment legally acquired and paid for by Israel in violation of normal international conduct and with damaging effects on peace prospects in the Middle East."

Israel's views on the matter will be made known to France by Foreign Minister Abba Eban through diplomatic channels. The Cabinet statement pointed out that while the arms embargo is in effect

against Israel, massive shipments of French arms are going to Arab states and a major French arms deal is being negotiated with Libya, a country that has said it will lend its forces to an attack on Israel.

### No Law Violated In Gunboat Purchase

Israel insists that the unarmed gunboats were purchased by a private company for use in offshore oil prospecting and that Admiral Limon violated neither the letter nor the spirit of the law when he signed papers making their sale possible.

The civilian role intended for the 40-knot craft was emphasized today by Capt. Milla Brenner, a director of Maritime Fruit Carriers Ltd., the principal owner of the Panamanian firm that bought the boats. Maritime is an Israeli shipping company that specializes in the transport of frozen produce. Capt. Brenner said it was establishing a subsidiary, Oil Ventures International, which holds leases for oil prospecting off the coasts of Canada, South Africa and in the Adriatic Sea. He said the boats would be employed wherever they were needed. Meanwhile, they are on a long-term charter to Nitivei Nepht, an Israeli company that plans to drill for oil off Israel's shores.

The boats were purchased by Starboat & Weill S.A., of Panama of which Mr. Brenner is a director. The French Defense Ministry had identified that firm as Norwegian when the boats left Cherbourg two weeks ago and an international furor arose when Norway denied this. Starboat & Weill has a representative in Oslo in the person of Martin Siem who heads the Aker group, Norway's largest ship-building enterprise. Mr. Siem is a close friend and business associate of Mr. Brenner. His firm built most of the Maritime Fruit Carriers' fleet of fast refrigerated ships.

### Arms And Ammunition Intended For El Fatah Confiscated

BONN, Jan. 5 (JTA)--West German officials have confiscated a large quantity of arms and ammunition about to be shipped to a Lebanese port and apparently intended for El Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization. Customs officials said that pistols, thousands of rounds of ammunition, radio apparatus and binoculars were discovered at the port of Hamburg as a result of a "tip off" they received on New Year's Day.

West Germany maintains a strict embargo on arms shipments to the Middle East. It applies equally to Israel and the Arab states. Last April, customs authorities at Hamburg confiscated 3,000 pistols destined for Lebanon. In June they seized 54,000 rounds of ammunition already aboard a vessel bound for Arab ports. In July they arrested two Turkish members of an international arms smuggling ring and confiscated 30,000 rounds of ammunition.

### Israeli Soldiers And Arab Guerrillas Killed And Wounded In Encounter

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Four Arab guerrillas were killed and six Israeli soldiers were wounded in a bloody encounter at the Mouaze refugee camp in the Gaza Strip today. The wounded soldiers were hospitalized. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan visited the scene of the fighting later and was briefed by the participants.

The clash occurred after Israeli soldiers trailed a gang of saboteurs to the refugee camp. They were searching the camp when they were attacked with Russian-made hand grenades and automatic fire. The battle lasted 15 minutes. The Israelis stormed the building where the guerrillas had taken cover and found four dead inside. They were identified as members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Israeli authorities lifted a partial curfew imposed on Ramallah yesterday following a grenade incident in which seven local Arabs were injured.

Israel Air Force jets continued to blast Egyptian positions in the northern section of the Suez Canal zone today. A military spokesman said the action began at 2 p.m. local time and lasted over an hour. The targets included artillery emplacements and anti-aircraft gun positions. All planes returned safely to their bases.

### Shimon Peres Will Be Responsible For Coordinating Arab Refugee Programs

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Shimon Peres, who is serving as caretaker Minister of Immigrant Absorption in the new coalition cabinet has been officially assigned additional responsibilities in connection with the occupied territories and Arab refugees.

Mr. Peres, a former deputy minister of defense, will coordinate plans and programs concerning refugees in the occupied territories. He will also coordinate the activities of a special committee on the territories. He special sphere will be new undertakings that involve links between Israel's economy and that of the occupied regions. He will be responsible directly to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Peres was named to the Cabinet as a minister-without portfolio and was assigned to head the Absorption Ministry on a temporary basis. That post is earmarked for the Mapam faction which is a member of the government but still refuses to join the coalition because of ideological differences with the rightwing Gahal faction.

The Cabinet today confirmed the appointment of Hanoch Givon as director general of the Ministry of Tourism. Mr. Givon was director of Israel's Broadcasting Services for seven years and more recently headed the information and public relations section of the Israeli delegation to the U.N.

## Arabs From Occupied Territories Working In Israel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Labor Minister Joseph Almogi reported today that 18,000 Arabs from the occupied territories are currently working in Israel. He said 13,000 came from the Samaria and Judea regions (West Bank) and the rest were from the Gaza Strip. All were employed through local labor exchanges set up in the occupied territories.

The Arab work force in Israel rose by 3,000 recently. They are employed mainly in harvesting and port work and in citrus packing houses. More hands will be needed shortly as the citrus picking and export season reaches its peak.

## About 10,000 More Immigrants Than Expected Arrived In Israel In 1969

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--The chairman of the Jewish Agency announced today that slightly more than 40,000 immigrants arrived in Israel during 1969, about 10,000 more than expected when the year began. Louis A. Pincus said at a news conference that 40 percent of the newcomers last year were from Western countries which "is a very big step forward as regards the quality of manpower being made available through immigration."

Mr. Pincus credited the Jewish Agency's immigrant absorption department for what he called an "unprecedented upswing of those who come voluntarily from affluent countries." Replying to questions, he said Deputy Premier Yigal Allon's view that the Government's Absorption Ministry should take over the entire immigration and absorption process was "unrealistic." Mr. Allon made such a proposal when he headed the Absorption Ministry in the old government last year. He is now Minister of Education but sits on the joint Government-Jewish Agency committee on immigration. The Jewish Agency is responsible for the immigration process and the initial absorption of newcomers. The Government assumes responsibility for the later stages. Mr. Pincus contended that the Absorption Minister has so far not been able to fulfill his responsibility with regard to finding jobs and permanent housing for immigrants.

He said that in 1969, 6,500 immigrants came from North America, 5,400 from France and about 2,000 each from Great Britain and Latin America. He said 60,000 immigrants are expected during 1970.

## Black Jews From U.S. Settled In Dimona By Jewish Agency

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA)--A group of 39 black Jews from Chicago who migrated to Israel unexpectedly three weeks ago are apparently getting along very well in their new environment. The Jewish Agency has settled them temporarily at Dimona, a new industrial town in the Negev desert between Beersheba and the Dead Sea. But their eventual status as immigrants remains undecided.

Within three days of their arrival at Dimona all families found work at the nearby textile plants and in local shops and factories, according to the Jewish Agency. Their children are already attending school. All of them have Hebrew names and have some knowledge of the Hebrew language.

The group arrived penniless at Lydda Airport from Liberia. They told Israeli officials they had tried to set up a Jewish communal settlement in the West African country but were made to feel "unwanted" and decided to go to Israel "where we belong."

The Government issued them visitors visas, good for three months, and they are expected to receive permanent residents permits. Their status as immigrants and the privileges that go with it depends upon whether they are recognized as Jews by Israel's chief rabbinate. A number of rabbis have taken an interest in the case and are trying to settle the problem the Jewish Agency said.

The newcomers will probably have to undergo conversion rites. They seem to have no complaints. They say "This is our home and we are going to work and stay here," the Jewish Agency reported.

## Bureau Blames Excess Consumption For Increased Trade Deficit In 1969

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--The central bureau of statistics reported that Israel's trade deficit increased during 1969 because of an excess of demand over output. Internal demands for all purposes, including government outlays and investments rose by 14 percent, offsetting a slight per capita edge of production over consumption. Private consumption per capita increased nine percent in 1969 while per capita output rose by 9.5 percent.

## American Jewish Press Editors Arrive For Tour Of Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Thirty-two editors of English-Jewish newspapers published in the United States arrived here yesterday for a two week visit as guests of the Jewish Agency's information and organization department.

The group is scheduled to tour the country. They will be received by Premier Golda Meir, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Arye L. Pincus, Jewish Agency chairman. They will also meet with Israeli journalists and will visit Israel's English-language daily, the Jerusalem Post, at press time. The editors claim that their newspapers reach nearly a million readers in English-speaking countries.

## UN Team To Draft Report On Alleged Violation Of Human Rights By Israel

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Jan. 5 (JTA)--The team of experts set up by the United Nations Human Rights Commission last March to investigate charges that Israel had violated the human rights of the Arabs in the occupied areas, resumed meetings here today to review its findings and draft a report.

## Israel Submits To UN Plea From Soviet Jewish Family For Aid In Emigrating

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Jan. 5 (JTA)--Ambassador Yosef Tekoah of Israel delivered today to Secretary-General U Thant a letter received by Prime Minister Golda Meir from a Moscow Jewish family appealing for her assistance in securing permission to leave the Soviet Union to be reunited with kin in Israel.

Mr. Tekoah, who returned from Israel Sunday night, asked the Secretary-General to have the Moscow letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly. In his covering letter Mr. Tekoah drew attention to his previous communication of Nov. 10, 1969 dealing with the refusal of the Soviet authorities to grant exit permits to permit the reunification of families in Israel.

The letter transmitted to Mr. Thant today in photostat form was originally addressed to Mrs. Meir on Dec. 9, 1969 and was signed by Yosif and Sofia Kazakov, who gave a Moscow street address. They appealed to Mrs. Meir for help in leaving the Soviet Union to rejoin their son Yakov Kazakov who had settled in Israel. They related that they had received the required affidavit from their son and had filed it with the necessary documents and application for an exit permit. They were notified by the OVIR, a section of the police, that their application had been denied.

The Kazakovs said they had then addressed an appeal to the heads of the Soviet regime and to the legal authorities but had again been informed by OVIR that their application had been rejected.

The Kazakovs told Mrs. Meir that the rejection of the permit was a violation of their human rights as guaranteed by the United Nations Convention to which the Soviet Union was a signatory. They gave her full permission to broadcast or otherwise publicize their letter in the hope that an aroused world opinion would compel the Soviet authorities to permit them to proceed to Israel, which they said, they considered their homeland.

## United Hias Reports 2,000 Polish Jews Are Awaiting Resettlement

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA)--United Hias Service reported today that it spent \$3,054,000 in 1969, close to half a million dollars more than it had anticipated. Carl Glick, agency treasurer, attributed this to the mass migration of Jews from Poland in the wake of that country's anti-Semitic campaign.

Harold Friedman, president of the worldwide Jewish migration agency, stated that more than 5,500 Polish Jews came to Vienna last year, and United Hias Service assumed responsibility for about 3,600 of them. In addition, an estimated 3,000 Jews went directly from Warsaw to Denmark and Sweden, some with United Hias assistance.

Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice president of United Hias Service, reported that the current Polish caseload in Vienna and Rome was close to 2,000, and that most of them were seeking to come to the United States. He estimated that in 1970 his organization would resettle 6,500 men, women and children from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Cuba, including 3,400 from Poland.

## Cleaver Attacks Arthur Goldberg As 'Tool Of Power Structure'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg was assailed today by Eldridge Cleaver, former information minister of the Black Panther Party, as "a well known Zionist" investigating "a group that is a threat to both Uncle Toms and Zionists," according to a report in the Washington Post. Cleaver, in exile in Algiers, attacked Goldberg and black leaders in the United States who set up an unofficial citizens commission of inquiry to investigate recent clashes between police and Panthers.

In a dispatch by Jesse W. Lewis, Jr. from Algiers, Cleaver was quoted as saying that the American power structure is trying to take control of the situation by using a well known Zionist appointing Uncle Tom congressmen like (Democrat Charles) Diggs and (Michigan Democrat John) Conyers and two well known and discredited Uncle Toms like Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young to erect a facade of concerned and official responsibility."

Wilkins is executive director of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People, and Young is executive director of the Urban League.

Cleaver, who fled this country late in 1968 to Cuba, has been living in Algiers for the past six months. During his residence here, the Black Panther leader has identified himself and his party with a number of left wing causes. On December 28, at the First International Congress of Committees of Support for Palestine in Algiers, Cleaver shared the speakers' platform with Arab guerrilla leader Yassar Arafat and attacked "American Zionism."

## Lubavitcher Educational Organization Opens Branch In Kansas City

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA)--Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, the educational arm of the Lubavitcher movement, has opened its eighth regional office in the United States at Kansas City, Mo. The new office, which will serve the states of Missouri and Kansas, is headed by Rabbi Sholem B. Wineberg, 24, a graduate of the Central Lubavitcher Yeshiva. The new office will organize a wide range of Jewish educational activities and programs. Some 50,000 Jewish children are being educated in the schools maintained by the organization in various parts of the world.

The system operates under the direct supervision of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson. The Kansas City bureau will also initiate a series of programs for Jewish women.