

JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Thursday, January 8, 1970

No. 5

Foreign Minister Abba Eban Pledges Five Gunboats Will Not Be Armed

PARIS, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel pledged in a recorded interview broadcast over Radio Luxembourg today that the five gunboats which Israel received last week from a Cherbourg shipbuilding yard in what the French considered a violation of their Middle East arms embargo, would not be armed. He praised Admiral Mordechai Limon, who arranged the departure of the five speedy gunboats as "a national hero" but he said that "we must honor our pledges."

Israel has declared that the five gunboats would be used for civilian purposes, guarding and supplying off-shore oil prospecting rigs. The craft have been chartered to an Israeli firm engaged in offshore oil prospecting.

Mr. Eban told his interviewer that he thought it "quite probable" that the arms France is currently negotiating to sell to Libya would reach Egypt. He described the situation as that of France arming Israel's enemies while keeping the embargo on arms to Israel. He declared that despite the feelings aroused by the "gunboat affair," Israel and France would continue the dialogue between them.

Storm Brewing In British Political Circles Over Sale Of Missiles To Qatar

LONDON, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Something of a storm appeared to be brewing in British political circles today with disclosures that the British Government had apparently authorized the sale of hundreds of ground-to-air missiles and their launchers to the oil-rich Arab sheikdom of Qatar. According to reports today, the Arab sheikdom will spend one million pounds (\$2.4 million) on the British Tiger Cat missile and launchers to defend its airfields against "aggression."

Members of Parliament expressed themselves as not so much concerned over the relatively small size of the transaction but over the inequities of British policy on arms in such a danger area as the Middle East. A number of them were expected to press Prime Minister Harold Wilson for a policy statement.

Russell Kerr, a Labor M.P., said today that "the Middle East is a powderkeg already and our best efforts ought to be directed toward easing tension rather than trying to make money out of it." The Sun, the Australian-owned tabloid, said editorially that when the Tiger Cats are delivered to Qatar, the case for selling arms to Israel will be stronger than ever. It asked: "Why don't we stop the whole bloody trade or stop kidding?"

The British Government has refused for many months to permit Israel to buy the British-built Chieftain tank here. Israel declares it needs the British heavy tank to offset the heavy tanks supplied to Egypt by the Soviet Union.

U.S. Government Inclined To Let France Sell Jets And Arms To Libya

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA)--The U.S. government is not necessarily opposed to the sale by France of jets and other arms to Libya, officials here said yesterday. They also disclosed that the administration may have no real objection to France taking over the Wheelus Air Force Base in Libya if leftist pressures force the United States out.

State Department officials contend Washington would prefer that France arm and assist Libya rather than have the Soviet Union enter the vacuum.

Meanwhile, three additional Soviet destroyer escorts have been reported to have entered the eastern Mediterranean through the Bosphorus as part of the growing Russian buildup in the Middle East. Reports received in Washington said that more than 40 Russian naval units are assembling.

It was also reported Tuesday that the Soviet navy sent its big helicopter-carrier Moskva into the Mediterranean again to rejoin the Red fleet there. The warship is equipped with missiles and is capable of landing powerfully armed airborne task forces.

According to the London Daily Mail Tuesday, Moskva's reappearance may have been a move to bolster Arab morale after recent Israeli military successes. But the paper said it could also suggest that Russia is losing patience with the Arabs as a result of the loss to Israel of such top secret Soviet equipment as the radar unit which Israeli commandos snatched from an Egyptian base last week.

Israeli Warplanes Carry Out Deepest Penetration Into Egyptian Territory

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Israeli warplanes winged deep into Egyptian territory today and bombed Egyptian military installations at Tel-el-Kabir in the Nile Delta and at Imsha, which is about 30 miles from Cairo itself. The penetration, except for the observation flights which the Israeli Air Force carries out regularly over the Egyptian capital, was the deepest since the Six-Day War in 1967. The targets at Tel-el-Kabir and Imsha included military camps.

At the same time, Israeli fighter-bombers carried out their usual preventative bombing of Egyptian artillery positions at both ends of the Suez Canal. The Israeli planes apparently met with no challenge from the Egyptians either during the deep foray into Egypt or in the operations in the canal zone. This afternoon, Israeli planes were sent into action over Jordan to strike at positions in the Jordan Valley held by Arab terrorists. All the Israeli planes returned safely to their bases.

Israeli Security Services Member Dies

Abraham Neufeld, 28, of Haifa, an Israeli security services member wounded yesterday in a clash between an Israeli patrol and a saboteur, died today in the hospital. He was injured when the patrol moved to detain the saboteur, who was killed when he threw a hand grenade at the patrol.

One of the six Israelis injured earlier this week in a clash at a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, in which four guerrillas were killed, also was a Security Services member, it was reported. An Israeli soldier was injured today during a small arms fire exchange with Egypt in the northern section of the Suez Canal.

Israeli authorities have decided to open a road in the Mouze refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, scene of a gun battle yesterday in which four saboteurs were killed and six Israeli soldiers were wounded. The road will permit mobile units to patrol the camp, a hotbed of terrorist activities, hitherto policed only by infantry. The road building will require the transfer of several refugee families to new quarters in the camp.

169 Israelis Killed and 330 Wounded In Seven Month Period On Egyptian Front

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Israel suffered the loss of 169 men killed and 330 wounded in the period from April through November on the Egyptian front, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reported today. It was on April 1, 1969 that President Nasser of Egypt announced that he regarded the 1967 cease-fire agreement as cancelled and no longer valid.

The Egyptians, Gen. Dayan said, do not publish their casualties but it could be assumed that they lost more than 100 dead during the same period.

Gaza Military Tribunal To Try Arabs For Plotting To Murder Minister Dayan

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Three Israeli Arabs and three from the Gaza Strip will be tried next month by a Gaza military tribunal on charges of plotting to murder Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, officials announced today.

The three Gaza Arabs were working in the Nahal Oz settlement where they met an Israeli Arab who introduced them to the other two Israeli Arabs, the indictment said, adding that the six planned to kill Gen. Dayan at a Tel Aviv restaurant where the General likes to lunch.

One of the Israeli Arabs is a bus driver who knows Tel Aviv well. One of the others is a dishwasher in the restaurant, whose assignment was to collect information on Gen. Dayan's luncheon activities for use in the plot. The indictment said that with this information, the Arabs planned to place a bomb in the restaurant, hopefully to detonate when Gen. Dayan was in the restaurant. The indictment did not say how the plot was discovered.

Israeli Ministry Of Education Has Not Discriminated Against Religious Schools

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Yigal Allon, making his first appearance in the Knesset as Minister of Education and Culture, declared yesterday that his Ministry had not discriminated against religious schools. He made the statement in reply to a Parliamentary question submitted by a member of his party.

Gen. Allon said that pupils in the state religious schools accounted for 28-1/2 percent of all primary school pupils and that one-third of all new school buildings erected by the Education Ministry over the years had been for the religious school system. He also stressed that state-sponsored religious education had preserved the religious atmosphere in the schools. He cited the fact that all syllabuses for such schools had been given detailed prior consideration by the Council for State Religious Education.

Insufficient Government Funds Bogs Down East Jerusalem Building Plans

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Insufficient government funding and difficulties in expropriation of building sites were listed last night by Mayor Teddy Kollek as the main reasons why building plans in East Jerusalem were six months behind schedule.

Reporting to the Knesset economic committee, the Mayor blamed lack of funds as the main reason for the delay in the area's social and economic progress. He urged both an increase in budgets of Government departments involved in Jerusalem and a special fund for the municipality to help it handle "the great financial load" which its new situation had imposed. He declared that the Government agencies still took the pre-1967 situation as the starting point for their consideration of Jerusalem's needs, while the present situation required "a completely new evaluation" of the city's significance and needs.

Dr. Nahum Goldman Warns Jewish Communities To Resist Anti-Israel Pressures

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, warned tonight that the Jewish communities in various countries must be morally and psychologically prepared to withstand pressures from governments which might adopt "neutral" or adverse attitudes towards Israel. Dr. Goldmann spoke at the opening session of the world executive of the congress which met here tonight in the Knesset building. He pledged world Jewish solidarity with the state and people of Israel in the continuing Middle East crisis.

Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban, who also spoke at the opening session, reviewed the current situation and stressed the need for world Jewish solidarity with Israel in a time of crisis. Prime Minister Golda Meir will address one of the working sessions.

Delegates from 35 countries are attending the sessions. Among them were Dr. Moses Rosen, the Chief Rabbi of Rumania, and Dr. Yaroslav Kadelburg, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia. Both the Rumanian and Yugoslav communities are affiliated with the Congress. President Zalman Shazar was host today at a reception for the delegates given at the Beit Hanassi.

Quiet Diplomacy Fails To Ameliorate Conditions Of Jews In Russia

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Thirty-two American Jewish editors currently studying conditions in Israel were warned today that "quiet diplomacy" had proven ineffective in securing amelioration of the condition of the Jews in the Soviet Union and more drastic measures were required to save the Russian Jewish community.

Moshe Rivlin, director-general of the Jewish Agency, declared that an outcry must be raised on behalf of Soviet Jewry "that will shake public opinion in the world." He charged that years of efforts, employing diplomatic means, had proven fruitless.

The editors are visiting Israel as the guests of the Jewish Agency's information and organization department. In a discussion today, members of the group expressed criticism of the approach to American Jewry by Israeli and Zionist organs.

Israeli Army Maneuvers Do Not Interfere With Daily Front Line Action

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Maj. Gen. Haim Bar-Lev, Israel's Chief of Staff, said today that the Israeli Army had been able to hold extensive maneuvers without in any way interfering with its daily operational activities on all fronts. Gen. Bar-Lev referred to large-scale exercises recently concluded in the Sinai desert.

The exercises involved heavy armor, infantry and paratroopers operating under harsh desert conditions. They included an armored spearhead penetrating enemy forces simulated by other Israeli units and coordinated operations between tanks and paratroops. The Army's medical services were also tested under combat conditions and anticipated enemy tactics were demonstrated. The exercise wound up with a review parade at an Army base.

Israel Embassy Denies Rome Communist Paper's Charge Israel Uses Poison Gas

ROME, Jan. 7 (JTA)--The Israeli Embassy here, in a sharply-worded statement, has accused the Italian Communist Party organ, *Unita*, of following a policy of "perpetual defamation against the State of Israel" and of revealing "an anti-Semitic character." The embassy said that it did not intend to deny the lies which appeared daily in the Communist organ but was making "a formal denial" of the charge published by the paper that Israel used poison gas in its military operations. The charge, it said, was "a lie fabricated by the Arab propaganda machine and accepted by its spokesman in Italy."

Influential Southern Newspaper Opposes Rogers Middle East Policy

ATLANTA, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Opposition to Secretary of State William Rogers' proposal that a line should be drawn in the Sinai region prior to any meeting between Israeli and Arab leaders was expressed in an editorial of *The Atlanta Constitution*, one of the outstanding newspapers in the south.

The editorial Monday stated it was disturbed "by some aspects of the present U.S. posture on the continuing Israeli-Arab confrontation" and added that "we find it hard to believe" that if Israel returned Egypt's Sinai desert and other Arab territory it occupied after the 1967 Six-Day War "Nasser and his friends tomorrow would immediately adopt a policy of sweet reason."

Continuing, the editorial stated that it seems unlikely Nassar "and friends will swap a reasonable attitude for the return of the Sinai regions, and we don't think they'll adopt a half-way reasonable attitude for the return of half of those regions."

There is, the editorial noted, only one way for the antagonists in the Middle East to resolve their differences. "It's the old fashioned way of settling down and trying to iron out differences by discussion and mutual compromise." The superpowers, America and Russia, may be able to offer suggestions but the "quarrel can only be settled by the parties involved," the editorial concluded.

This editorial rebuking Rogers is the latest in a series of highly critical articles and editorials that have appeared in a number of influential southern newspapers. Rogers' Middle East proposals appear to have stirred up a hornet's nest in newspapers south of the Mason-Dixon line.

U.S. To Probe Executive Level Anti-Semitic Discrimination By Oil Companies

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA)--A federal investigation is planned that will include a probe of executive-level anti-Semitic discrimination by oil companies, it was learned today. The investigation would also look into anti-Jewish discrimination in managerial employment by the automotive and electronic industries. Plans are being drawn up by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance of the U.S. Department of Labor.

OFCC Director John L. Wilks has noted studies by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith disclose that Jews represent only 1.5 percent of corporate executives employed by the oil industry in New York. The under-representation of Jews in oil indicated a more extreme discrimination than that practiced by any other major industry. Companies with interests in Arab states have tended to translate Arab prejudices into domestic hiring policies affecting Jews.

The investigation of the oil industry's executive suite bias would come at a time when top-level oil men have been involved in anti-Israel controversy. Leading executives recently met with President Nixon to urge a more pro-Arab policy.

Timing Of Probe Coincidental

The timing of the probe is obviously coincidental. The OFCC had already embarked on an investigation of insurance companies. Some 20 insurance companies have met with federal investigators to discuss improvement of hiring practices involving Jews and Catholics for managerial jobs. Over 25 additional insurance companies will be investigated this year.

Oil executives are exerting pressure to prevent their industry from becoming the next target of OFCC. The government has made plans to look into oil but this might be deferred and the priority given to the electronics or automotive industry. Experience obtained in the insurance probe would be utilized in investigating other industries. OFCC has solicited advice from the ADL, the American Jewish Committee, and other organizations.

New Directives Due On Religious Bias

The Nixon Administration will issue new directives in the near future on religious bias in executive hiring. It is considering the advisability of requiring firm guidelines. The directive is not expected to go very far beyond the present requirements. Existing rules require that companies trading with the government allow Jews time off on religious holidays and make other such provisions.

OFCC is urging publication of guidelines to enable companies to calculate the percentage of Jews or other religious minorities among executives which would be acceptable to the government. The present investigation and planning is the result of complaints filed by Jewish groups and 1968 hearings held in New York City by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The Commission later reported on exclusion of Jews and discrimination against Jews on executive levels of certain industries in the New York City area.

In addition to the tiny number of Jews in oil, it was found that only 4.4 percent of bankers on high levels were Jews; 6.9 percent in utilities; 3.7 percent in transportation, 6.2 percent in electronics and 12.1 percent in securities.

American Orthodox Jews Set Trend By Going To Israel To Study

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA)--1209 Orthodox American Jews are currently enrolled in Israeli Yeshivot, according to the Jewish Agency-American Section.

Zvi Assael, director of the Agency's Torah Education and Culture Department, noted the movement of American Yeshivot to Israel as a new trend in American-Jewish education in Israel. There are four such academies in the Jerusalem area and one in Natania.

Maryland Congregation Gets Authorization To Continue Use Of Building

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA)--The Prince George's County Commissioners have reversed an earlier decision and will permit the Jewish Congregation of Laurel to continue use of a building in a residential section there as a synagogue. Previously, the commissioners had denied use of the edifice for synagogue purposes and had given the congregation 90 days to find a new meeting place. The action was taken because the congregation could not provide parking space to satisfy zoning regulation requirements.

In reversing their decision, the commissioners acted on a compromise arrangement proposed by a local property-owner's association and accepted by the congregation.

Israel's Largest Book Publishers Open Office And Warehouse In New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA)--The Massadah Publishing Company, Israel's largest book publishers, announced today that it had opened an office and central warehouse in New York for immediate delivery of Hebrew books from its catalog to purchasers in the United States. A first shipment of books has already been received here and a second shipment is en route.

Zvi Leiman, executive vice president of the Mediterranean Trading Company, which represents the Massadah house here, said establishment of the central warehouse would serve to increase the sale of books in Hebrew in this country.