

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel Air Force Pounds Egyptian Military Targets Well Behind Suez Canal Line

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets continued today to strike at will at Egyptian military targets well behind the Suez Canal line. Rear area camps and supply depots within 12 miles of Cairo were hit as were two camps in the southeast area of the Nile delta and an equipment and supply station at Jabel Hoff, about three miles from the industrial suburb of Helouan. Israeli jets also continued their morning and afternoon raids on Egyptian mortar and anti-aircraft gun batteries in the central and southern sectors of the Suez Canal zone. All aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Two Israeli patrols in the Beisan Valley were attacked from Jordanian territory today. They returned the fire and suffered no casualties. Bazooka shells were fired at Israeli positions in the Golan Heights yesterday near Kuneitra and several shells were fired during the night at Neot Hakikar south of the Dead Sea. The fire was returned. No Israeli casualties or damage was reported in either incident. One Israeli jet was shot down Friday during a series of low level bombing and strafing attacks along the Port Suez-Cairo road and the highway linking Ras Zaafarana on the Gulf of Suez with the Nile Valley. The pilot, identified as Capt. Dov Peleg, 28, of Petach Tikvah, was seen bailing out over Egyptian territory. The International Red Cross has been asked to locate him.

Friday's air attacks were coordinated with Israeli commando raids which hit Egyptian targets within 37 miles of Cairo. The commandos sabotaged telephone and electric power lines along the Ras Zaafarana highway and launched a mortar attack on an Egyptian army camp and military administrative center at Bir Arayda in the Nile Valley. Israeli jets struck at the same time at army camps, motor pools and truck convoys and hit a radar station at Bir Udeib.

### Mrs. Meir Says Air Strikes Strategic Rather Than Tactical

Premier Golda Meir indicated in a speech Friday that the pounding of Egypt's rear echelon defenses was strategic rather than tactical. She told an audience at the Industry and Commerce club that "the truth is being driven home not only to Nasser but to the entire Egyptian nation which must now know where their leader is dragging them."

(In London today, the Sunday Times reported from Cairo that President Nasser is conditioning the Egyptian people to expect Israeli air raids in the coming weeks to edge closer to Cairo. The paper reported that gas masks and capes are being issued to key workers and practice air raid drills are being held to prepare residents of the capital for their first real contact with high explosives.)

(According to the Times, Israel's strategy "seems to be that these politically embarrassing raids will inhibit President Nasser from escalating the war of attrition--the artillery, air and commando attacks on Israeli territory designed to force political concessions out of Tel Aviv.")

(The New York Times reported from Cairo today that "more and more Egyptians are learning Russian and now will also be given an opportunity to study Hebrew. According to Times correspondent Raymond H. Anderson, Russian is being studied for reasons of profession, commerce or scholarship. But the courses in Hebrew will soon be introduced at Egyptian colleges "with the aim of fully understanding the activities, mentality and methods of the enemy.")

## Rogers Claims Opposition To New US Middle East Policy Prompted By 'Balance'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers said this weekend in a copyrighted interview in U.S. News And World Report that the Russians, Arabs and Israelis opposed the new U.S. Middle East policy "because our position is fair and balanced." Referring to the American-Soviet talks on the Middle East, Mr. Rogers said "there has been some over-all improvement in the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States in these last 12 months."

He listed the Arab-Israel conflict with Vietnam at the top of the list of the most worrisome foreign problems. He termed the Middle East "very explosive." Mr. Rogers thought it was possible that Chinese-Russian differences might have some effect on the Soviet attitude toward the Middle East. He defined American Middle East policy as based on responsibility to promote a settlement and "to act as a catalyst to bring the parties together, to work through the U.N. machinery to see if it's possible to work out a peace in the area."

### U.S. Has Many Friends In Arab World

Explaining the new U.S. Middle East policy, Mr. Rogers said "we have a good many friends in the Arab world, and we have wanted to make our position known." He termed American policy "fair and balanced"--based upon the 1967 United Nations resolution on Israeli withdrawal. "So

there has to be an acceptance on the part of Israel--assuming that other aspects of the problem can be resolved between the parties--of the principle of withdrawal of its forces from territory occupied in the 1967 war, with more than minor rectifications or without substantial alterations."

Speaking of negotiations, Mr. Rogers said the present standstill "doesn't mean that it is going to be a standstill two weeks from now." He said that while Russia might want to keep the Middle East in turmoil "a nation like the United States has to make every effort it can to bring about a peaceful settlement." He said "we must keep trying." Mr. Rogers thought the Russians had displayed rigidity in past discussions and rejected American proposals on the Middle East after first acceding to certain points.

### Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Scores UN For Failure To Intervene In Biafra

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Itzhak Nissim, castigated the United Nations today for its failure to prevent atrocities and famine in Biafra or to halt the 30 month civil war which devastated that province. The statement issued by the Chief Rabbi was the first by an Israeli religious leader following Biafra's surrender last week. He urged the human race to "save the Ibo people." The Ibos are the largest tribe in Biafra. Meanwhile Israeli and African students protesting Britain's role in Nigeria's war with Biafra staged a stormy demonstration outside the Knesset building where the deputy leader of the British Labor Party, George Brown, was visiting.

The demonstration was organized by the National Union of Students in Israel. Some demonstrators gathered outside the home of Foreign Minister Abba Eban where Mr. Brown was to dine. One of them told JTA that they would ask the British official to receive a delegation. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said today that Israel is still waiting for word from Lagos regarding its offer to send relief to Biafra. The offer was made to the Nigerian Government and the Nigerian Red Cross last week after the Biafran surrender. About 350 qualified Israelis have volunteered for the relief mission.

### Lebanon Official Releases Secret Provisions Of Pact With Palestinian Guerrillas

LONDON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The Lebanese Government has made public the hitherto secret provisions of an agreement it reached with Palestinian guerrilla leaders in Cairo on Nov. 3. According to information reaching here, it contains three major limitations on guerrilla activities intended to protect Lebanese civilians from Israeli reprisal raids. According to the document which President Charles Helou disclosed for the first time Friday, the guerrillas agreed not to fire on Israeli targets from the Lebanese side of the border; not to provide military training inside Palestinian refugee camps; and not to establish bases in inhabited areas near the southern borders.

The Cairo agreement came after several weeks of pitched battles between Lebanese Army units and guerrillas ensconced in the southern border regions and infiltrating from Syria. The fighting sparked pro-guerrilla riots in Lebanese refugee camps and in Beirut and Sidon, the two largest cities. The details were disclosed in Beirut by the Lebanese Minister of Health, Habib Mutran. Reportedly, it was made public at the insistence of Public Works Minister Pierre Gemayel in order "to give the opportunity to officials and Lebanese in general to judge who is actually committing a breach of the specific articles."

### Israel's Supreme Court To Hand Down Milestone Decision On Who Is A Jew

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Israel's Supreme Court is scheduled to hand down a milestone decision next Friday in a case involving the controversial question of who is a Jew. Each of the nine justices who heard the arguments has written his own opinion, JTA learned today. Altogether, the court's ruling is said to cover several hundred pages. The case was brought before the Supreme Court a year ago. The plaintiff is Commander Benjamin Shalit, an Israeli Navy officer who is suing to have his children registered as of Jewish nationality although their mother is not Jewish and professes no religion.

In Israel, matters of personal status are governed by religious law. The Chief Rabbinate insists that the Orthodox view be adhered to. It prescribes that a child is Jewish only if its mother was born Jewish or was converted according to Orthodox rites at the time of conception. The case attracted considerable attention here and abroad because its outcome could upset the delicate balance hitherto maintained between the jurisdiction of secular and religious law. Cases brought before the Supreme Court are normally heard by rotating panels of three justices. The Shalit case set a precedent when the original three-man bench referred it to a panel of nine justices. Israel's Supreme Court has ten members.

### American-Jewish Groups Planning Demonstrations When Pres. Pompidou Visits U.S.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The Cabinet was informed today that some American-Jewish organizations may stage demonstrations of solidarity with Israel during the forthcoming visit of France's President Georges Pompidou, to the United States. The information was gleaned at today's Cabinet meeting where Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported on the efforts of Israeli diplomatic representatives abroad to explain Israel's opposition to American Mideast policy and France's arms deals with Libya and other Arab countries. Some leaders of American-Jewish organizations, after speaking with Israeli representatives, became convinced that a show of solidarity was necessary, the Cabinet members were told. Mr. Eban said that many important newspapers all over the world sympathized with Israel's stand on the Franco-Libyan arms deal. He reported also that the bilateral Mideast talks between the U.S. and Soviet Russia have ceased for the time being, following Moscow's rejection of the latest American proposals. He said the Four Power Mideast talks were continuing, but on a deputy delegates level.

## Seven Harvard University Professors Score Imposed Middle East Peace Plan

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Seven Harvard University professors said in a letter published in the New York Times today that the aim of United States policy in the Middle East should be "to continue patiently and firmly trying to persuade the two sides to come to terms with each other in the world of practical reality, rather than to attempt by ourselves, or jointly with the USSR, to impose a detailed plan from outside."

The writers, all senior professors in various faculties at Harvard, said they were "distressed by the shift in United States policy on the Middle East, as revealed in the recent public statements by Secretary of State William P. Rogers." They agreed with Mr. Rogers that American interests demanded a stable peace in the area. "But his detailed proposals in advance of negotiations between the parties concerned, and in the face of an unyielding Soviet position that demands complete Israeli withdrawal without a peace settlement, can only encourage Soviet and Arab intransigence," they said.

The letter was signed by Profs. Frank M. Cross; Merle Fainsod; Talcott Parsons; Charles P. Price; George H. Williams; Abram Bergson and Gerald Caplan. They contended that the Arabs viewed Mr. Rogers' policy shifts "as the beginnings of surrender to their bellicosity" and neither they nor their Soviet allies have responded with any conciliatory gestures. "It seems that Rogers' new initiative was, at least in part, a reaction to the anticipation of a united Arab front against us at the Rabat conference, and to an overestimation of the adverse consequences of such an eventuality," the letter said. It observed that the policies enunciated by the Secretary of State "wins us hardly any friends among either the Arabs or Israelis and can only postpone the peace we seek."

## Official Russian Yiddish Journal Explores Jews In Scholarly Context

LONDON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--An historical survey dealing with the Jewish past in a scholarly, non-political context, is featured in the current issue of Sovietish Heimland, the officially sanctioned Yiddish periodical, just received here. The issue also contains articles, essays and poems by Ezra Finenberg, Aron Vergelis, Moto Grubian, Yechiel Falikman, Chaim Matinsky and Meir Yellin. Also featured are hitherto unpublished photographs of the late David Bergelson, a Soviet-Jewish novelist who was one of the victims of the Stalinist purges of the early 1950s. There is a note on Boris Gaponov's Hebrew translation of "Man in the Tiger Skin" by the Georgian poet Rustaveli. The magazine reports that Gaponov is working on a Hebrew translation of Lermontov's poetry which will appear in two volumes and on an anthology of Georgian poetry.

## AJCongress And Air Line Pilots Association To Discuss Plane Hijacking

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--A key member of the Air Line Pilots Association will meet Monday with the American Jewish Congress to discuss the continuing problem of air piracy. The pilots' representative will be Captain John Ferguson, chairman of the Region I Air Safety Committee of the Pilots' Association. In calling the meeting, State Supreme Court Justice Edward J. Greenfield said the American Jewish Congress was seriously concerned with recent inaction on the issue of hijacking. Judge Greenfield is chairman of the Committee On International Affairs of the Congress' New York Metropolitan Council.

"We have seen nothing in the last few months to indicate any lessening of the danger of air piracy or any effective attempt to stop it," Judge Greenfield said. "A whole new wave of plane hijacking has again put passengers in peril of their lives. It is true that two of these recent attempts were thwarted, but in one of them--where security guards shot and killed two aerial bandits in mid-air--the risk to the passengers was too terrible to contemplate with any equanimity."

Judge Greenfield continued: "The one safe way to curb air piracy, and the way that the American Jewish Congress has urged in a previous meeting with Captain Ola Forseberg, head of the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Association, is to seal off any country that cooperates with air kidnapers, that refuses to return immediately a hijacked plane with its passengers and crew, and that affords sanctuary to those responsible for the hijacking, or fails to prosecute them or extradite them promptly." "This is the crux of the American Jewish Congress' continuing campaign against hijackers, which was in no way diminished by the recent release of the two Israeli citizens who had been kidnapped by Syria last summer in the hijacking of a TWA plane," he said.

## Jewish Professor Tells Why He Was Dismissed From Warsaw University In 1968

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--A former Polish representative to the United Nations, now exiled in Denmark, maintains that the fact that he was Jewish was only part of the reason for his dismissal from Warsaw University in 1968, where he had been a professor of international relations and diplomatic history. In a New York Times article today Julius Katz-Suchy, now an associate professor at Aarhus University in Jutland, was quoted as stating that his opposition to certain internal policies and his calls for freer discussions were the main reason for his dismissal.

"This technique was used against other Jewish civil servants, too," he said, referring to the "libelous and slanderous" campaign against him beginning in March, 1968. "My situation is perhaps typical of that of many Polish Jews in academic posts." He emphasized however that similar campaigns have been conducted against non-Jews as well. Mr. Katz-Suchy, who was granted asylum by the Danish government two weeks ago, said that he still considered himself a Pole and that he still believed in socialism "even if some of my ideas have let me down." The 57-year-old expert on international affairs, was Poland's U.N. representative from 1947-1952.

## **B'nai B'rith Study Shows Soviet Union Excising Jews From History**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--An exhaustive study of Soviet history textbooks, prepared by B'nai B'rith researchers, charges the Soviet Union with employing "the strategy of 1984" to obliterate the cultural heritage and identity of Jews not only in Russia but all over the world. The survey, submitted today to the B'nai B'rith board of governors meeting here, claims that the Soviet Union is deliberately distorting history to make Jews into "non-persons."

It was written by Dr. William Korey, director of the B'nai B'rith office at the United Nations, and was researched and documented by Ina Schlesinger. The survey concentrated on 15 history textbooks currently in use throughout the Soviet Union, all of them published since 1966. The authors said the texts constitute the "sum total" of required history textbooks for all primary and secondary schools in the Russian Republic. "To the extent that they are used in translation in other Republics of the Soviet Union, they have an almost nationwide impact and provide the Soviet elementary and secondary school student with the principal source of information on the historic past," the survey stated.

The study will be published by the International Council of B'nai B'rith. Among its conclusions are that: Jews are rarely mentioned and their culture is ignored. The contributions of Jews to civilization generally and Western culture specifically is completely disregarded; the distinctive role of anti-Semitism in Russian and world history is barely noted. Even the quintessence of genocidal anti-Semitism--the holocaust of the Nazi era--is slighted; ancient Jewish history is dismissed as a factor in world history and the State of Israel is scarcely noted.

### Reference To Dreyfus Eliminated From Textbook

An example of the omissions cited by the study was the absence of any reference to the celebrated Dreyfus case in a chapter on France contained in a textbook of world history from the second half of the 19th century to 1917. A ninth grade high school textbook makes no mention of anti-Semitic persecution and concentration camps for Jews in its description of the Nazi regime. A chronology in a 10th grade high school textbook lists the establishment of new states without mentioning Israel. The latter is referred to only in connection with the 1956 Sinai campaign in which Israel is branded an "aggressor."

In addition to the primary and secondary school texts, the survey examined a two volume history used in state universities. It also studied samplings of history textbooks written in the native language and used in the republics of the Ukraine, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. "The same conclusions apply to these as to the Russian textbooks," the survey stated. "The inevitable result of Soviet policy is that students are denied a positive image of the Jew," the study asserted. It noted moreover that "Jews today are the only Soviet ethnic group without their own school system taught in their native tongue."

### Number Of American Jewish College Youth Exceed National Average

Another B'nai B'rith study released yesterday indicated that the proportion of American Jewish youth who go to college may be as high as 95 percent, about twice the estimated national average. The study, conducted during the 1968-69 academic year, disclosed that 77 percent of Jewish youth attain college degrees.

The study was prepared by the B'nai B'rith Vocational Service as a follow-up to a sampling made eight years ago of 6000 high school sophomores juniors and seniors in 40 states and the District of Columbia to determine the career plans of Jewish youth. Findings showed that Jewish youth, almost without exception, went into the occupations they had planned for when in high school; about half were influenced "very little or not at all" by their parents in selecting a career. Thirty percent were "considerably or moderately influenced" in their choice of college by the number of Jewish students or Jewish organizations on the campus. About 10 percent said they had encountered "discrimination or unpleasantness" while in college because of their religious beliefs. The study was prepared by Dr. S. Norman Feingold, B'nai B'rith Vocational Service national director, Sol Swerdloff, director of programs, planning and evaluation of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Dr. Howard Rosen director of the Office of Manpower Research of the Department of Labor, and conducted in cooperation with B'nai B'rith women. The young people surveyed, now 23 to 25, were affiliated with Jewish youth organizations in high school.

## **Two Major Jewish Groups Intervene On Behalf Of Conscientious Objector**

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Two major American Jewish organizations have filed friend of the court briefs with the United States Supreme Court on behalf of a conscientious objector who refused induction into the armed forces because he was opposed to the Vietnam war on moral and ethical grounds. In intervening in the case of John Heffron Sisson, Jr., the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee are challenging the constitutionality of the Selective Service Act which recognizes conscientious objection only on the basis of religious beliefs. Both briefs argue that by granting exemption from military service to persons opposed to war by reason of "religious training and belief," the Act accords preferential treatment to believers over non-believers in violation of the First Amendment. The Supreme Court will hear arguments this week on the issue in reviewing a decision by Federal Judge Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., of the U.S. District Court in Boston, who ruled along the lines suggested by the AJ Committee and the AJ Congress. At issue also is the right to refuse to serve in a particular war. Both briefs stressed that the Constitution requires the Government to remain neutral between religion and non-religion and between believers and non-believers.