

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israeli Armored Reconnaissance Force In 19-Hour Mop-Up Operation In Jordan

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA)--An Israeli armored reconnaissance force entered Jordan last night in a mop-up operation against saboteurs believed responsible for a recent wave of rocket attacks on the potash plant at Sdom on the south shore of the Dead Sea. The armored unit was supported by Israel Air Force jets in operations that kept them on Jordanian soil for some 20 hours. A military spokesman announced that the force returned to its base at 2 p.m. local time today without sustaining casualties or damage to its equipment. He said five saboteurs were killed in a clash near the Jordanian village of El Saffi and that a number of vehicles bearing El Fatah insignia, including an armed jeep, were damaged.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said today that Israeli action against Jordan is restricted because of political considerations. He said that since both Jordan and Israel are supported by the United States "we may face a difficult situation along the Jordanian frontier."

### Dayan Rejects Suggestion That Israel Seize Gilead Heights

Gen. Dayan spoke to angry settlers of Kibbutz Maoz Chaim in the Beisan Valley who are demanding action to halt the almost daily attacks from Jordanian territory. He rejected a suggestion that Israeli forces seize the Gilead Heights in Jordan, facing the Beisan Valley. But he pledged that Israel's armed forces would do their utmost to protect life and property in the Beisan and Jordan Valleys. He blamed saboteur activities primarily on King Hussein of Jordan who, Gen. Dayan contended, could control them if he was so inclined. Referring to the political restrictions that bar Israel from taking tougher action against Jordan, the Defense Minister said "along our southern frontier with Egypt, where the Russians are, we have more freedom of action than against Jordan."

A military spokesman described as "complete nonsense" a Cairo report today that Egyptian forces killed 10 Israeli frogmen who attempted to swim across the Suez Canal near Ismailia Sunday night. The report was published in the semi-official newspaper Al Ahram. It said that an unspecified number of Israelis were killed trying to retrieve the bodies of the frogmen.

Israeli security forces arrested 14 Israeli Arabs in Tyra village near Kfar Saba yesterday on charges of sabotage and membership in El Fatah. They have been remanded by a magistrate pending trial. Large caches of arms and explosives were found in the village. According to Israeli sources, some of the suspects have confessed to various acts of sabotage and attempted sabotage in Israel's Sharon Valley. These included planting a hand grenade near a podium where Deputy Premier Yigal Allon was scheduled to speak during last October's election campaign.

## Debre Discloses France Will Sell 100 Military Aircraft, Including 80 To Libya

PARIS, Jan. 21 (JTA)--French Defense Minister Michel Debre disclosed Wednesday to the National Assembly Defense Committee that France will sell 100 military aircraft, including 80 Mirage jets, to Libya. It was learned meanwhile that a deal has been made in which the French air force will train Libyan and other Arab pilots. France will sell 30 Mirage jet fighters and 20 training planes to Libya in addition to the 50 other Mirages previously announced. M. Debre told the committee that trainers could also fly reconnaissance missions.

It was apparent with the announcement that France will seek to build a powerful Arab air arm, assisting the Arab states just as the French previously--prior to 1967--aided Israel. The additional 30 Mirage jets are of the 3-E type, the most advanced series. They are equipped with the latest doppler radar which enables flight at low altitude in zero visibility. This enables the jets to hit ground targets in any weather. Libya agreed in return for the airpower buildup to stop supporting the leftist rebellion in Chad where rebels are fighting the French Foreign Legion.

## South Vietnamese Senate Members Arrive In Israel On Unofficial 'Study Mission'

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Seven members of the South Vietnamese Senate arrived here today on an unofficial ten-day visit to see what they could "learn from Israel" that would benefit their own country's search for "peace and development." The group is headed by Sen. Van Don and includes among its members Mrs. Nagoyan Fouok Dai, deputy head of the Senate and a member of its labor, foreign affairs and security committees. They were met at Lydda Airport by a group of Foreign Ministry officials who denied that the visitors had been invited officially to Israel.

Israel has recognized the Saigon Government but does not have diplomatic relations with South Vietnam. The group described itself as a "study mission." They got their Israeli visas from the Israeli Consulate in Bangkok, Thailand. They said they would visit kibbutzim and moshavim and hoped to meet with local leaders.

"We are a small nation fighting vast forces and like you we want to end the war," a spokesman for the group told newsmen at Lydda Airport. "We want a lasting peace with guaranteed borders so that we can divert all of our resources to developing our country," he said.

## Israel's Ambassador To Nigeria Asked To Clarify Eban's Remarks On Biafra Aid

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to Nigeria, Issahar Ben Yaacov, was instructed today to present that government with the full text of Foreign Minister Abba Eban's recent remarks in the Knesset about Israel's relief to Biafra during its 30 month war of secession. The Foreign Ministry said the instructions were issued to Mr. Ben Yaacov after he was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Lagos to "clarify" Mr. Eban's statement.

The Daily Times of Lagos has demanded sanctions against Israel, France and other countries that admitted aiding Biafra and thereby, allegedly, prolonged the war. Foreign Ministry circles here said the newspaper's version of Mr. Eban's remarks had omitted the political side which reasserted Israel's recognition of Federal Nigeria within its original boundaries.

There was some concern in Government circles that Nigeria might break diplomatic relations with Israel on the issue. They pointed out however that Israel had acted correctly and within the bounds of international custom in rendering humanitarian aid to Biafra. They noted that all Israeli relief shipments were sent through the International Red Cross. Nigeria meanwhile has not yet replied to an Israeli offer to send a relief mission to Biafra. The offer was made after Biafra surrendered to the Federal authorities last week. Some 350 Israelis have volunteered for the mission.

## Hawks And Doves In Israel's Labor Party Clashing Over Eliav's Statements

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA)--A clash between hawks and doves is shaping up in the governing councils of the Israel Labor Party over statements made by the Party's new secretary general Arye Eliav in an interview published in Time magazine this week. Mr. Eliav, who described himself as a "super dove" said that an "infant Palestinian nation existed" and that Israel should not annex territories aside from Jerusalem. Mordecai Surkiss, a Knesset member, demanded that the Party leadership discuss Mr. Eliav's remarks. He contended that the secretary general had no right to express views that are contrary to official government policy. Mr. Eliav retorted that his views are well known and he had spelled them out many times prior to his unanimous election as secretary general by the Labor Party executive.

## Allon Says Israel Must Build Air Raid Shelters To Protect Populous Centers

JERUSALEM, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon told the Knesset today that Israel must build air raid shelters despite the fact that it has a highly sophisticated air defense system to prevent enemy planes from reaching centers of population. He said the first priority must be given to building shelters in the front line settlements in range of enemy mortar and artillery fire. Such shelters exist in most kibbutzim in the Beisan and Jordan valleys. They serve as dormitories for children each night. Mr. Allon, who is Minister of Education and Culture, proposed that they be converted to day-time classrooms so that schooling could continue during attacks. His plan was referred to committee for discussion.

## Israeli Official's Speech Seen As Defense Of Israel's 19-Hour Foray Into Jordan

LONDON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--An Israel Government official told a British audience of business leaders today that his country must react strongly to attempts by Arab guerrillas to disrupt its exploitation of the mineral wealth of the Negev and the Dead Sea. Israel Gal-Ed, director general of the Ministry of Development in Jerusalem, spoke at the annual luncheon of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Although he made no direct reference to it, his remarks were seen as a defense of Israel's armed foray into Jordan last night to destroy the bases of saboteurs who have been attacking the Dead Sea potash works at Sdom with Russian-made rockets.

Mr. Gal-Ed said the entire Negev area depends on the industrial activity going on around the Dead Sea. He said in 1966, the potash plant produced 500,000 tons, in 1969, 800,000 tons and in 1970 is expected to reach 1 million tons. He said other minerals are being mined for home consumption and export, such as magnesium and copper. According to Mr. Gal-Ed, several American companies are participating in the Negev's industrial development. He said it was his government's policy to invite foreign capital and foreign know-how to share in such projects.

## Dayan Injures Ankle Jumping From Helicopter That Landed In Jordan Valley

TEL AVIV, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan injured his ankle today when he jumped to the ground from a helicopter that landed in the Jordan Valley to rescue four civilian test pilots. But he was back in his office later in the day after his right ankle was placed in a plaster cast at a hospital. Gen. Dayan was returning by helicopter from a visit to Jordan Valley settlements when the aircraft was ordered to rescue the four pilots who bailed out of a Jet Commodore which developed trouble while being test flown. The Jet Commodore is a locally produced version of the American Jet Commander, a light commercial aircraft. The plane, which seats ten persons, is produced by Israel Aircraft Industry, Ltd.

It was on its third test flight when difficulties developed with the flap system causing the pilot to lose control. He and the co-pilot and two other test pilots aboard bailed out safely before the plane crashed.

Israeli authorities are investigating the accident. The manufacturer of the plane says it already has orders for 96 Jet Commodores and expects to start assembly line production shortly at the rate of two a month.

## Brown Denies Report Of Dinner Row; Some British Papers Demand His Resignation

LONDON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--George Brown, deputy leader of the British Labor Party, denied on television yesterday that he had created a row at a dinner party given in his honor at the home of Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban in Jerusalem this week. But several British newspapers have demanded that the former Foreign Secretary retire from politics and an Israeli newspaper has accused him of personally insulting Premier Golda Meir.

Mr. Brown, appearing on the BBC's "Twenty-Four Hours" program said reports of his dinner party invectives were "ridiculous." He conceded that there had been some "tough talk" at the gathering the night before he ended his recent five-day visit to Israel. But he explained it by saying that he and the Israelis present were "deep and close personal friends" and that in the "family atmosphere" of the party, "one does have a latitude for expression which you will never use in public." Brown denied that he had told one Israeli guest to "wipe that silly grin off your face" or that he had told British Ambassador John Barnes to "shut up" and then admonished him for not supporting "everything I say."

The Israeli newspaper Maariv claimed that Mr. Brown "walked out" of the Eban party after telling Premier Meir, "You are only a Russian Jewess who came to Israel via the United States." Mr. Brown said, "Some of the stories I have seen reported are just too ridiculous to be worthy of a denial." The Evening Sun said editorially today that "The latest escapade in the Brown circus deserves to be billed politically as positively his final appearance." The Daily Mail said "It is time Mr. Brown made a dignified exit from the world stage before we forget the man he was." But the London Guardian said "Brown is a good man whose remarks may have been taken out of context. It will be a pity if the trivia of his journey are allowed to obscure the good he can do." Mr. Brown visited several Arab capitals before he arrived in Israel. He said his Mideast tour had encouraged his hope that a peaceful settlement could be achieved.

## Eban Hopes France Will Revert To Impartial Dealing With Middle East Countries

PARIS, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban expressed the hope today that France would eventually "recover the virtue of impartiality" in its dealings with Middle East countries. In an interview published in the newspaper Le Monde, Mr. Eban said the French embargo deprived Israel of arms "while among the Arab states there exists a sort of 'Common Market' in arms." The reference was to France's new \$400 million deal to provide Libya with 50 Mirage jets and other modern weapons, which it is widely believed, will find their way to Egypt and other Arab countries fighting Israel.

(Eban's interview with Le Monde took place before the announcement Wednesday by French Minister Michel Debre that France will sell 100 military aircraft, including 80 Mirage jets, to Libya.)

Mr. Eban said "it is possible that in the short term France will get certain advantages, thanks to her present policy, but this will be at the expense of long term interests." He said the French arms embargo is so one-sided as to be devoid of any international standing. Asked about Israel's own arms industry, Mr. Eban said his country was striving for greater independence in arms production.

## Lebanese Minister Of Interior Condemns Bombing Of Jewish School In Beirut

LONDON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--The Lebanese Interior Minister condemned the bombing of a Jewish school building in Beirut and assured leaders of Lebanon's Jewish community yesterday that the Government would protect its Jewish citizens. Kamal Jumblatt called on Chief Rabbi Shahoul Shelim and members of the Jewish Community Council. After inspecting the damaged school he described the bomb explosion early Monday morning as an "ugly act that we all condemn" and said the authorities were continuing their investigations.

Mr. Jumblatt told the Chief Rabbi that he considered it his "duty to express my dismay over the attack on the Jewish school and show that we differentiate between a Jew and a Zionist." Police said the bombing, which caused no casualties, was the work of "hired agents" who wanted to defame Lebanon abroad and "to create an atmosphere of provocation from which the enemy," meaning Israel, "could benefit so he may feed his propaganda against Lebanon."

The bombing was also denounced by El Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization which issued a statement yesterday claiming that the Palestinian revolution was fighting against racial discrimination. It praised Jews who have refused to emigrate to Israel and said "We stretch out our hand for their protection." Joseph Atiyah, head of the Jewish Community Council which represents most of Lebanon's 3000 Jews, praised the Government's response to the explosion. He said Jews in Lebanon had always been treated well.

## State Department Official Claims Russia Reconsidering US Mideast Proposals

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 (JTA)--A State Department official Wednesday told the National Petroleum Council that "some progress" is being made toward Russian reconsideration of American Middle East peace proposals rejected in December by the USSR. Rodger Davies, Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, said that Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory is essential to a settlement. Mr. Davies said the Soviet Union wants to avoid a confrontation with the United States over the Middle East but was concerned about the Kremlin's role with Arab clients.

## Arson Cause Of Fire That Guts Bronx Synagogue And Destroys Five Torah Scrolls

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Five Torah scrolls from a burned-out synagogue in the Bronx will be ceremonially buried when the gravediggers strike here ends, or sooner if special arrangements can be made. Meanwhile, services this weekend will be in the basement of the synagogue. The fire, at Congregation Ahavath Torah on Monday night, was termed arson by the City Fire Marshall's office. The Torah scrolls were valued at more than \$2000 each. In addition, other religious articles and the living quarters of Rabbi David Toiv were damaged. The fire is being further investigated.

Mayor John V. Lindsay expressed "shock and outrage" and said that he has asked the City's Police Commissioner to take "extra measures" to capture the arsonists. Investigators summoned by the fire chief reported evidence of forced entry into the two-story brick building that houses the synagogue and the living quarters of Rabbi Toiv.

Fire marshals said the flames apparently began near the pulpit where the Torahs are stored and spread through the building. Rabbi Toiv and several members of the congregation who were in the synagogue when the fire was discovered, escaped without injury. But the rabbi was made homeless by the fire which destroyed the electric and heating utilities in his second floor apartment. The fire was the latest in a series of suspicious blazes in New York synagogues and Hebrew schools. They reached a peak in 1968 as a result of racial tensions generated by the New York City teachers strike. Rabbi Toiv said his synagogue had been at its present location for 15 years and endured no vandalism other than an occasional broken window. But he blamed Monday's fire on vandals.

## AJCongress To Challenge Use Of Public Funds For Sectarian Institutions

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA)--The use of public tax money for "church" colleges will be challenged by the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union Thursday in the U.S. District Court for Connecticut. The case, to be argued before three judges, is expected to go ultimately to the U.S. Supreme Court. Leo Pfeffer, special counsel for the AJCongress, will argue for 15 Connecticut residents seeking to halt the flow of tax-raised moneys to Sacred Heart University, Fairfield University, Albert Magnus College and Annhurst College, all in Connecticut.

The suit, known as Tilton v. Finch, is considered a test case. Mr. Pfeffer will call for a halt to the "tens of millions" of dollars in Federal funds now being used by religious colleges across the country. He will ask for a "national declaration of judgment and a nationwide injunction." The suit will charge that government officials are misinterpreting the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, and will attempt to show that funds given to a sectarian institution, even when used for secular purposes, still aid the religious aspects of the institution.

## Court Order On Jewish Burial Being Obeyed But Spirit Of Law Being Violated

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Although last week's court order, stating that all Jews have the right to be buried within 24 hours after death, is being obeyed, the spirit of the law is being violated, according to Hyman Dechter, counsel for the Emergency Committee for Jewish Burial. New York Supreme Court Justice Harold Baer had issued the decision in response to the Committee's suit against striking gravediggers here. Mr. Dechter said that because of cold weather, air-hammers were needed to break the icy ground for burial. In most cases, he continued, the cemeteries were not providing people with the expensive pieces of equipment. He contended that if the situation becomes serious enough so that bodies cannot be buried within 24 hours, as required by Orthodox law, his group may have to take legal action.

Rabbi Samuel Schrage, chairman of the committee, told the JTA that burials now take up to 12 hours because of the lack of necessary equipment, and that volunteers and family members are out working "almost around the clock" to make sure that religious requirements are met. The committee, which aids families concerned with burial problems, has suggested to some families that they bury their dead in Israel, "where it is presently easier to get buried than in New York City," and to others that they go to non-union cemeteries in the Metropolitan area. The Rabbi claims that so far all of the Orthodox dead are being buried within the 24 hour limitation despite the "hardship" conditions.

Mr. Dechter claimed that the attorney for the cemetery owners has indicated that there would be absolutely no cooperation forthcoming as regards the use of air-hammers, because of possible injury to the people that would operate them. The strike of 1700 gravediggers throughout the New York area began on Jan. 12. Yesterday, thirteen of the men, members of Local 365 of the Cemetery Workers and Green Attendants, were arrested as they tried to prevent hearses from entering a Roman Catholic cemetery here.

## ORT Meeting To Spotlight Israel's Technical Training And Youth Education Needs

NEW YORK, Jan. 21 (JTA)--Israel's needs for stepped-up technical training and youth education will receive top priority at the 48th annual national conference of the American ORT Federation this Saturday and Sunday at the Hotel Americana. Dr. William Haber, president of ORT, said that "with the domestic spotlight in Israel increasingly turned on economic development and industrialization, the problems of technologically skilled manpower becomes primary."

In addition, Dr. Haber stated, "Israel's greatest homefront problem is the strength of its economy and the education of its youth for participation in the country's progress and survival." Israel, in its present situation and with its small population, cannot afford the waste of human talent and energy.