

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel's Weekend Casualty List From Fighting On All Fronts Is Two Dead, 14 Wounded

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Israeli and Egyptian air forces traded attacks across the Suez Canal today while ground forces on both sides of the waterway exchanged artillery fire. An Israeli, Giora Kosovitz, of Kibbutz Dalia, was killed and three soldiers were wounded by the shelling, bringing the casualty list for the week-end to two killed and 14 wounded on all fronts.

A military spokesman said Israeli jets attacked Egyptian positions in the southern section of the Suez Canal zone for 45 minutes, beginning at noon, local time today. Later they attacked Egyptian military positions on the north shores of the Gulf of Suez. All planes returned safely from both actions. A military spokesman said that during the day two Egyptian jets attacked Israeli positions near Kantara in the northern section of the canal zone and two others hit positions south of Ismailia at the canal's midpoint. He said the Egyptian bombs missed their mark and caused no casualties or damage. Israeli and Syrian tanks battled in the Golan Heights today. A military spokesman said direct hits were scored on three Syrian tanks and two strongpoints. Five Israeli soldiers were wounded in the Golan Heights Friday when Syrian tanks opened fire on Israeli positions near Nahal Geshor. Two Arab guerrillas were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol north of Kuneitra in the Golan Heights.

## Egyptian Commando Raid Across Suez Canal Repelled By Israeli Forces

Israeli forces repulsed an Egyptian commando raid across the Suez Canal yesterday. Two soldiers were slightly wounded in that action and two others were wounded in a subsequent exchange of artillery fire with the Egyptians. An Israeli soldier, Pvt. Aryeh Yudelevitz, of Rishon LeZion, was fatally wounded in a clash with guerrillas in the El Burej refugee camp in the Gaza Strip Friday night. Two other soldiers were wounded in the encounter. An Israeli military spokesman said Egyptian commandos crossed the Suez Canal opposite Ismailia at about noon yesterday and were caught by an Israeli patrol while trying to set up an ambush. The Egyptians suffered casualties but managed to retreat across the canal with their wounded, under cover of artillery fire. A military spokesman said today's tank battle with the Syrians occurred near Rafid in the Golan Heights where Syrian forces had opened fire several times in the last two days.

Two Israeli newspapers expressed misgivings over mounting aerial bombardment of Egypt. The English-language Jerusalem Post warned that the air raids over Egypt--nine during the month of January--could bring retaliatory Arab raids on Israeli cities. The mass circulation Maariv said Israel's deep aerial penetrations of Egypt and Syria should be halted to give Cairo and Damascus a chance to re-evaluate their positions and possibly return to the cease-fire agreements. The Jerusalem Post noted that the United States State Department had expressed anxiety over the escalation of the air war. The Post said "Certainly Israel is anxious. If Haifa or Tel Aviv were actually to be bombed, even ineffectually, retaliation would be inevitable, and the crowded Arab capitals offer tragically vulnerable targets, especially the close-packed tall buildings of Cairo."

## Cabinet Adopts Package Deal On Wages, Prices And Taxes For 1970 To Curb Inflation

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Cabinet today adopted a three-way package deal on wages, prices and taxes for fiscal 1970 which is supposed to stabilize the Israel pound and prevent run-away inflation. The measure, championed by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, was passed without opposition although the head of the Bank of Israel and a number of leading economists have expressed serious misgivings that it will solve Israel's economic problems. The Cabinet also approved a draft budget for 1970 of approximately \$3.5 billion for submission to the Knesset on Feb. 16. The budget is pegged to the package agreement signed yesterday by the three elements that determine the country's economic health--labor, management and the Government.

Under its terms, Israel's manufacturers and industrialists will pay an eight percent wage increase this year, half of it in cash and half in six-year Government bonds bearing five percent interest. The employers themselves will buy Government bonds equivalent to four percent of the wage hike. Histadrut, Israel's all-embracing trade union federation, agreed to make no further wage demands and the manufacturers have promised not to raise prices on basic commodities. The Government pledged on its part not to impose high taxes and duties this year, though it will raise the tariffs on luxury items such as imported automobiles and television sets. It also reserved the right to impose additional levies on gasoline, auto repairs and imported alcoholic beverages "if necessary."

## Budget Criticized As Unrealistic Way To Solve Israel's Economic Problems

David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel who attended the budget session, criticized the package deal which he said, would not repair the growing damage to the country's balance of payments. Earlier, a group of economic professors and heads of the economic faculties of several Israeli universities appealed to the Government, Histadrut and the manufacturers not to sign the pact. They said it would not solve Israel's economic problems and maintained that the only solution was to devalue the Israel pound in order to lower Israel's debts abroad. Mr. Sapir said he did not "see eye-to-eye" with

the professors on devaluation, although Mr. Horowitz implied that he too thought devaluation was the only way to stem the drain of Israel's foreign currency reserves. The exact amount of the 1970 budget will not be known until the data based on the package agreement is fed to computers and evaluated. But a deficit of at least \$200 million is expected and Israel's foreign currency reserves will be further reduced by that amount. The formerly "voluntary" defense loan was made compulsory. Israeli wage earners will now pay seven percent of their income and self-employed persons nine percent. This and increased dues to the National Insurance Institute, are expected to yield about \$350 million to the treasury.

### Shalit Children Registered As Jews; Controversy Over Cabinet Ruling Mounts

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--While the Government took steps last week to nullify a Supreme Court ruling that Israelis can have Jewish nationality without being Jewish by religion, an Israeli Naval officer had the satisfaction today of seeing his two native-born children registered as Jews even though their mother is not of the Jewish faith. Meanwhile, the Cabinet's decision to amend the Law of Return was opposed by the two-man Haolam Hazeh faction. They introduced today a motion of no confidence which will be debated in the Knesset on Tuesday. The motion is not expected to receive more than a half dozen votes.

The two minor children of Lt. Commander Benjamin Shalit and his Scottish-born wife were officially designated Jewish by nationality by the population registrar in Haifa where the Shalit family makes its home. Previously, their birth certificates had stated "Jewish father, foreign mother" leaving the Israeli youngsters in a bureaucratic limbo as far as their national status was concerned. It was to rectify this that Commander Shalit sued the Government. He was upheld by a majority decision of the Israel Supreme Court. But that ruling aroused a storm of protest from the Israeli chief rabbinate and Orthodox circles here and abroad, forcing the Government to take quick steps to over-rule the court. The Orthodox insist that halacha--Jewish religious law--must apply in all matters of personal status. According to halacha, a person is Jewish only if born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism.

In order to appease the Orthodox and avert a threatened walk-out by the National Religious Party from the coalition government, the Cabinet last week agreed to initiate legislation to amend Israel's Law of Return which will have the effect of nullifying the Supreme Court ruling. The amendment will extend equal rights to the non-Jewish spouses and children of immigrants but will preclude their being registered as Jews. However, the compromise worked out by Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro and leaders of the NRP was not made retroactive to the Shalit case.

### Spokesmen For Religious Party And Communist Party Attack Cabinet Ruling

The controversy over the legal definition of a Jew continued unabated in Israel this weekend. Criticism of the Cabinet action came from a Poale Agudat Israel deputy, Rabbi Kalman Kahane, who asserted that the proposal to give partners of mixed marriages equal rights to Israeli citizenship with Jews would encourage mixed marriages. Rabbi Shlomo Lorincz of the same party agreed. Moshe Sneh, a Communist Party deputy, called the Cabinet action "a blow to democracy." Supporters of the Haolam Hazeh faction staged a minor demonstration Thursday in Tel Aviv where the Cabinet met.

It was learned that Mapam Cabinet members voted against the proposed amendment, as did Moshe Kol of the Independent Liberals and two Liberal Ministers of the Gahal faction, Arye Dulczin and Elimelech Rimait. The Independent Liberal executive decided to vote against the measure in Knesset if it is based on the principles approved by the Cabinet.

Moshe Shapiro, Interior Minister and National Religious Party leader, used the occasion of a report on the Cabinet action to his party's executive to criticize Israel's rabbinate. His complaint was aimed at instructions from Israel's Chief Rabbinate--issued before the Cabinet action--to the Interior Ministry to ignore the Supreme Court ruling in registration procedures.

### National Religious Party Leader Assails Rabbinate

He declared with bitterness that "sometimes it seems" as if the Israeli rabbinate "thinks we live in a remote small township in Europe of many years ago. We have problems and we have a state and the rabbis should consult other people before making decisions." He added that he had asked the Israeli rabbinate to make conversion to Judaism a simpler procedure and not to make "so many difficulties" for those willing to convert to Judaism. Some members of the party executive attacked him for criticizing the rabbinate.

In defending the Cabinet proposal, Minister Shapiro said on the radio that only an "ignoramus" could argue that the Cabinet had acted to overturn the Supreme Court ruling. He declared that the Supreme Court had held only that the instructions of the Interior Ministry on registration of applicants, requiring withholding of registration of an applicant as a Jew if he or she either had a non-Jewish mother or had not been converted to Judaism under Jewish religious law, were not binding in law. The Minister added that the Cabinet had acted to make such instructions law. The rabbinate last week issued an "isur Torah" a virtual religious ban, on anyone signing documents designating as Jewish a person who is not Jewish according to religious law.

### Eilat Ammunition Explosion Claims Its 23rd Victim; Live Mine Caused Disaster

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Eilat ammunition explosion that occurred nine days ago claimed its 23rd victim today. Pvt. Moshe Maimon, 20, of Tel Aviv, died in a hospital of his wounds. An official inquiry by the armed forces determined the disaster resulted from a live mine exploding in a truckload of mines being unloaded at the military jetty in Eilat.

## French Don't Care If Lindsay Snubs Pres. Pompidou; Say Pompidou May Avoid N.Y.

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--French officials are considering whether to shorten President Georges Pompidou's visit to the United States later this month and omit New York City from his itinerary in order to avoid demonstrations by Jewish groups against France's arms sales to Libya, it was reported here today. But other sources in Paris said the French Government was in no way disturbed by the refusal of Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York to extend an official welcome to the French chief of state.

President Pompidou is scheduled to arrive in Washington on Feb. 24 as the guest of President Richard M. Nixon. His itinerary will take him to Cape Kennedy, San Francisco, Chicago and New York where he is due March 2 for one day. In New York he is scheduled to lunch with Secretary General U Thant of the United Nations and will be guest of honor at a dinner party to be given by a French-American organization.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported last week that Mayor Lindsay promised that President Pompidou would not receive the gala official welcome that New York normally extends to visiting foreign dignitaries. The welcome usually includes a ticker-tape parade up Broadway and an official reception at City Hall. The Mayor made his promise in a letter to Rep. Bertram Podell, a New York Democrat who is one of the major Congressional critics of France's Mideastern policies.

According to reports from Paris, the official French attitude is that "If Mr. Lindsay does not want to be courteous, that is his right. This does not affect the American Government and it does not affect us." (The Washington Post reported yesterday that President Pompidou had refused to see Arthur J. Goldberg, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations and honorary president of the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Goldberg was in Paris last week to attend a conference on the plight of Jews in the Arab countries. According to Washington Post correspondent Jonathan C. Randal, he wanted to solicit M. Pompidou's support for humanitarian efforts to help Jews in Syria, Iraq and Libya and other Arab countries.)

## Syrian Ambassador To UN Misquotes JTA Story On Israel-South African Arms Policy

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations quoted the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Friday as "proof" that the Republic of South Africa was sending tanks to Israel. But George Tomeh, in an obvious attempt to link Israel with a nation that is considered an enemy by Black Africa, omitted mentioning that the JTA dispatch he cited was quoting an allegation published in the Soviet Government newspaper Izvestia. The JTA story, datelined London, Jan. 19, reported a charge published in the Jan. 18 edition of Izvestia that the South African Government was organizing the export of tanks to Israel. Izvestia described the tanks as "65 ton giants," indicating that they were Chieftains, a tank that Israel is trying to buy from Britain, so far without success. Mr. Tomeh made his remarks in the course of a debate in the Security Council on the status of Namibia, the diamond rich territory of Southwest Africa that seeks independence. He quoted the JTA as saying that the export of tanks marked a new "stage of their (Israel-South African) cooperation. He failed to say that JTA attributed the quote to Izvestia. He added that on Jan. 21, JTA reported that the Israeli Government had no comment on the alleged tank deal. What JTA actually reported was that Jerusalem had no comment on Izvestia's allegation.

## Arab And Russian Spokesmen Bitter About Nixon's Pledge Of More Weapons To Israel

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Soviet and Arab spokesmen expressed bitter feelings today toward President Richard M. Nixon's assertion Friday that the United States would supply more weapons to Israel "if the need arises." Mr. Nixon said at his press conference that he would announce in 30 days whether, and to what extent, the U.S. will meet Israel's request for additional Phantom jets and other military equipment. A leader of the Soviet Parliament accused him today of being a "war-monger" in the Middle East. The epithet was used by Adib Sharipov, vice chairman of the Council of the Union, one of the two houses of the Soviet Parliament. Mr. Sharipov is in Cairo heading the Soviet delegation that will participate in an International Parliamentary Conference opening there tomorrow.

According to the semi-official Middle East News Agency, he said that unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories "all peace loving forces and world public opinion" would force them out. The first official Arab reaction to Mr. Nixon's press conference remarks came from the Lebanese Foreign Minister, Nassim Majdalani. He called the U.S. attitude "shameful." The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahran accused President Nixon of using France's sale of Mirage jets to Libya as a pretext for giving Israel more Phantoms. The Beirut newspaper Al Hayat said that "Nixon, under continuous Zionist pressure, was looking for an excuse...to meet the demands submitted by (Israel's Premier) Golda Meir for warplanes." The Beirut Daily Star said the Franco-Libyan arms deal was a "ludicrous excuse" to justify providing Israel with more arms.

## Publishing House Announces Temporary Suspension Of Publication Of Mein Kampf

ROME, Feb. 1 (JTA)--A Milanese publishing house has informed the Union of Italian Jewish Communities that it has temporarily suspended publication of an Italian translation of "Mein Kampf," Hitler's auto-biography. The project has come under heavy fire from Jewish quarters and has been protested by the West German Embassy, in behalf of the Bavarian state government which holds the copyright on "Mein Kampf." The firm of Longanesi maintained that the Italian translation was intended solely for historical and scientific research purposes. It claimed that two prominent German-Jewish historians had agreed to write the preface to the Italian edition but both men denied this. Longanesi also noted that an unauthorized Italian translation of "Mein Kampf" was issued by a small neo-Fascist newspaper in Monfalcone several years ago and is still on sale.

## AJCongress Urges Poor Blacks And Poor Jews To Unite To Tackle Crisis Of Cities

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress announced today the establishment of a national Commission on Urban Affairs "to mobilize a new attack on the problem of the cities through the joint efforts of labor leaders, college professors and the working poor among Negroes, Jews and other racial and ethnic groups." Richard Ravitch was named chairman of the Commission. In his statement on the purpose of the new Commission, Mr. Ravitch, president of the New York City Citizens' Housing and Planning Council, declared that "confrontation must be replaced by joint action" if the legal victories in the "fight against discrimination are to be translated into bread-and-butter terms." He emphasized that racial and religious conflict result from the "crisis of the cities," and are not the cause of the crisis.

Mr. Ravitch said that now that the legal battle for equal opportunity has "largely been won," the new emphasis on economic issues will be of concern for Jews as well as blacks and other urban groups. "The Jewish working poor," he stated, "among them many civil servants, taxi drivers and owners of small businesses, are, like the working poor of the other ethnic groups that make up our center cities today, bewildered and bitter." "Their income is too small to provide real comfort and security," he continued. "They are fearful of their jobs and their future. They are frightened by the increase in crime and delinquency that surrounds them. Their schools are deteriorating. Their children's opportunities to enter city colleges seem in jeopardy. And the prospect of an old age on the minimal social security that awaits them is unattractive and frightening." Mr. Ravitch will be joined on the Commission by other leaders in labor, industry, education, law and urban affairs.

## 200 Catholic And Protestant Clerics Urge Release Of Jews From Arab Countries

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Petitions signed by nearly 200 Catholic and Protestant clergymen of the Washington area calling for the release of the Jews still living in Egypt, Syria and Iraq have been presented to the India and Pakistani embassies which represent Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi interests here. Copies of the petitions were also delivered to President Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers, the American Mission to the United Nations and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. The petitions, circulated by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, charged that the Jews remaining in the three Arab countries have been deprived of their civil liberties and are not allowed to emigrate. Many of them have been deprived of their jobs or had their property confiscated or have been imprisoned without trial, the petitions charged. Among the signers of the petitions were Bishop William F. Creighton of the Episcopal Diocese; Bishop John Wesley Lord of the United Methodist Church and Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington.

## Sen. Ribicoff Inaugurates Annual Drive Of The Jewish Theological Seminary

PALM BEACH, Fla. Feb. 1 (JTA)--Connecticut Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff inaugurated today the annual drive of The Jewish Theological Seminary to acquaint the country's Jewish communal leadership with the Seminary's educational needs and expansion problems. The Senator, who is vice-chairman of the Seminary's board of overseers, told the more than 100 nationally prominent laymen meeting here that the Seminary and other institutions of higher learning are currently faced with "the greatest crisis in American academic history" because of the "open rebellion of college youth against established mores and methodologies."

He said that students today were looking for a set of ethical and moral values and "an education infused with these values." Therefore, he continued, "it is a primary responsibility of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America to help the student find the ethical and moral values he seeks." To accomplish this task, he continued, the Seminary must train rabbis, teachers and professors for the campus in addition to those it trains for works in synagogues and communal organizations. "It is necessary that the Jewish Theological Seminary be given the means to disseminate and spread its unique emphasis on the ethical dimension of education," he said.

Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum of New York, President of the Seminary, refuted the notion that college students are "hostile to religion." He said that their increased interest in the secular "is an expression not of hostility to religion but of a deeply felt need to apply religious values and precepts to bring about needed change." Two noted Palm Beach and New York philanthropic leaders, Irving Geist and Benjamin S. Hornstein, were cited at the meeting for their "efforts and leadership in helping to communicate and spread the eternal values of Judaism." Both received the Seminary's Eternal Light medal and citation. The Jewish Theological Seminary of America is the academic and spiritual center of the Conservative branch of Judaism.

## Jewish Defense League Gives Hurok Two Weeks To Cancel Contracts With Soviet Groups

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League has given impresario Sol Hurok two weeks to cancel all contracts with Soviet artistic groups. If contracts are not cancelled, the League threatens to disrupt all performances of the groups. Mr. Hurok is a leading sponsor of Soviet cultural activities in the United States. Steven Rubens, a spokesman for the JDL reportedly told Mr. Hurok that JDL disruptions in the past and possible repetition of them in the future were part "of a total JDL effort to awaken public opinion to the plight of Russian Jewry."

The League has sent a telegram to the Secretary of State William P. Rogers, urging termination of all cultural exchanges with the Soviets. It has also sent one to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, saying that "Soviet oppression of Jews continues despite warnings." Both telegrams warned of future disruptions. The JDL warned "all persons who are thinking of purchasing tickets for performances by Soviet artists to reconsider their decisions...the plight of human beings must take precedence over an individual's desire for musical enjoyment."