

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Knesset Debate On Who Is Jewish Stirs Demonstrations And Opposition By Diverse Groups

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA)--More than 2000 angry youths and adults demonstrated in front of the Knesset building this afternoon as debate opened on a Government-sponsored amendment to the Law of Return that would establish religious criteria as the sole determinant of who is entitled to Jewish nationality. Many of the demonstrators were youthful members of the leftist Hashomer Hatzair kibbutz movement. They were joined by university professors, leaders of the Mapam, Haolam Hazeh and other Knesset factions opposed to the measure and even by members of the Labor Party which is reportedly trying to rush the bill through the Knesset before determined public opposition can build up.

The demonstrators were noisy but generally non-violent. A few who scaled the Knesset fence were tossed back by police. They shouted in unison "Free Country," and sang "We Shall Overcome," the rallying song of the American civil rights movement. Leaflets were distributed calling for the preservation of Israel's secular character and upholding last month's Supreme Court majority decision that an Israeli might be registered as of Jewish nationality without being Jewish by religion.

The measure being debated inside the Knesset was a direct outcome of that decision. The Israeli chief rabbinate and the Orthodox religious parties demanded that it be nullified and that their concept that Jewish nationality and religion are inseparable be written into the law of the land. The amendment bill, drafted by a cabinet committee, complies with the Orthodox demands. The Government is supporting it to avert a threatened cabinet walk-out by the National Religious Party. But some members of the Government opposed to it have asked to be released from coalition discipline in order to vote against the bill in the Knesset. No decision has been made yet on their request. The State List, headed by former Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, has asked for a secret ballot.

### Government's Primary Concern Is To Preserve Coalition Unity In Time Of Crisis

Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro, who introduced the bill, opened debate. His remarks indicated that the government's primary concern was to preserve coalition unity at a time of serious crisis for Israel in its struggle with the Arabs. He recalled that some years ago when the late Minister of Interior Israel Bar Yehudah sought to introduce registration similar to recent Supreme Court ruling, the government fell over the issue. He said that conditions in Israel have not changed since then. He believed that in general, one cannot distinguish between religion and nationality where Jews are concerned.

Rabbi Itzhak Meir Levin, of the Orthodox Agudat Israel, declared that his faction supported the measure insofar as it defined a Jew according to religious tenets but was opposed to the liberal elements it contains. The Orthodox are objecting strenuously to a portion of the amendment that would accord equal rights to the non-Jewish spouses and families of immigrants. Menachem Beigin, a Minister-Without-Portfolio who heads the nationalistic right-wing Herut faction, supported the Orthodox view and tried to prove by legal and historical precedent that Jewish nationhood and religion are one.

The measure before the Knesset is concerned mainly with the technicality of registration but it has far-reaching implications. Those opposed regard it as appeasement of the Orthodox establishment and an erosion of civil rights in Israel that could have a deleterious affect on immigration. One demonstrator outside the Knesset today was a Jewish immigrant from Holland who was wounded and invalidated while serving with the Israel Army. He is not a Jew by Orthodox definition because his mother is Dutch and was not converted according to Orthodox rites. He sat on a hill facing the Knesset carrying a huge Netherlands flag.

Meanwhile, the Karaites, an ancient Jewish sect that is not recognized as Jewish by the Orthodox rabbinate, demanded that the Government add a rider to its amendment that would allow them special registration. The Karaite community, numbering about 10,000, does not accept the halachic (Jewish religious law) rulings of the Israeli rabbinate. Their formal rift with rabbinical Judaism occurred in the eighth century. They have their own spiritual leaders and trace their descent through their fathers while formal Orthodox Judaism regards the religion of the mother as the determinant of who is Jewish.

## King Hassan Of Morocco Declares His Country Will Support The El Fatah

PARIS, Feb. 9 (JTA)--King Hassan II, of Morocco, who was host to U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Rabat yesterday, has placed his country squarely behind El Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization. In an interview published today in the newspaper Le Monde, King Hassan declared that Morocco would "stand by El Fatah and become its spokesman."

He hailed the guerrilla force as an "organization that has succeeded in uniting most if not all of the Palestinian resistance movement." He said Morocco supported El Fatah's aim of a bi-national Palestinian state consisting of all "Palestinian-born" citizens "speaking the same language." According to the King, "no Arab leader will sign peace as long as the Palestinian problem is still pending."

### Four Israeli Soldiers Killed In Egyptian Air Attack On Suez Canal Zone Sector

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Four Israeli soldiers were killed and five soldiers and two Israeli civilians were wounded in an Egyptian air attack on Israeli positions in the central sector of the Suez Canal zone this morning. A second Egyptian air attack on an Israeli position north of Kantara caused no casualties or damage, a spokesman said. Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian military targets in the northern section of the canal zone for 80 minutes this morning and returned safely to their bases.

Israel and Egypt each lost a jet today as air warfare mounted in intensity over the canal zone. Israel conceded that one of its aircraft was shot down in a dogfight that developed over the canal zone as Israeli aircraft attacked Egyptian military targets. The Israeli pilot was seen bailing out and was captured by Egyptian forces. An Israeli spokesman said one Egyptian MIG-21 was downed in the same battle. The "kill" was confirmed by Israeli pilots at a debriefing.

Israel confirmed an Egyptian commando raid into the Sinai yesterday and said one Egyptian soldier was killed and three others, an officer, a sergeant and a corporal were captured. An Army spokesman said the four Egyptians crossed the canal and penetrated into Sinai as far as the Mitleh pass when they were intercepted by an Israeli patrol. Israeli and Jordanian forces clashed today north and south of the Sea of Galilee. Three Israeli patrols were attacked by Arab guerrillas today in the Beisan and Jordan valleys. The fire was returned and no casualties were reported on the Israeli side. A Gaza resident was injured today when a hand grenade thrown at an Israeli military vehicle missed its mark and exploded in the street.

### Three-Day Arab Conference Ends With Vow To Liberate 'Usurped Arab Lands'

LONDON, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Five Arab states which regard themselves as being on the "front line" in the struggle with Israel, ended a three-day war council in Cairo today. The final communique blasted Israel and the United States as the "chief supporter" of Israeli "aggression." It claimed that the Arab nations had both the will and the ability to absorb further Israeli blows and ultimately to "liberate the usurped Arab lands." Observers here said that considering the source, the final communique was "milder" than might have been expected. The conference, which was called to coordinate the military and political strategy of the Arab states against Israel, was hosted by President Gamal Abdel Nasser, of Egypt. Attending were President Nouredin Al-Atassi, of Syria, King Hussein, of Jordan, Vice Premier Salah Mahdi, of Iraq and Maj. Gen. Jaafar El-Numeiry, of Sudan. The Foreign Ministers and Defense Ministers of the five countries also participated.

The communique issued today appeared to be motivated in large measure by bitterness against the United States. The Arabs consider it a virtual certainty that President Richard M. Nixon will supply Israel with the additional Phantom jets, Skyhawks and other weapons Israel has requested. The communique observed that the meeting was held "at a time when the United States is taking a new aggressive position against the Arab nations and its real ties with Israel's plans to escalate the conflict have been uncovered...Israel would not have persisted in its aggression but for constant U.S. support and the weapons and air craft obtained from the U.S.A.," the communique said.

The communique made no reference to accelerated Soviet arms supplies for Egypt. But President Nasser is believed to have assured the conference that Moscow has promised to provide virtually all Arab military needs. The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda accused the United States yesterday of obstructing the Four Power talks on the Mideast. Diplomatic sources here said today that the Soviet Union has decided against sending Russian pilots to bolster Egypt's air force. President Nasser said on an American television interview yesterday that Israel maintained aerial supremacy because of Egypt's lack of trained pilots, not of planes. But Moscow apparently does not want to risk direct involvement in the Middle East combat, the sources here said.

### Prices On Cars and Imported Delicacies Soar; No Decline In Sales Foreseen

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Imported automobiles cost Israelis today as much as four times more than they would have paid yesterday as a result of new sales taxes posted by the Government this morning. The sales taxes, plus increased ownership and license plate fees and defense surcharges are expected to yield about half of the \$35 million additional revenue that the Government says it must have this year. The balance will come from higher levies on local and imported beers, wines, foodstuffs, stoves, cameras, office machinery and a welter of other items.

A Chrysler Valiant, an American compact car, now costs \$11,500 FOB. A European medium size car, such as the French Peugeot, a favorite of the Israel middle class, is priced at just under \$7000. Licenses and other fees have gone up in the amount of \$30 a year for small cars and \$70 for medium-size vehicles. But Israeli Treasury sources said today that they didn't think car sales would fall off. They based their opinion on the fact that there was no appreciable decline in car sales when taxes were raised the last time, less than a year ago.

There were no reports of an immediate slackening of business in shops that specialize in American cigarettes, and such imported delicacies as sausages, caviar, sardines and salmon which have doubled in price overnight because of higher tariffs. Locally made beers, wines and brandies of better than average quality have also gone up in price as a result of the new sales taxes. For the time being however, the prices of television sets, tape recorders and various electrical appliances remain the same following a heavy tax rise on them last year. The Government considers its new taxes essential for revenue purposes and to hold down inflation. It does not expect a consumer revolt. Government sources noted that automobiles and other hard goods affected by the new taxes account for less than one half of one percent of Israel's cost of living index.

### Rep. Bingham Urges Administration To Refrain From Imposing Mideast Settlement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Rep. Jonathan Bingham, a New York Democrat, introduced a resolution in the House today calling on the Nixon Administration to withdraw specific proposals for a Middle East settlement made last fall and to refrain in the future "from attempting to impose a settlement in the Middle East or to bring pressure on the parties to accept any particular set of proposals." The resolution was co-sponsored by 18 other House members of both parties. It asked the Administration to "re-affirm the previous policy of insisting on negotiations between the parties as the only long term solution and to supply Israel with necessary military assistance." Mr. Bingham said his resolution was consistent with other declarations before the House but went further.

### Rogers Tells Morocco Officials U.S. Policy In The Middle East Is One Of Peace

LONDON, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers left Morocco today for Tunisia, the second country on the itinerary of his 10-nation African tour. He told his hosts in Rabat that United States policy in the Middle East was not prejudiced in any direction except toward peace. He re-affirmed American policies embodied in his Dec. 9, 1969 speech. Mr. Rogers received a welcome described as "correct" but "cool" when he arrived at Rabat airport with Mrs. Rogers yesterday. In response to the official greeting by Foreign Minister Abdelhadi Boutaleb, the Secretary of State said there had been "some misunderstanding" about American policy in the Middle East. He did not specify its nature.

Before leaving the country, Mr. Rogers had an official luncheon with King Hassan and a conference with Mr. Boutaleb. He signed a U.S.-Moroccan air transport agreement. No details were given of his talks with Moroccan leaders. But it is believed Mr. Rogers took pains to explain that his Dec. 9 speech which called for peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt and Israel and Jordan, was intended as a guideline and not as a solution to be dictated to the conflicting parties. The Arabs objected to the peace aspects of that speech. The Israelis were aroused by Mr. Rogers call for their withdrawal from virtually all the occupied Arab territories and viewed his speech as an indication of an "erosion" of American support of Israel.

### Foreign Students In Israel To Demonstrate On Behalf Of Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA)--American and other foreign students at Israeli universities will observe Lincoln's Birthday by demonstrating on behalf of freedom for Soviet Jewry. Representatives of various foreign student organizations said the demonstrations were intended mainly to arouse public opinion in America to the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union. A delegation will call on the American Embassy here. The students said they would demonstrate at the same time against France's arms embargo against Israel and its sale of weapons to Libya and other Arab states.

### Trudeau Lauds Israel As An Inspiration To Jews And Condemns Anti-Semitism

MONTREAL, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau last night told Quebec Province's Jewish minority to insist on its rights in the society it helped to build, condemned anti-Semitism, and lauded Israel as an inspiration to Jews all over the world. Mr. Trudeau made these remarks at a meeting of more than 1,500 members of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League where he was presented with the organization's 1970 Family of Man Award. Mr. Trudeau said, "Being a member of a minority in these circumstances can be a cause for apprehension. I know that many members of the Jewish community share this feeling and have doubts about the future in Quebec." The Prime Minister, who is French, told the audience, "if I can speak as a member of one minority to another I say stick with it, with all your energies and abilities." He noted that prejudice and anti-Semitism exists in the province. A bill has been introduced in the Parliament that would make dissemination of hate literature a criminal offense, he said. "The people of Canada condemn any defamation based on race or religion," Mr. Trudeau stated. Focusing on Israel, the Prime Minister said that "the new roots that Jewry has established there in present times continues to inspire and unite Jews in the diaspora, and Jews throughout the world have come to regard Israel as a spiritual home."

### Jewish Nominees For Mayor And Deputy Mayor Of Johannesburg Certain Of Election

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 9 (JTA)--The United Party Caucus in the City Council has nominated Councillor Sam Moss, present Deputy Mayor, and Councillor Alf Widman, MPC, respectively as next mayor and deputy mayor of the city. Both Mr. Moss and Mr. Widman are well known members of the Jewish community and are active Jewish communal workers. Both have served on the City Council for several years. Since the United Party has a heavy majority in the Council, both men are assured of election when the term of office of the present mayor ends in March.

### ORT Begins Its 90th Birthday With Budget Of \$19 Million, Largest In Its History

GENEVA, Feb. 9 (JTA)--ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation through Vocational Training, began its 90th year today with a budget of \$19 million, the largest in its history according to ORT's director general Max A. Braude. V. Halperin, director of student enrollment, said at a meeting of the ORT executive committee that student rolls increased from 50,000 to 57,000 during the past year, with the growth mainly in Israel, Argentina, Iran and France. Daniel Mayer, chairman of the executive committee, said that the organization would hold an anniversary congress in Geneva next Nov. 15-18.

### Dr. Robert Gordis Appointed Editor Of 'Judaism'

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Dr. Robert Gordis, an author and teacher in the field of Jewish affairs has been appointed editor of Judaism, a quarterly of Jewish religious life and thought published by the American Jewish Congress. Announcement of his appointment was made jointly by Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, president of the AJCongress, and Rabbi David Wolf Silverman, director of special education at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

### El Al Ends Association With Tours That Feature Passion Play In Itinerary

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 (JTA)--El Al Israel airlines, has terminated its association with tours that feature the Oberammergau, Germany, Passion Play in their itinerary. The decision was made after the play's anti-Semitic content was stressed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in a protest to El Al for its involvement. In a letter to Arnold Forster, General Counsel of the League, Mordechai Ben Ari, President of El Al, said he was "deeply grateful," to the agency "for bringing this matter to our attention." El Al, he declared, regretted its "unwitting and implied support of the Oberammergau Passion Play." The airline had cooperated with Orient tours of London, in an extension tour to Israel offered to Christian tourists attending the Passion Play. Mr. Ben Ari said that El Al's association with a tour folder on "Oberammergau and the Holy Land" resulted from "the standard partnership between tour operators and commercial airlines." Mr. Forster said that the script of the Oberammergau play, which is used by some groups in this country too, maintains that the Jews as a people are guilty of deicide.

### Jews And Christians Urged To Participate In A Fast To Protest Vietnam War

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Eleven religious leaders have called upon Christians and Jews to organize a continuous fast and vigil in front of the White House beginning Ash Wednesday Feb. 11 through Passover and continuing until April 27 in protest over the war in Vietnam. They have also called for a "Freedom Seder" near the end of Passover in which Jews and Christians will participate. A statement, signed by the eleven religious leaders including Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld of Fairmont Temple in Cleveland, and Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Director of Interfaith Activities of the United American Hebrew Congregations, declared that "in our situation, with the Vietnam war both a domestic threat and an international crisis, Lent and Passover, 1970, is a special time." Dealing with the fast, the statement added: "We fast because we feel there is a moral imperative at this time to do. We fast because we must... We believe that in fasting during this season we will be able to identify, at least in some measure, with those who suffer in Vietnam... We fast, then, as Rabbi Abraham Heschel (professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary) put it, 'because in a democratic society, while some may be guilty, all are responsible'." The fast is sponsored by CALCAV, an inter-religious anti-war group whose co-chairmen includes Rabbi Heschel, and FOR, an interfaith group whose national program director is Allan Brick.

### Adlai Stevenson III Says U.S. Must Give Israel Military And Economic Aid

CHICAGO, Feb. 9 (JTA)--United States Senate candidate Adlai E. Stevenson III told a meeting here of B'nai B'rith that America must recognize and respond to Israel's needs for military and economic aid. He also rejected "any attempt to dictate the terms of a settlement... which would weaken Israel's hand in future negotiations." Without naming Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Mr. Stevenson declared that "it is regrettable that recent statements have created a widespread impression that Israel should withdraw to indefensible boundaries." Mr. Roger's December 9, 1969 statement offered this approach as a solution to the Middle East crisis. Mr. Stevenson added that "history will not deal kindly with a world which did not permit this small, free and brave nation to prosper and live in peace. In America we have known this. America has been, and must remain, the great ally of Israel."

### Jewish Group Asks For Halt To Gravediggers' Strike; Calls For Labor-Management Talks

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 (JTA)--The "Emergency Committee for Jewish Burial" called on Management and Labor, involved in the city's gravediggers strike to return immediately to the bargaining table. "It is appalling," said Rabbi Samuel Schrage, committee chairman, "that as the strike enters the 4th week, the parties are completely stalemated and no talks are scheduled." The Emergency Committee which won a Court Order from Supreme Court Justice Harold Baer on January 16th, allowing for private citizens to dig graves for the purpose of burying Orthodox Jews, required by religious law to be buried within 24 hours from death, reports that 109 such burials took place. However, the freezing weather, is causing undue hardship on non-professional diggers who must use conventional tools to open the ice-packed grounds. The Committee reported that bodies by the hundreds are being stored in cemetery warehouses "like excess baggage," and that in addition to storing bodies in warehouses, cemeteries are placing sealed coffins on the cemetery grounds, covering them with canvas or a makeshift tent.

### Program Launched To Implement Vatican Views On Catholic-Jewish Relations

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 9 (JTA)--An intensive twelve-week program implementing recent Vatican pronouncements striving for more meaningful Catholic-Jewish relations has been announced by the Office of the Superintendent of Schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Missouri Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The program, consisting of two series of seminars on "The Image of the Jews" was developed with the encouragement of Archbishop Joseph Cardinal Carberry, who, through last December, served as Chairman of the Commission on Ecumenism of the United States Catholic Conference. The seminars are scheduled to begin Feb. 10 and continue through May 6. The primary resource for the teacher-training program consists of twelve films produced by the Anti-Defamation League in cooperation with the Archdiocese of New York. The first seminars will be devoted to "The Jews and Their Religion." The second series of seminars concerns "The Image of the Jew in Literature."

### B'nai B'rith Boys' Group Condemns French Sale Of Jet Planes To Libya

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (JTA)--"The grave consequences of French pro-Arab intervention in the Middle East" was cited in a resolution addressed to French President Georges Pompidou, who is scheduled to visit the U.S. later this month, by members of the international executive board of Aleph Zadik Aleph, boys' component of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. It deplored reported plans for shipment of some 110 jet planes to Libya.