

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel Planes Attack Egyptian Positions; Two Israeli Soldiers Wounded By Grenade

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian defense positions behind the Suez Canal front today. A military spokesman said the aircraft penetrated to a depth of about 20 miles from the waterway in one sector. He said all planes returned safely to their bases. Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in Gaza today when a grenade was thrown at an Army patrol vehicle. An Israeli soldier died of wounds suffered when two Egyptian MIG-17s attacked Israeli positions in the southern section of the canal zone yesterday. He was identified as Pvt. Uriel Yishai, 23, of Kibbutz Nachshon. Pvt. Benjamin Rash, 19, of Haifa, died today of injuries he sustained when an Army vehicle hit a mine in the Hatzeva area south of the Dead Sea yesterday.

A military spokesman denied Egyptian allegations that Israeli bombers attacked civilian targets in Port Suez. He said the targets were purely military. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan admitted in reply to questions in the Knesset today that Israeli bombers used napalm in raids on Egypt "when circumstances so require." But he denied that napalm was used in last month's raid on a civilian metal factory at Abu Zabal, an attack which Israelis have said was made in error. Gen. Dayan said the burns suffered by some of the victims of the Abu Zabal bombing may have been caused by molten metal.

## Mrs. Meir Says Israel Government Will Not Offer Arabs Peace Proposals Now

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir made it clear today that her government has no intention of making peace proposals to the Arabs at this time because "there is no one to whom any proposals can be conveyed." She said the Israeli Cabinet has dropped for the time being the discussion of plans proposed by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Deputy Premier Yigal Allon on the future of the occupied territories. These are proposals that can come up for consideration only when peace is in sight, Mrs. Meir told journalists at a press luncheon here. She blamed foreign correspondents for "much of the confusion reigning abroad regarding Israel's intentions." She said some of them raise conjectures that one plan or another must be ruled out as long as the Israeli government is composed as it is. Mrs. Meir said that if peace appeared to be imminent and serious differences arose within the government, then new elections for a new parliament and new government were possible in a democratic country such as Israel.

Mrs. Meir repeated her contention that there is no such thing as a Palestinian nation. "Before 1948 we were all Palestinians, both Jews and Arabs, and I have my old passport to prove it," she said. She claimed that "if those who call themselves Palestinians today want a state of their own, they could re-name Jordan because more than half of the Jordanian population today originally lived West of the Jordan River." She said that Jordan and Palestine constituted a single country when Palestinian boundaries were drawn after World War I.

Mrs. Meir said Israel favored international measures to assure the safety of civil aviation from terrorist attacks, but the rules must apply to Israel as well as other countries. She said the international community was shocked by the Swissair disaster and Israel is waiting to see if effective measures will be taken. She said Israel would not announce in advance when it considers the time for international action has run out and what action it will take should that time come.

## French Trade Union Leader Asserts Opposition To France's Mideast Policy

PARIS, March 4 (JTA)--Andre Bergeron, secretary general of the Confederation du Travail - Force Ouvriere, one of the three French labor federations, expressed disagreement yesterday with the government's policy in the Middle East. In a telegram to the Jewish Labor Committee in the United States, M. Bergeron stated: "It is not necessary for me to inform you that like millions of Frenchmen--as confirmed by recent polls--I do not approve of French government policy in the dramatic Middle East conflict. Recently, at the Histadrut congress in Tel Aviv, I declared the Force Ouvriere cherishes the friendship that binds us to the workers of Israel, to that great trade union organization, and how opposed we are to steps that will aggravate the dangerous tension in the Middle East, which are prejudicial to the only democratic country in that region of the world." French Middle East policy will again come before the national committee of Force Ouvriere when it meets in April.

## West German Official Says He Will Take Strong Measures Against Air Terrorism

BONN, March 4 (JTA)--West Germany's Minister of Interior said in a published interview today that he would take "strong and energetic" measures to combat Arab terrorist acts against civilian airliners and their passengers. Hans Dietrich Genscher also said in the interview published by Die Welt, that he considered the Arab governments co-responsible for harboring terrorist organizations. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said later that the great majority of Arabs living in the Federal Republic were not responsible for terrorist acts and a distinction should be made.

## Eban Says Russia Is Main Enemy Of Mideast Peace; Warns Of Mounting Attacks On Jews

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban called the Soviet Union "the main obstacle to peace" in the Middle East today and said that Moscow was aiming a "double-barreled attack" against the Jews. He said the attack consisted of military and political support for Israel's enemies and suppression of Soviet Jewry. Mr. Eban addressed the Knesset on his return from a recent visit to four West European countries and Britain. He called the Soviet Union the "prime mover" behind the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and said it was once again inciting the Arabs--notably Egypt and Syria--to aggression.

Mr. Eban said the Soviet Union vetoed Four Power action to restore the cease-fire and encouraged Arab terrorist organizations by characterizing them as "liberation movements." At the same time, he said, Israel is being compared to the self-same Nazis at whose hands Jews suffered more than any other people. Mr. Eban met with United States Ambassador Walworth Barbour last night. According to reliable reports he expressed Israel's alarm over increasing terrorist activities from across the Lebanese border. He reportedly told Mr. Barbour that Israel considers the situation serious. Government sources said today that no reply has been received from the United States so far on Israel's request to purchase additional Phantom and Skyhawk jets.

## Tekoah Charges Lebanon With 24 Recent Cease-Fire Violations; Meets With U Thant

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 4 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoah, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, today accused Lebanon of two dozen recent cease-fire violations and the U.N. itself of failing to "deal equitably" with the violations. In a letter to Security Council president Dr. Joaquin Vallejo Arbelaez of Columbia, Mr. Tekoah itemized Lebanese "acts of aggression" that he said had occurred since his earlier plea to the Council last month. He stated that a Feb. 26 sabotage attempt, when "several raiders who had penetrated from Lebanese territory implanted explosive charges under one of the houses in the village of Kerem Ben Zimra," had been foiled by Israelis who "intercepted and hurled back" the explosives.

Ambassador Tekoah also met with UN Secretary General U Thant late this afternoon to discuss the problem of increasing terrorist actions against Israel from across Lebanon's borders. In his letter to Dr. Arbelaez, Mr. Tekoah called "false and frivolous a Lebanese claim that Israel had kidnapped four Lebanese shepherds, stating that they were armed and had been returned Monday and yesterday after questioning. "It is evident," Mr. Tekoah charged, "that the Lebanese government has taken no steps to prevent (the terrorism)," which has "created an intolerable situation for the Israeli population along the Lebanese frontier." He noted the recent Lebanese-terrorist pact allowing "the use of Lebanese soil as a base of aggression." The Security Council's lack of action, he concluded, "does not absolve Lebanon" from its "belligerent policy."

## Arkia, Israel's Domestic Airline, Resumes Mail Flights After Three Day Suspension

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--Arkia, Israel's domestic airline, resumed mail flights to Eilat yesterday after suspending them Sunday for security reasons. Israeli postal authorities announced that all but the smallest air mail parcels would be subject to inspection and that the senders would have to identify themselves at the post office. Arkia's move, which surprised many Israelis, was believed to have been taken on the recommendation of security officials that mail flights be suspended until security measures could be improved. (Swiss police said yesterday that a Japanese-made altimeter similar to one that may have detonated a bomb in the Israel-bound Austrian airliner Feb. 21 was discovered in the wreckage of the Swissair jet that exploded the same day killing all 47 persons aboard. The discovery was seen as a further link between the two acts of sabotage for which Arab terrorists are held responsible. The altimeter reportedly set off the bomb when the plane reached a certain altitude.)

## Pilots Group To Propose Ban On Service To 'Sub-Standard' Mideast Airfields

LONDON, March 4 (JTA)--A ban on all services to Middle East airfields "considered operationally sub-standard" will be proposed by a delegation representing the British Airline Pilots Association at the forthcoming conference of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) to be held here March 11-18. A resolution empowering its delegation to make the proposal was adopted by the BALPA central board today. A spokesman for the pilots' group told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resolution did not specify any Middle Eastern airfields because that was a matter for experts to determine. He said BALPA would have six delegates at the IFALPA conference out of a total of 200 and it would therefore depend on others whether or not to impose a flight ban on the Mideast. The Australian Airline Pilots Association said in Melbourne that it would be guided by the IFALPA conference on banning flights to the Mideast.

## Rabbi Urges U.S. Tourists Not To Permit Terrorism To Keep Them From Visiting Israel

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--An American Reform rabbi urged American tourists not to permit Arab terrorists to frighten them into cancelling their plans to visit Israel. Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, of Boston, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, said that was one of the prime aims of the terrorist campaign aimed at Israeli and other airlines serving Israel. Rabbi Gittelsohn spoke at a press conference on the eve of the Reform rabbinical organization's 81st annual convention which opened in Jerusalem today. He said that all Americans who "love democracy and peace, feel morally obliged not to yield to Arab pressure and to continue their plans to visit Israel and support it in every possible way." The CCAR also called on all governments and airlines to apply sanctions against nations that refuse to curb Arab terrorists. Rabbi Gittelsohn said however, that "it is unnecessary and immoral to apply such sanctions to Israel. Israelis do not blow up planes or attack civilian passengers."

## Pompidou's Visit Leaves Bitter Aftertaste; AJCongress Assails Pompidou's Chicago Remarks

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--The American visit of French President Georges Pompidou has left a bitter aftermath. The consensus is that the massive demonstrations against France's Mideast policies that confronted him in Chicago, New York and other cities may have been justified and within America's democratic tradition. But few neutral observers believed that they achieved anything beyond marring the atmosphere of his trip. France's attitude on the controversial sale of 110 Mirage jets to Libya and its embargo which withholds 50 Mirages bought and paid for by Israel, is unchanged. Told by reporters of complaints by Jewish leaders that France reneged on its Mirage deal with Israel, M. Pompidou replied, "If you meet them, you can tell them I am ready to pay them back tomorrow." He referred to the \$56 million Israel paid to the Dassault aircraft manufacturers. The Israelis have not asked for a refund and apparently hope that the planes eventually will be delivered.

Pres. Pompidou was criticized today by the president of the American Jewish Congress for telling Jewish groups during his visit to the United States that Israel must cease being "a racial and religious state" and become "a state in the geographical sense like all other states." Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld charged that President Pompidou's statement "betrays a dangerous misunderstanding of the role of Israel in Jewish history and in the minds and hearts of the Jewish people."

M. Pompidou was also quoted by Jean Belaird, his spokesman, as having cautioned Israel to stop using its racial and religious ties abroad to further its policies. Rabbi Lelyveld said that "in expressing this view, President Pompidou has challenged the very basis of the Jewish State. Israel was created not merely as a state like any other but rather as the modern expression of the Promised Land--a state in which people of all races and religions may live in peace and dignity."

At a press conference yesterday before returning to Paris, President Pompidou defended his government's sale of jets to Libya and also explained why he abruptly cancelled an appointment he had with a delegation of American Jewish leaders in New York Monday. He noted that he had already met with Jewish leaders in San Francisco and Chicago and "there comes a time when such meetings are unnecessary and even detrimental." He said that the Jewish leaders were "moderates" but some of their following seemed "differently inclined." He said he meant no "insult" when he cancelled his meeting. Asked about the attitude of French Jews toward his government's Mideast policy, the President said, "Their hearts beat for Israel but their hearts are French." He added, "People can say what they like and do what they like, but I am not an anti-Semite." "Do you believe Israel has a right to exist?" he was asked. He replied, "That state has a right to exist absolutely and that right must be recognized just as that state must recognize the rights of others."

## French Jewish Students Warn There May Be A Resurgence Of Anti-Semitism

PARIS, March 4 (JTA)--The controversy over France's Middle East policies, inflamed by the protest demonstrations that greeted President Georges Pompidou on his American visit, has aroused widespread fears here of a recrudescence of anti-Semitism. Radio Luxembourg, a privately owned station, devoted its evening newscast to the subject today. The French Jewish Students Federation issued a statement warning that "declarations implying that Jews are agents of foreign powers can easily create a renaissance of anti-Semitism." The statement referred to remarks attributed to M. Pompidou that Israel was using its racial and religious ties abroad to further its policies. Jewish and non-Jewish groups are examining the situation. French Jewish organizations plan to hold an extraordinary joint meeting next week to discuss the possible consequences.

## Soviet Official Says Government Rejects Terrorism Aimed At Destruction Of Israel

LONDON, March 4 (JTA)--A Soviet Government spokesman said today that his country rejects the Arab guerrilla program for the destruction of the State of Israel but supports the guerrilla efforts to liberate occupied territory. Leonid I. Zamyatin, chief spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told newsmen at a press conference, "Our policy on Israel is clear. We are for the continued existence of Israel in peaceful coexistence with its neighbors." That affirmation came in the midst of an unprecedented anti-Israel, anti-Zionist campaign in the Soviet Union which has solicited statements condemning Israel from Soviet Jews. Mr. Zamyatin made his remarks in the presence of Deputy Premier Benyamin Dymshits, the highest Jewish office holder in the USSR. Mr. Dymshits was one of 51 prominent Soviet Jews who signed a declaration denouncing Israel, Zionism and "those behind the American imperialists."

Mr. Zamyatin said the Soviet Government considered "as just the Palestinian movement to free the Israeli-occupied lands." But he did not elaborate when asked about a statement by El Fatah chief Yasser Arafat who said, after a visit to Moscow, that the Soviet Union would aid his movement. He also denied reports that President Gamal Abdel Nasser had urgently requested the new MIG-23 jet fighter bomber from Russia. "He did not ask us for the MIG-23 so we need not discuss it," he told one reporter. At one point in the press conference, a Soviet General, M.A. Millistein interrupted to say, "We shall give the Arabs whatever is necessary."

Mr. Zamyatin also said the Soviet Union favored resumption of the peace mission of United Nations special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. He also said that President Richard M. Nixon's recent foreign policy message to Congress did not properly describe the Soviet position in the Mideast. Discussing Arab terrorist attacks on civilian aircraft he said, "The Soviet Union opposes terrorism generally, including terrorism against aircraft. But the explosion of the Swissair aircraft, although responsibility was denied by the Arabs, occurred when world public opinion was horrified by the Israeli bombing of Abu Zabaal and was used by Israeli propaganda to divert attention."

## Pres. Nixon Reaffirms Support For Senate Ratification Of The Genocide Treaty

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA)--President Nixon reaffirmed his support of Senate ratification of the Genocide Treaty today in a message to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Human Rights and Genocide Treaties which is holding a two day meeting in Washington. In a letter to Herschel Halbert, chairman of the Committee, Nixon said: "Your meeting comes at an important time, and serves to remind all Americans that the ratification of the Genocide Convention at this time is in their national interest." President Nixon sent a message to the Senate two weeks ago asking for ratification.

Nixon told the Ad Hoc Committee: "The United States should stand second to no other country in its dedication to safeguarding human rights and basic freedoms, both at home and throughout the world. The informed, active support of your committee for a direction which this government is determined to take is encouraging and reassuring." The 150 Committee members representing 53 organizations will meet this afternoon with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and urge ratification of the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" which has been languishing in the Senate committee since June, 1948.

## Hebrew Day Schools And Affiliated PTA's Urged To Reach Alienated Youth

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--Declaring that some students today in the United States have given up on society and "have gone within themselves to become part of a self-centered drug culture," Dr. Seymour P. Lachman, a member of the New York City Board of Education, has called upon the Hebrew Day School movement and its affiliated PTA groups to "reach out to our young people - both those who attend Hebrew Day Schools as well as those who attend public schools; both those we feel are in unison with us as well as those who might have strayed and are temporarily lost." Speaking at the 20th annual Convention of the National Association of Hebrew Day School PTAs which was held in New York City, Dr. Lachman told Day School and PTA leaders to hear out these young people and not only to preach. "We must act with commitment and not despairingly. We must set an example of an eternal and vibrant tradition - of an active and socially conscious Judaism."

## Comedian Alar. King Would Make Pres. Pompidou An 'Honorary' Jew

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--Comedian Alan King, appearing on NBC-TV's "Tonight Show" Tuesday night, said he could understand why, for political reasons, Pres. Georges Pompidou of France, Pres. Richard M. Nixon, New York State Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay acted the way they did during the recent Pompidou visit. "But," said King, "I'm not Pompidou, I'm not Nixon, I'm not Rockefeller and I'm not Lindsay. So I did what I had to do as an American Jew--I picketed the Waldorf," (Monday evening). King, who produced Peter Weiss's "The Investigation," dealing with the Nazi concentration camp trials, on Broadway a couple of seasons back, and is active in pro-Israel activities, said he would have made Pres. Pompidou "an honorary Jew, which would have entitled him to 2,000 years of retroactive persecution." "Tonight" host Johnny Carson suggested M. Pompidou should have returned to France via El Al.

## Gov. Rockefeller Supporting Blaine Amendment Repeal; State Aid May Total \$15-20 Million

ALBANY, N.Y., March 4 (JTA)--Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller forecast yesterday that the State Legislature would earmark funds for private religious school aid this year. Although he did not name a specific sum, it reportedly would be some \$15-20,000,000 for the fiscal year beginning April 1. Gov. Rockefeller has spoken out for repeal of the Blaine Amendment which prohibits parochial school aid, in order to expand state contributions. But he said yesterday he would not endorse sectarian subsidies that violated the constitution or jumped the gun on a study under way by the Commission on the Quality, Cost and Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education. Most Jewish organizations have bitterly assailed the move to repeal the Blaine Amendment while Orthodox Jewish groups have welcomed the repeal moves. The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) has predicted that the repeal of the amendment would cost taxpayers billions of dollars a year in support of religious schools.

Meanwhile, in Annapolis, Md., state superintendent of schools James A. Sensenbaugh said a proposed \$12,000,000 grant to private schools next year was "fraught with dangers" and should be defeated. He stated that of some 135 private schools established in Maryland since the Supreme Court's 1954 desegregation ruling, "a number" were opened in deliberate avoidance of integration. Approval of the grant, he charged, would encourage additional avoidance. Those backing the grant, mainly Catholic and orthodox Jewish schools, denied Sensenbaugh's allegations and said that without the grant they would be subject to "chaos" resulting from an exodus of 100,000 of their 140,000 students to public schools. The state general assembly began hearings on the issue yesterday. Gov. Marvin Mandel, is awaiting a commission report before taking a position, but the report is not expected until after the November elections and the legislature ends its session March 31.

## Israel To Share In \$1,250 Million Worth Of Technical Assistance This Year

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 4 (JTA)--Israel and 51 other countries have been chosen by the board of governors of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency to share in \$1,250,000 worth of technical assistance this year, according to a report released at the UN. Israel will be sent an expert in the use of radio-isotopes in agriculture, plus equipment to help implement a research project concerning induced mutations in citrus and other mutation research and an expert in nuclear metallurgy, with equipment, to aid in studying radiation effects in solids at the Soreq Nuclear Research Centre. Egypt will be getting help in uranium mining, the building of an electron reactor for use in nuclear science training, an expert in nuclear instrumentation, and equipment. Other countries on the list of recipients include Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and Syria.