

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Jewish Businessmen In Amiens Accused Of 'Kidnapping'; New 'Orleans Affair' Seen

PARIS, March 8 (JTA)--A new "Orleans Affair" has erupted in the small French provincial city of Amiens. Jewish store owners and businessmen are being accused of "kidnapping" and other "immoral acts" in a campaign of rumor that has spread through the town by word of mouth. The Amiens affair broke out several days ago in the same mysterious manner in which a similar situation developed in Orleans last year. The rumors seem to have started in a girls' high school and to have spread from there throughout the city. Hardest hit victims have been the women's clothing stores, some of which are now standing practically empty.

Local Jewish businessmen have also reported receiving threatening telephone calls warning them of "reprisals" should they fail to return the Christian girls they were accused of kidnapping. One local merchant, Mme. Jeanne Dubois, who although not Jewish has been victimized by the slanderous rumors, filed a complaint with the police and the district prosecutor's office charging "malicious calumny." She demanded a thorough investigation to discover the source of the rumors. A number of Jewish organizations also plan to investigate the new incidents. When a similar situation broke out in Orleans last year, it resulted in a countrywide uproar and Government as well as local action to bring the situation under control.

## Allon Asserts Lebanon Must Take Effective Measures To Curb Terrorist Activities

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon responded last night to urgings from abroad for restraint in dealing with the Lebanese guerrilla situation by affirming that Israel could not jeopardize its security despite the relations between Lebanon and the United States and France. He said in a radio interview that the Lebanese authorities had to take effective measures to curb terrorist activities from bases on Lebanese territory. He expressed confidence that the world, and especially Israel's friends, would understand that Israel could not remain inactive when her security was threatened.

The deputy premier said that the Israeli strike against the Lebanese village of Aita es Shab early Saturday should be taken as a warning by the Lebanese Government that Israel's warnings were not idle words. Gen. Allon referred to the attack by a small infantry unit on the village 24 hours after an Israeli soldier had been killed in an ambush and three others wounded near Shetula, directly opposite Aita es Shab. The raiding party warned the villagers not to resist and to remain in their homes. Five buildings which had been used by the terrorists were blown up. An Arab sniper who opened fire on the Israelis was killed. The suspected terrorists were taken prisoner and brought back to Israel for interrogation.

## Israeli Soldier Injured By Mine; Five Arab Terrorists Killed In Weekend Fighting

An Israeli soldier was injured Sunday morning when an anti-vehicle mine was detonated under an Israeli Army car near Shomrat in the Upper Galilee near the Lebanese border. Earlier in the day, a water culvert in the same area was damaged by explosives. Five Arab terrorists were killed Saturday when they crossed the frontier from Lebanon on a sabotage mission and were intercepted near Zarit by an Israeli Army patrol. The khaki-clad guerrillas, wearing commando-style rubber boots, carried four Russian-made Katyusha automatic assault rifles and a bazooka. A heating up of terrorist activities along the Jordan River resulted in a series of clashes between Israeli patrols and the terrorists. The settlement of Maoz Chaim in the Beisan Valley came under fire from Jordanian territory Friday and its residents took to the airraid shelter last night when the terrorists opened up a mortar attack on the settlement. It was the first time the settlers had gone to the shelters in two months. There was no damage and Israeli patrols returned the fire.

Israeli patrols came under attack yesterday near Maoz Chaim and Tiryat Zvi and an Israeli position in the Golan Heights was subjected to mortar and bazooka fire. No casualties were reported. On the Suez Canal front, Israel claimed the downing of two MIG-21 interceptors in a dogfight over Dumiat Friday when the Egyptians sought to intercept an Israeli air reconnaissance mission. Both of the Egyptian fighters were shot down by cannon fire from the Israeli planes, all of which returned safely. Persistent mortar and artillery exchanges were recorded along the Suez Canal sector all through the weekend. Six Israeli soldiers were wounded.

## Israel Communist Party Condemns Soviet Anti-Israel Campaign

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--The Israel Communist Party headed by Dr. Moshe Sneh condemned the Soviet anti-Israel campaign which reached new heights this past weekend and charged that the campaign was directed against the entire Jewish people. The Israeli Communist denunciation was one of several made here this weekend as Israel's political parties met to discuss the situation developing in the Soviet Union and the Soviet tactic of compelling Russian Jews to make public statements against their kin and Israel.

## Reform Rabbis Reject Joint Israeli-Jordanian Rule Over Jerusalem; Vow To Fight It

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--Delegates to the 81st annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis were pledged today "not to be silent" if plans for joint Israeli-Jordanian rule over Jerusalem were to be considered part of proposals for peace to be negotiated between Israel and Jordan. Proposals for a joint administration, details of which were not spelled out, were included in proposals for an Israeli-Jordanian settlement which Secretary of State William P. Rogers submitted to the Soviet Union last year. The 400 Reform rabbis attending the convention here began their deliberations Friday afternoon in the Mt. Scopus amphitheatre. Most of them donned skullcaps for the opening prayer.

At sessions today, the Reform rabbis pledged also to carry out an educational campaign among Christians to explain the Jewish commitment to Israel with special emphasis on the land, the faith and the people. A speaker at today's session charged that mounting Christian political criticism of Israel stemmed from traditional anti-Semitic roots as well as economic ties in the Arab states. In his opening speech, CCAR president Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn told the Reform rabbis that all sectors of Jewry should end their useless search for and endless debate on "who is a Jew?" and get down to the essential task of defining "what is a religious Jew?"

Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who addressed the convention today, said that the question "who is a Jew?" had no real meaning today. He said the question was not how one described oneself but what one did. He declined however to be drawn into more specific definitions which might have brought him into controversy with either Orthodox Jewry or his Reform hosts. The noted Kabbala scholar and philosopher, Prof. Gershom Sholem, argued that the definition of who was a Jew changed with time and no rule laid down could be taken to be valid forever. Prof. Efraim Urbach, the Talmud scholar, generally took the Orthodox position on the issue but expressed the hope that the fact that the Reform rabbis were holding their convention in Jerusalem might lead to the beginning of a dialogue among the different branches in Judaism.

## Mrs. Meir Announces Ministry Of Information Will Remain With Foreign Ministry

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA)--Prime Minister Golda Meir announced to the Cabinet today that the plan for a Ministry of Information to be in charge of Israeli information abroad had been dropped and that that service would remain within the province of the Foreign Ministry. The decision was regarded as a victory for Foreign Minister Abba Eban who had strenuously opposed transfer of the responsibility for information overseas from his ministry. Mrs. Meir had announced last year after formation of the present Cabinet that she favored a comprehensive Ministry of Information and Israel Galili, Minister without Portfolio, had been regarded as the main candidate to head that ministry. Mr. Eban's arguments that political information abroad could not be separated from diplomatic activity, however, apparently carried the day.

The prime minister said that she hoped to be able to inform the Cabinet within the week who would have parliamentary responsibility for information in Israel and for the Broadcasting Authority. Mr. Galili had been charged with this in the previous Cabinet but he announced earlier this year that he would not resume these responsibilities if information abroad was not made one of his functions. For the time being, Mrs. Meir herself is answerable in the Knesset for the information services and the radio and television authority. The Cabinet voted today not to contest the Supreme Court writ issued last November ordering the Prime Minister to desist from interference with Friday night television. The two members of the National Religious Party in the Cabinet and Minister without Portfolio Menachem Beigin of the Gahal voted against the decision.

## Arafat Says There Will Be No Mideast Peace Until Zionism Is Overthrown

LONDON, March 8 (JTA)--Yasser Arafat, leader of the El Fatah, asserted Sunday that there will be no Mideast peace except under the terms of a "Palestinian revolution," which means, he said, the overthrow of Zionism, the return of Arab refugees and the creation of a Palestinian state within historic boundaries with Christians, Arabs and Jews co-equal. Arafat was interviewed in the Sunday Telegraph by Sir Hugh Greene, former director of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Sir Hugh said that should the Arabs and the Jews miraculously accept the United Nations resolution of November, 1967, it would still be rejected by the Palestinian commandos. King Hussein, he noted, is currently pessimistic about peace chances.

Sir Hugh quoted the leader of the politburo of the Palestinian Democratic Popular Front of Liberation as expressing contempt for both King Hussein and the "Nasserite regime." He also quoted an unnamed Arafat colleague as believing that the collapse of the Israeli army would lead to the collapse of Israel. If Israel were to extend its military strikes further into Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, the source said, she would have to deal with a hostile population and an organized underground while protected only by a weakened army, producing a war weariness in Israel. "We can lose two, three, or four times. The Israelis can lose only once," boasted Arafat.

## Rabbinical Tribunal Says Conversion Valid Only If Done According To Religious Law

TEL AVIV, March 8 (JTA)--The Supreme Rabbinical Tribunal has declared that no conversion of a non-Jew to Judaism was valid unless it was performed in accordance with Jewish Religious Law. The tribunal rejected complaints that Israeli rabbinical bodies were "unduly harsh" with would-be converts, asserting that each person not accepted was not worthy of acceptance. Some observers viewed the statement as being aimed at criticism emanating from delegates to the first convention in Israel of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

## U Thant Asks Dr. Jarring To Return To The UN To Discuss Middle East Situation

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 8 (JTA)--With Middle East tensions mounting as Arab guerrilla forces continue their terrorist raids across the Lebanese border into Israel, United Nations Secretary General U Thant has asked Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring to return here Tuesday to discuss the Middle East crisis. Mr. Thant, who made the announcement Saturday that his special representative to the Middle East has been asked to return, indicated it would be left to Dr. Jarring to decide whether he should make a new trip to the Middle East capitals he visited on his peace mission in 1968 and 1969.

Informed sources at the United Nations reported Friday that the United States has urged Israel to exercise patience and restraint in dealing with the terrorist problem on the Lebanese border. They said the United States authorities were convinced that the Lebanese regime was sincerely doing everything in its power to restrain the terrorists operating against Israel from Lebanese territory and wanted Israel to give the regime the time it needed. (In Washington Under-Secretary of State Elliot L. Richardson saw Ambassador Itzhak Rabin of Israel and Ambassador Najati Kabbani of Lebanon in separate meetings Friday at the State Department to urge their governments to adopt "all possible steps to keep peace in the area." He expressed concern over the latest phase in the Mideast crisis.)

Contrary to expectations in view of the seriousness with which the Lebanese border situation has been viewed here and the Israeli warnings of recent days to the United Nations and to the Security Council of the gravity with which Israel regards the terrorist forays, the ambassadors of the Four Powers did not discuss this problem at their long meeting Thursday. That meeting, described by one source as a more satisfactory session than any in recent months, did not reach any decisions or any agreements on any of the many issues and details before the envoys.

American sources said the meeting was distinguished by the fact that for the first time in a long time, there was an absence of rhetoric and denunciation from the Russians and a readiness on the part of Russians and French to talk specifics. Both have been pressed by the Americans to declare what the Arab states would agree to in the line of their commitment to peace to be incorporated in Big Four "guidelines." United Nations circles stressed Friday that the projected return to UN headquarters of Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring for consultations did not mean immediate resumption of his peace-seeking mission in the Middle East. The consultations envisioned, it was stressed, would be here at the United Nations and would not involve renewal of Dr. Jarring's peregrinations from capital to capital in the Middle East.

## Russia's Anti-Israel Campaign May Be Forerunner of 'Trials' Against Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA)--The president of B'nai B'rith expressed "great anxiety" that the Soviet Union's "staged press conference" last week, in which 31 Jews denounced "Israel aggression," may be the forerunner of greater repressions and possible "show trials" of Soviet Jews who have applied for immigration to Israel or have protested anti-Jewish discriminations in their homeland. "The unusual character and intensity of the Soviet propaganda effort raises questions whether its ultimate purpose may be to use Jews as a scapegoat to deflect growing popular disapproval with the Soviet Union's Middle East policy," said Dr. William Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith.

He said Soviet authorities are also distressed by the number of non-Jewish intellectuals who have made the grievance of Soviet Jewry their cause. Dr. Wexler said that the "smokescreen nature" of the press conference held in Moscow "was amply demonstrated by the fact that, with a single exception, none of the 31 'Jewish leaders' who were obviously compelled to participate in it has ever shown the slightest interest in Jewish affairs." He said it was "revealing" that the Kremlin "has suddenly discovered 'Jewish leaders' since there has not been a single central agency for Soviet Jews since the government disbanded Jewish anti-Fascist Committee in 1948."

## Jewish Community In Venezuela Appeals To Government To Help Soviet Jews

CARACAS, Venezuela, Mar. 8 (JTA)--Venezuela's Jewish community appealed to Foreign Minister Aristides Calvani for the Government's help in ameliorating the condition of Russian Jews. A delegation representing the Confederacion De Asociaciones Israelitas de Venezuela presented Dr. Calvani with a memorandum describing repressive measures taken by Soviet authorities against Jewish cultural and religious activities. They asked him to intervene on behalf of Soviet Jewry through Venezuela's delegation at the United Nations. Argentine Jewry also protested Arab terrorist attacks on Israeli and foreign air lines serving Israel at a mass meeting organized by the DAIA, the Jewish central representative body. Most of those attending represented Jewish youth groups. Dr. Nehemias Resnitzky, vice president of the DAIA said the terrorist attacks on Israeli airliners in Athens, Munich and Zurich were "the ugly face of a new Nazism and Fascism. Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the Latin American Jewish Congress declared that the international community cannot remain silent.

## Beersheba Awarded \$25,000 For Contribution To Town Planning And Design

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA)--The Biblical city of Beersheba in Israel, where a completely planned new town is being built in the ancient desert settlement, has been honored by the second R.S. Reynolds Memorial Award for community architecture, the American Institute of Architects announced today. The architects and planners of Beersheba will receive the international award, \$25,000 and an original sculpture in aluminum "for the design of a community in which architectural planning and design have made a most significant contribution" at the AIAS annual convention in Boston in June.

## Veteran American Editor Critical Of Way Press Covers Arab-Israel Conflict

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA)--A veteran American editor expressed sharp criticism today of American newspaper coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict charging that the American press "mis-informs and misleads many millions of newspaper readers" by equating "verifiable facts" from the Israeli side with "fabricated reports" from the Arabs. Philip Hochstein, former senior editor of the Newhouse newspaper organization and publisher of the Washington Jewish Week, reprinted a report by Roy Essoyan, Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, in the Bulletin of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, in which the correspondent asserted that it is not possible for a newsman to obtain firsthand information on the war situation on the Arab side. He also quoted another article in the Bulletin, by Alfred Friendly of the Washington Post, describing Israel as a free society in which reporters enjoy the basic freedoms of the press.

Mr. Essoyan wrote in the ASNE Bulletin that "the main problem with covering the war from the Arab side is the Arabs won't let you anywhere near it." He noted communications difficulties and that "censorship is rough and frequently illogical." He declared that "most major Arab news breaks - the coups, assassinations, executions and Arab-Israeli battles that provide our daily news fare - are first announced over government radio stations." These communiqués, Mr. Essoyan said, "are seldom prompt or impartial but they are usually all you'll get from the Arab side." The AP correspondent pointed out, "Freedom of the press is a concept foreign to the Arab world. The Arabs regard the press and radio as propaganda branches of the government. Outside of Lebanon, that's what they are."

Editorially commenting on Mr. Essoyan's statements, Mr. Hochstein suggested that "our newspapers are guilty of peddling partisan propaganda disguised as news when they fail each time they publish such an item to clearly label it as coming from a country that does not permit free access to information." He stressed that "editors have no right to equate Arab reports with reports from Israel when Arab states permit no free reporting whereas Israel affords freedom and cooperation to independent and even hostile reporters." The editor declared that "the very least of this offense is that the American press thereby gives the best of the deal to those countries that give reporters the least facility, while in effect punishing Israel for making reporting a common right and even a pleasant exercise. The serious part of this offense is that it misinforms and misleads many millions of newspaper readers."

## Dr. Berger And Rabbi Miller Clash During Debate On Israel And Mideast Peace

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--An Arab sided with a rabbi on the Mideast question and another rabbi called the first one a "pro-Arab Jew" in a heated debate on WOR-TV's "Tempo 9" program this morning. Ghazi Khankan, producer of WHBI Radio's "Arabesque," echoed the opinion of anti-Zionist Rabbi Elmer Berger formerly of the American Council on Judaism, that peace won't come until Israel arranges "some equitable formula" on the Palestinian Arab situation. Rabbi Alan W. Miller, author of "The God of Daniel S.--In Search of the American Jew," charged he was confronted on one side by an anti-Israeli Arab, and on the other by a "pro-Arab Jew" who was willing to make uncalled for concessions to the Arabs. "The reality," Rabbi Miller asserted, "is that Israel has won a war from the Arabs and they refuse to lie down and talk peace."

Howard M. Squadron, co-chairman of the AJCongress' governing council, said Dr. Berger's approach to the issues was "insidious," and that his opposition to the establishment of a Jewish State was "unmatched by any other person of Jewish extraction anywhere in the world." Mr. Squadron alleged the Arabs won't negotiate "because they don't want peace." But Dr. Berger insisted that "Israel should withdraw from occupied territory," under United Nations trucekeeping auspices, in return for Arab recognition of her existence.

Mr. Khankan stated that the Feb. 21 Swissair disaster that cost 47 lives was probably caused when "ammunition destined for Israel blew up by accident," since sabotage is "not in the interest" of the Palestinian Arabs. He called the notion of Israeli democracy "really a laugh," claiming Arabs can't be citizens. Rabbi Miller said he was jumbling the law of citizenship with the Law of Return, and called the Arab countries "pseudo-democratic." "We don't claim to be a democracy," Mr. Khankan retorted, but shortly after asserted the Arabs want "a democratic, pluralistic society in Palestine" on the basis of "one man, one vote."

## HIAS Reports 11,000 Jews Left Poland In Last Two Years Due To Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA)--Eleven thousand Jews have left Poland in the last two years, following the inception of an anti-Semitic policy there, according to Harold Friedman, president of United Hias Service, the international resettlement organization. Reporting to Hias's 86th annual meeting today, Mr. Friedman told some 1000 delegates that 8000 of that total emigrated to Vienna, and that more than half of those sought Hias aid in locating relatives. Some 4500 of them, he said, have been resettled in the United States, Canada, Australia, Latin America and other areas.

Executive vice president Gaynor I. Jacobson, indicated that in 1969, U.H.S. helped in the resettlement of 6400 persons around the globe, including 2465 in the U.S. He predicted a comparable total this year, including 3400 Poles and 450 Mideasterners. Treasurer Carl Glick reported that U.H.S. had gone some half-million dollars over budget, largely because of the Polish operation. The membership approved resolutions urging the Soviet Union to permit Jewish emigration and calling for worldwide emigration assistance to Jews in Arab countries. Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller was presented with this year's Liberty Award. Gov. Rockefeller lauded Hias's resettlement of nearly 4,000,000 persons since 1884.