

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Wednesday, March 18, 1970

No. 52

## Rogers' Scheduled Announcement of U.S. Jet Policy Toward Israel Seen As Ill Omen

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry circles are unhappy over the disclosure in Washington yesterday that the decision on Israel's request for more Phantom and Skyhawk jets will be announced by Secretary of State William P. Rogers rather than by President Nixon himself. While there is no official comment here, the feeling is that the announcement will be couched in general terms which would not be the case if it were made by the President. Some circles here reasoned that if the decision was favorable to Israel's request, President Nixon would have wanted to make the announcement himself rather than delegate the task to Mr. Rogers. According to reports from Washington, a State Department press conference next Thursday or Friday will be the forum for Mr. Rogers' announcement.

(The Secretary of State met with President Nixon in the White House yesterday. Directly after that meeting, White House spokesman Ronald I. Ziegler said "The announcement (on Israel's request) will be made later this week at the State Department." That was confirmed at a State Department press briefing today.) (Secretary Rogers said in a television interview today on the NBC "Today" show that although he saw no signs of any settlement in the Middle East, he was "happy to note a decrease in (military) activity on both sides." Mr. Rogers was asked if the fact that he was scheduled to announce the Administration's decision on Israel's request for more Phantoms and Skyhawks meant that the U.S. was going to reject it. He smiled and replied, "That it an interesting speculation." Mr. Rogers declined comment on another question which posed the issue whether a negative reply in effect would not be a de jure embargo imposed in the hope that the Soviet Union would join in later.)

## Two Terrorist Cells Uncovered; 28 Gaza Strip Students Caught With Hand Grenades

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA)--Israeli security services have broken up two terrorist cells, one in Bethlehem and the other in Hebron, it was disclosed today. The Hebron cell was well established. Its 13 members were discovered in hide-outs in East Jerusalem and have confessed to attacks on vehicles in the Hebron area. Two American tourists were killed in bus ambushes near Hebron during the past three months. The Bethlehem ring was uncovered before any of its 37 members could carry out any action. Twenty-eight Gaza high school students were arrested yesterday after they were caught with hand grenades in their possession and leaflets urging terrorist activities against Israel. Two members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were arrested in Gaza over the week-end on charges of throwing hand grenades at busses and cars.

## Israeli Planes Attack Egyptian Positions; Police Post Attacked By Guerrillas

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian military positions in the central and southern sections of the Suez Canal zone today. A military spokesman said the raids lasted an hour and all planes returned safely. He said the targets were artillery and anti-aircraft gun emplacements and bunkers. Israeli border police skirmished with a guerrilla gang that attacked a police post at Nebi Yousha in Upper Galilee, less than three miles from the Lebanese border, last night. The guerrillas fired bazookas at the building but were driven off by the police. There were no casualties or damage on the Israeli side. An explosion wrecked a pump house at a training farm in the Gaza Strip last night. Israeli security forces demolished two buildings on the outskirts of Gaza that were used by terrorists as shelters. An Israeli patrol was attacked from one of the buildings several days ago. An Israeli soldier, Pvt. Jacob Margalith, of Moshav Yifrah, was killed by Egyptian mortar fire in the southern section of the Suez Canal zone last night.

## Czechoslovak Jew, Former Government Member, Says USSR Bent On Destroying Israel

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--A Czechoslovakian Jew who was a member of the Prague Government in the late 1940s, warned today that Soviet Russia is bent on the annihilation of Israel and will try to bring that about as soon as it has achieved full domination of the Arab governments. Prof. Eugen Loebel, former Czech Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, who now teaches at Vassar, said in a letter published in the New York Times that "there is grave danger that the Soviets will feel that they are about to attain this degree of control of the Middle East." According to Prof. Loebel, the Soviet Government "feared that once the Middle East conflict was settled, the Arab governments no longer needing Russia's military aid, would turn toward the West for economic assistance."

He said that Moscow viewed with disfavor the prospect of an Egyptian victory over Israel "with resultant freedom of action for the Arab governments." Consequently, the Soviets encouraged Egypt to precipitate a war with Israel in 1967. "To make the Arab states more dependent on the Soviet Union, Soviet intelligence told Cairo of great weaknesses in the Israeli defense system and encouraged Egypt to set off the war," Prof. Loebel wrote. "The Soviets were not surprised by Egypt's defeat; on the contrary, it was important to their strategy. The war's brevity alone disappointed them." "Thus the war's outcome should not be understood as a Soviet defeat. The Soviets not only did not lose their foothold in the Middle East but they also succeeded in extending their power there," according to Prof. Loebel.

The writer said that originally it was Russia's intent to establish a foothold in the Mideast with Israel's cooperation. "But when Israel proved an unwilling partner, it suddenly became an imperialist power, and the Soviet Union adopted the Nazi story of Jewish plutocracy, using Zionism as the tool for Jewish world domination."

### Reorganized Zionist Organization Seen As Spur For Revitalizing The Movement

TEL AVIV, March 17 (JTA)--Arye L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, predicted today that the re-organized Zionist Organization will bring about a revitalization of the movement and a resumption of its political activities which, he said, were abandoned when the State of Israel was established. Mr. Pincus addressed a meeting of Israeli newspaper editors. He said that large scale activity would be the outcome of the new membership drive and the democratic elections to be held by the various Zionist federations all over the world. He pointed to the establishment for the first time of a Zionist Federation in the United States as an achievement reflecting the stir in Zionist thinking. He said the idea of broadening the membership of Jewish Agency executive would give those helping Israel materially a responsibility for the fate of that nation.

Under the plan outlined at the last Zionist Congress in Jerusalem, every individual Jew will be able to join the Zionist movement and identify with Israel without necessarily belonging to a particular faction. He predicted that the Zionist Federations would ultimately become the representatives of Jewish groups in the various countries. Mr. Pincus thought that Zionist activities among students were the best counter-measure against the anti-Israel activities of the New Left. He said student organizations would participate in the elections to the various Zionist federations and would recruit members among fellow students on the campuses. He said the Zionist movement made a mistake when it abandoned political activities after 1948 because Zionists were cut off from contact with current happenings in Israel. "What we need now is a Zionist movement different from what we have had hitherto and Israel must be an active partner in this movement," Mr. Pincus concluded.

### Mrs. Meir Asserts Israel Will Never Agree To Unilateral Cease-fire

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--The B'nai B'rith board of governors opened its leadership conference here last night and was addressed by Premier Golda Meir. She said that Israel was justified in penetrating as deep as necessary into Egypt to prevent Egyptian forces from preparing for a new war on Israel. She asserted that Israel would never agree to a unilateral cease-fire. "As long as they shoot, so will we," the 72 year-old Premier told her audience. She said Israel was not trying purposely to bring about the downfall of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser but that she would "not shed any tears" if he were deposed. The national president of B'nai B'rith, Dr. William A. Wexler, of Savannah, Ga., devoted most of his remarks to the recent American visit of President Georges Pompidou, of France. He said that when Israel's survival was threatened--as he thought it was by French Mideast policies--"the Jews of the world cease being a silent majority." Upon his arrival here yesterday, Dr. Wexler said he was convinced that President Nixon would authorize Israel to purchase the jets from the United States that she requested.

### Orthodox Rabbi MK Who Spat On Reform Prayerbook Barred From Knesset Plenum

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA)--A Knesset committee decided last night to discipline an Orthodox rabbi MK who spat on a Reform prayerbook during a debate on the Law of Return amendment in the House last week. Rabbi Menachem Porush, of the Agudat Israel, will be barred from attending one Knesset plenum session for his behavior. Rabbi Porush apologized afterwards and asked that the matter be considered closed. But Speaker Reuben Barket insisted that the House committee take disciplinary action against him.

### \$100,000 Gift Makes Possible First Vocational School Computer Training Program

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--A vocational training institute in Israel to emphasize computer training will be established with a \$100,000 gift from Fred Richmond, president of the Frederick W. Richmond Foundation, it was announced here today by the Religious Zionists of America. The contribution was made through Mizrachi-Hapoel Hamizrachi, according to Rabbi Herschel Schacter, honorary chairman of the organization. The training center, to be known as the Frederick W. Richmond Technological Institute, will be located at Shafir, about 35 miles from Tel Aviv. The building now under construction will be finished in time for the beginning of the school year next September. It will provide vocational training in a number of fields with the stress on computer technology, Rabbi Schachter said.

### Libyan Regime Continues To Deprive Jews With Property Of Its Use Or Income

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--The Libyan regime has taken additional steps to deprive Jews with property of its use or income, the American Jewish Committee reported today, citing information from its Paris office. According to the report, the Libyan regime issued in February a new edict empowering a government official to take into custody assets and properties in Libya belonging to Jews "who have left Libyan territory definitively." The report said the new law was "one of a series of measures taken by Libyan governments since 1952 specifically directed against Jews and their properties."

The AJ Committee report said the effect of the new law would be to hurt the 3,500 Jews who fled Libya after the 1967 Six-Day War, under the pressure of anti-Jewish riots and who still own property in Libya. Most of these Jews, the report added, still hold Libyan passports so it is not clear how the Libyan authorities will decide which of these Jews have "left Libyan territory definitively." Until now, Jews had occasionally been allowed to transfer small sums out of Libya to pay for schooling of their children abroad but it is feared that even this limited freedom to make use of assets may no longer be possible.

## Dr. Jarring Begins Series Of Consultations With Ambassadors Of Four Powers

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 17 (JTA)--Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring has begun a series of consultations with the ambassadors of the Four Powers on the Middle East situation but there were no indications today of the nature of the talks. Previously, the UN special envoy to the Middle East met with the ambassadors of Israel and the Arab states to review the prospects for resumption of his peace-seeking mission either here or in the Middle East. The inability of the Four Powers to reach any substantial agreement on guidelines for Dr. Jarring to follow in a resumption of his mission made the current consultations academic in the view of many United Nations observers. Some sources said that the Four Powers would prefer to concentrate now on the question of a restoration of the cease-fire agreements which President Nasser of Egypt repudiated last year. Israel has offered to observe the cease-fire agreements provided that the Arabs cease their attacks along the cease-fire lines.

The ambassadors of the Four Powers will meet again on Thursday in their 31st meeting with little indication that any progress towards agreement can be expected. Their meeting will be held after Secretary of State William P. Rogers is scheduled to announce the Administration decision not to comply at this time with the Israeli request for permission to buy a substantial number of Phantom and Skyhawk jet fighters here. The meeting may, therefore, provide a first test of the State Department assumption that if the U.S. refuses to sell planes to Israel, the Soviet Union, too, will show restraint in arming the Arab states and will adopt a more conciliatory position on the American proposals for a Mideast settlement. So far, the Russians have flatly rejected the U.S. proposals for an Israeli-Egyptian settlement and for an Israeli-Jordanian settlement.

## Argentinian Jews Hold Protest Meeting Against Suppression Of Jews In USSR

BUENOS AIRES, March 17 (JTA)--A protest meeting against the suppression of Soviet Jewry and Russian arms supplies to the Arab states was held in Buenos Aires. Jewish community leaders from the capital and provincial cities attended. Speakers stressed that the protest was not directed against the USSR as such but against the "intensified anti-Semitic campaign conducted under the pretext of anti-Zionism." They said the frequent comparisons of Israel with Nazi Germany in the Soviet press dishonored the memory of six million Jewish dead and the hundreds of thousands of Jews who fought Hitler. The Argentine Jews appealed to Soviet authorities to permit those Jews who wished, to emigrate to Israel and to allow those who remain to live in dignity and develop their own culture.

## Rep. Scheuer Urges Nixon To Approve Sale Of Jets To Israel To Assure Power Balance

WASHINGTON, March 17 (JTA)--Rep. James H. Scheuer, Democrat from New York, today expressed concern at reports that Pres. Richard Nixon will refuse to sell war planes to Israel. In a letter to Pres. Nixon, Rep. Scheuer urged the President to approve the sale of planes, and added, "I firmly believe that the indication that the United States is weakening in its resolve to maintain the balance of power in the Middle East will encourage the Arab nations and terrorist guerrilla forces to intensify the war against Israel." Mr. Scheuer, who recently returned from the Middle East where he visited Arab countries and Israel, said, "Present Israel air superiority must be maintained to keep the balance of power in view of the vast Arab superiority in manpower, territory and natural resources. From my recent talks with high Arab officials in Cairo and Amman, I am convinced that the only thing that will bring the Arabs to the conference table is the knowledge that Israel has a long range defensive capability."

## U.S. Delegate To UN Human Rights Commission Calls For Right Of Soviet Jews To Emigrate

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 17 (JTA)--Mrs. Rita E. Hauser, United States delegate to the United Nations, told the UN Human Rights Commission hearings today that all member nations should support the rights of minorities in all countries and urged the Soviet Union to take all necessary steps to ensure a "flourishing life" for its Jews and other minorities. In this connection, she said, emigration should not be prohibited. The distinct culture and identity of each minority, she said, enhanced Soviet life, and suppression would greatly affect that life. Mrs. Hauser said she would appeal to the Soviets to review their anti-Israel campaign, which she said was being conducted with Russian Jews "as members of the orchestra."

The Egyptian delegate to the United Nations, Hussein Khallaf, charged yesterday that Israel's insistence on referring to Jews in Egypt and other countries as specific entities and of describing such entities as "oppressed" was an attempt to create Jewish "fifth columns" that even many Jews opposed. He said Israel had no right to "identify" all Jews, that they very often prefer to be known by their nationalities rather than by their religion, and that the Israeli attitude was not only dubious but dangerous to the international political structure. He spoke at the continuing UN Human Rights Commission hearings. Mr. Khallaf asserted that all United Arab Republic residents--whether Christian, Jewish, Moslem or atheist--were Egyptians, and that Jews in Egypt have equal religious rights and did not constitute a minority as defined by the Israeli delegate, Moshe Leshem. Mr. Leshem had said earlier that the right to emigrate was the "only hope" of escape from "continued violations of human rights inflicted upon Jewish communities" in Egypt, the Soviet Union, Syria and Iraq.

The Israeli delegate distinguished between "national" and "nationhood" and explained that Jews' quest for survival extended beyond mere state boundaries. The Soviet delegate, Nikolai Tarassov, said appeals for Jewish emigration from Russia were aimed at "resurrecting from the dead" the specter of anti-Semitism. He described as slanderous charges that Soviet Jews were denied Jewish education and freedom of speech--they have not requested special education, he said, and there are more than 100 Yiddish writers being published. Mr. Tarassov also claimed that many Jews who had emigrated to Israel had found conditions there discriminatory and intolerable.

## Mideast Expert Urges U.S. Aid To Israel And Israeli Withdrawal From Occupied Areas

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--United States interests in the Middle East "clearly lie with Israel," and the U.S. must help prevent Soviet ground action on the Arab's behalf because it would "upset the entire balance in the region." But Israel must in turn agree to a peace settlement that would include withdrawal from the occupied territories and the demilitarization of Sinai and the Golan Heights. These are the conclusions of John Scott, special correspondent and assistant to the publisher of Time Magazine, in a 132-page report titled "The Middle East at War," released today to the press.

Relying on personal observations and interviews throughout the Mideast last year, Mr. Scott declares that Israel has a right to exist because "The fact is that the UN and most of the world's nations, including the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. had recognized the State of Israel by 1949, and the issue should have been closed at that time." In addition, "By failing to resign from the UN after Israel was admitted, the Arab governments de facto recognized the existence of Israel as a legitimate nation." Mr. Scott criticizes the United Nations for withdrawing its Mideast forces at Egypt's request; for settling for a ceasefire instead of "imposing real peace," and for feeding the refugees and thus permitting them to live in "isolated, parasitic enclaves for 20 years," building up hatred for Israel.

### Arabs Urged To Negotiate With Israel; Aim Of Israel Is Peace With Security

"The UN," he states, "well-meaningly blundered onto a course of action which has proved counter-effective and has made the refugees an obstacle to any permanent solution." The writer recommends the creation of "a new Palestinian state," comprising the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and mainly Arab parts of the pre-1967 Israel. Israel and Jordan would guarantee the new state's security and the UN refugee camps would be closed. Mr. Scott's proposed peace plan would also include universal freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal and adjacent waterways; Moslem-Christian-Jewish control of Jerusalem; mutual recognition of all Mideast states and the initiation of arms-reduction talks with Big Four observation. Mr. Scott recommends that the Arabs agree to negotiations with Israel. While direct talks would be "politically awkward" for President Gamal Abdel Nasser, "in the world of political reality men are often forced to do awkward and unpleasant things."

While the Arabs "have not necessarily lost the war" despite having lost "three decisive battles," Mr. Scott notes, it is "(a) fact that the Arabs have been talking about destroying Israel for 20 years without ever coming close to so doing." If Egypt did not agree to talks and were subsequently defeated again by Israel, the Russians might be forced to "abandon their expensive support of the Arabs," leaving them "disarmed and bankrupt." Yet the correspondent does not believe that the Kremlin will "allow" the Arabs to start another war and it is "equally unlikely" that Israel will declare one. He concludes, "Israel wants peace with security, the Russians want the continuation of a semi-war, and the Arabs want victory. In this simplistic equation, our interests clearly lie with Israel."

### Pakistan's President Pledges Aid To Arab Cause; Hussein Vows War Of Liberation

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 17 (JTA)--President Yahya Khan of Pakistan has pledged his country's support to the Arab cause and warned there can be no "durable peace in the region in the absence of a just settlement of the Palestine question," according to a statement released by the Pakistan Mission to the United Nations distributed today to the news media. The remarks by Pres. Khan were made yesterday in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, at a dinner in honor of King Hussein. Pres. Khan was quoted as saying that "continued occupation of the Holy City of Jerusalem is a matter of deepest anguish to the entire Muslim world." He accused Israel of being responsible for the fire that broke out last August at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. (Several days after the fire, Israeli officials apprehended Michael Rohan, a citizen of Australia, and charged him with setting the fire. At the trial, Mr. Rohan admitted that he set the fire because God had told him to do so. He was found guilty by the Israeli court).

Pres. Khan also stated that the "path of peace does not lie along the route of territorial changes brought about by force and suppression of the right of self-determination of the people of these territories." King Hussein was reported as saying that Jordan was gratified with the military aid Pakistan provided last month. King Hussein told Pres. Khan and the assembled dignitaries that Pakistan's response was not merely an act of one "brother" helping another to "liberate his homeland" but also an act "in defense of Islam against the sacrilege committed against our faith." King Hussein charged Israel with displaying an "arrogance that has not been equalled since Hitler's day" and vowed that in the face of Israel's violations of "order and decency" the people of Jordan "are determined to liberate their homeland and holy places and to free their captured brothers."

### U.S. Government 99 Percent In Favor Of No Jets To Israel

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA)--A decision to turn down Israel's plea for more Phantom and Skyhawk jets is "99 percent agreed on within the government," John Scali, State Department correspondent of the American Broadcasting Co., said on the ABC televised evening newscast yesterday. However, the Nixon administration "will assure Israel that American planes will be made available if the military balance changes to threaten Israel's existence." On the same newscast, ABC's Rome Bureau chief Barrie Dunsmore reported that large numbers of Russian SA-3 ground-to-air missiles have been delivered to Egypt for the past five days. Mr. Dunsmore described the SA-3 as "one of the most sophisticated defense systems in the Russian arsenal" and noted that the significance of the deliveries is that they are entirely defense weapons. "There was no evidence of any long range missiles or long range fighter bombers such as the MIG-23 in the shipments," Mr. Dunsmore reported.