

A daily news bulletin

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On U.S. Policy On Jets To Israel Postponed Until Monday

18 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers will hold a press conference on whether to sell Phantom and Skyhawk jets to Israel. President Nixon's decision on whether to sell Phantom and Skyhawk jets to Israel came at the State Department noon briefing. Department spokesmen would not confirm whether the press conference was for the purpose of announcing Nixon's decision, they would not deny it, either. The announcement was supposed to be announced this week. On Monday, White House Press Secretary Felt said "The announcement will be made later this week at the State Department. State Department officials indicated that Secretary Rogers planned a press conference on Friday. There is no indication officially of the reason for the change.

Rogers said at a press conference that he would announce within 30 days whether the U.S. was authorized to buy the military planes it requested. When the 30-day deadline for an announcement speculation grew that the administration was not going to announce at the beginning of this week most observers and authoritative sources in Washington said that Nixon had decided against the sale at this time but added the administration's careful eye on the Middle East situation and that American planes would be sent to the area where they had been changed to threaten Israel's existence.

Wounded In Artillery Duel With Egyptian Forces

18 (JTA)--Five Israeli soldiers were wounded in an artillery duel with Egyptian forces in the central section of the Suez Canal zone today. Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian aircraft in the central section of the canal zone for three and a quarter hours this morning. A flight of Egyptian jets that took to the air to challenge them. A hit was scored on an Egyptian aircraft but it was not seen to crash and therefore was not listed as downed. Egyptian aircraft returned safely. Israeli jets hit Egyptian targets again in the afternoon and returned safely to base.

A boy who had been rehearsing for a Purim play had taken refuge in a bomb shelter in Ashdod last night only to be killed when a shell exploded in a classroom in Kibbutz Ashdod Yaacov last night only minutes before he had been rehearsing for a Purim play had taken refuge in a bomb shelter. The boy, 12, heard the whistle of incoming shells and managed to gain shelter before the shells exploded. There were no casualties and no other damage apart from that suffered by the boy who was returned the fire.

A bomb blew up an electric pylon and a water tank for fresh fish at Kibbutz Yifit last night. The settlement's electric supply was cut off temporarily. An Israeli soldier was killed and a woman was attacked with bazookas and small arms last night. Return fire scattered the attack was the first by ground forces against the position, which was hit for the first time in 18 months ago. An electric pylon near Gaza was damaged last night but electric power was not cut off. An Israeli soldier was injured by a mine in the Jordan rift south of Gaza. Nine Egyptian fishermen captured by Israeli forces with three boats in the Jordan rift were returned to Egypt along with their boats today. The men had been in the Jordan rift of Israeli-occupied territory.

U.S. Veto By U.S. On Rhodesia May Set Precedent Affecting Israel

18 (JTA)--The first veto by the United States in the history of the United Nations Security Council here today as having possible significance for Israel in the future. The U.S. voted against a resolution to right in the Security Council for the first time yesterday to defeat an attempt to force the United Nations to use force against Rhodesia. The resolution would have committed members to use force against Rhodesia if it did not use force to overthrow the white minority regime in that former British colony. U.S. officials here noted that up to now, Israeli actions were predicted on the understanding that the U.S. would not resort to the veto unless the issue directly affected it or one of its vital interests. In the case of Rhodesia, an American veto was imposed on an unpopular issue in Africa, a cause of America's African friends, and for a cause the U.S. itself does not support.

U.S. officials said that similar considerations might apply if a case arose in which the U.S. was forced to use his veto power in behalf of Israel. Some circles in Jerusalem are watching the outcome of a re-appraisal of the role of uncommitted nations in the Security Council. The 11 permanent members constitute a majority. Given the present composition of the Security Council, a proposal is automatically assured of seven votes and needs only two from uncommitted members. In these circumstances, the U.S. can be expected to exercise its status as a permanent member and refrain from doing so for nearly 25 years since the UN was established.

U.S. Will Not Confirm Or Deny Israel May Get Atomic Missile

18 (JTA)--A Government spokesman refused to confirm or deny a report published in the New York Times that Israel will have a "MD-606" surface-to-surface atomic missile this month. The French aircraft manufacturer Marcel Dassault, who is Jewish. The spokesman said that the report should not be taken for granted as true.

Conference Of European Rabbis Criticizes Knesset For Passing Law Of Return Amendment

LONDON, March 18 (JTA)--The standing committee of the Conference of European Rabbis sharply criticized the Knesset today for passing an amendment to the Law of Return that will accept as Jewish those persons converted by other than Orthodox rabbis. The committee, which is Orthodox, met under the chairmanship of Sir Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi Emeritus of Britain. It identified itself with the March 6 declaration of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate, which asserted that a Jew can be only a person born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism "in the proper way prescribed by halacha," religious law. The amended Law of Return embodies the religious definition of a Jew but does not specify that conversion must be according to the Orthodox interpretation of halacha.

The rabbi's statement expressed "profound regrets" that the Knesset "should have given formal recognition to those whom neither Jewish law or sentiment can regard or designate as a Jew." It also denounced "the libellous charge which equates the halachic definition of a Jew with any form of racism." In another statement, the standing committee referred to "the deep divide which separates us from our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union." It appealed to Soviet authorities to grant Jewish citizens "the elementary human right to settle in the Holy Land" and praised Russian Jews "who asserted their identification with the Jewish faith and people in the present circumstances." It further called on young Jews to rally to the Jewish cause.

Polish Jewish Writer Says Vast Majority Of Russian Jews Want To Emigrate To Israel

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA)--A Polish-Jewish journalist who said he had close contacts with Russian Jews claimed today that the "vast majority of them would like to leave the Soviet Union and come to Israel." Haim Himmelfarb, 47, arrived at Haifa yesterday with 187 other immigrants. Before leaving Poland he wrote for a trade union organ under the name Henrik Weber. Mr. Himmelfarb claimed that unlike Polish Jews, Russian Jews "have a deep and proud Jewish consciousness" and wanted to go to Israel. He said problems such as non-Jewish wives would not stop them. Polish Jews, on the contrary, are not conscious of their Jewish heritage and preferred not to go to Israel, he added. Another Polish emigre who arrived at Haifa yesterday was Kalma Segal, 53, author of some 30 books in Yiddish and Polish. He had worked for the Polish radio and television service before leaving that country last November.

Eban Says Direct Negotiations Is Limit In Trying To Reach Compromise With Arabs

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban told a group of American visitors last night that direct negotiations is as far as Israel is prepared to go to reach an "honorable compromise" with the Arabs. He said Israel will again inform the Big Powers of this stand and ask them to convey it to the Arabs. Mr. Eban, addressing the B'nai B'rith Board of Governors leadership conference, said the primary obligation of Big Power statesmanship was to re-enforce Israel and help maintain a balance of power. Asked from the floor what Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin had brought back with him from Washington, Mr. Eban said he had asked the Ambassador not to reveal anything and he himself would not. Ground was broken today at Bayit Vegan in Jerusalem for a new quarter million dollar center for the children's home sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Women of America. Minister of Welfare Dr. Josef Burg attended the ceremonies. Mrs. Betty Shapiro, president of the B'nai B'rith Women, said the home was begun in 1943 and has since helped more than 600 disturbed boys become healthy citizens.

Ha-Orah Reports Arab Propaganda Agencies And Groups Flourishing On West Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., March 18 (JTA)--Arab propaganda agencies are flourishing on the west coast, voicing the "libels of terrorist groups" against Israel and Zionism, according to a report in Ha-Orah, a radical Jewish student publication here. The report was made by Anita Trow, public relations director for Americans for Permanent Peace in the Middle East. She listed a number of such organizations with headquarters in California cities. She said La Puente was the home of the Palestine Arab Fund, which she described as "the most lethal unofficial Arab operation in the West," which supports Al-Asifa, the military arm of El Fatah. She reported that Hollywood was the headquarters for the United American Arab Congress, which compares "the Six-Day War to Pearl Harbor, places ads in the newspapers, circulates flyers and keeps its members writing letters to the editor."

She asserted that "a minimum" of 100 chapters of the Organization of Arab Students were "going full blast" in the United States and Canada. She credited that organization with having accomplished "the Herculean job of swaying public opinion from the pro-Israel stand of 1967." She reported that Sacramento "has the most active chapter of the American Committee for Justice in the Middle East" and that Downey has Americans of Lebanese-Syrian Ancestry for America. In San Rafael, there is an Ad Hoc Committee for Balanced Coverage of the Arab-Israel Conflict. The American Friends of Lebanon in San Diego sponsored a full-page "open letter" in local newspapers to President Nixon, indicting the Jews of Israel for their "Nazi-like methods." The Arabic Society of Americanists was described as a similar group in Bell, Calif.

Efforts To Ban Sabbath TV Resumed By Orthodox Members Of Broadcasting Authority

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA)--Attempts to force a ban on Sabbath television broadcasts were resumed yesterday when three Orthodox members of the Broadcasting Authority applied to the Supreme Court for an order nisi against the Ministries of Labor and Posts. It would require them to show cause why they should not cease operating the TV service on Friday night. A decision on the new application is expected this week. The issue has apparently been dropped on the Government level. Friday evening TV was inaugurated last December when a Supreme Court injunction blocked an attempt by Premier Golda Meir to overrule a majority decision of the Broadcasting Authority to operate the TV service on a seven-day basis.

Ukrainian Delegate To UN Human Rights Commission Equates Zionism With Nazism

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 18 (JTA)--The Soviet Union's current anti-Israel, anti-Zionist campaign had its parallel in a bitter exchange in the United Nations Human Rights Commission yesterday between the Ukrainian and Israeli delegates. Peter Nedbailo, of the Ukraine, equated Zionism with Nazism, claimed that Zionists fostered anti-Semitism to serve their own purposes and alleged that Jews in his country enjoyed full religious and cultural freedom and had repudiated the State of Israel. Moshe Leshem, the Israeli delegate, accused Mr. Nedbailo of reading from the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a notorious anti-Semitic forgery of the 19th century. The Soviet delegate, Nikhor I. Yevdokeyev, joined in the polemics briefly to charge that Israel was an accomplice in the violation of human rights by South Africa. The exchange took place during the 26th session of the Human Rights Commission debating a draft resolution on the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Meanwhile the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda prominently featured an article yesterday claiming that the "overwhelming majority" of Soviet Jews had chosen to assimilate with Russians and other Soviet ethnic groups. The writer was a Russian Jew, Prof. Iosif S. Braginsky, editor of a journal on Asian and African affairs. Prof. Braginsky claimed that the Soviet Union "has historically proven that the Jewish question can be radically solved and removed from the agenda on the basis of the victory of socialism." He said that historical experience showed that most Soviet Jews wanted to work and live among other Soviet peoples. "Naturally, in those circumstances, there takes place a process of assimilation of considerable groups of the Jewish population. Mixed marriages, the use by Jews of Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Georgian and other languages as their native tongues and the overcoming of religious and ethnic prejudices have contributed to the fact that this process is proceeding absolutely voluntarily in conditions of the socialist system," Prof. Braginsky wrote.

Israeli Delegate: There Is More Socialism In One Kibbutz Than In Ukrainian Republic

Critics of the Soviets claim that large sections of Soviet Jewry want to emigrate to Israel. They note that Jews alone among the many ethnic minorities in the USSR lack cultural institutions and political bodies, are unable to study Hebrew or Yiddish because they have no schools and have difficulty practicing their religion because of the small number of synagogues serving three million Jews and the lack of facilities to train rabbis and other religious functionaries. Mr. Nedbailo asserted that there were synagogues and scores of prayer houses in the Ukraine and no one could complain that there was no opportunity to exercise one's religion. He also said that a protest against Zionism had been addressed to the Prime Minister and Rabbinate of Israel by more than 100 Ukrainian Jews. He charged that Zionism propagated the superiority of Jews over all other races and that it has always been against socialism. Mr. Leshem retorted that there was more socialism practiced in one Israeli kibbutz than in the entire Ukrainian Republic.

The Ukrainian claimed that Israeli emissaries visiting Odessa were thrown out by the Jews of that city. He said he had at his disposal many dozens of letters from Jews who went to Israel and now want to be re-united with their families in the USSR. He charged that Israel prevented them from returning. Referring to the ban on Jewish emigration to Israel, he said State authorities had to take account of the fact that Israel was in a state of war and this would mean "a supply of cannon fodder to the aggressive state of Israel." Mr. Leshem said his government never prevented anybody from leaving Israel and Israeli law was clear on that point. He said he was pleased to hear that the situation regarding Jewish emigration from Russia might be reversed when peace was established in the Mideast.

Group Of Austrian Jews, Most Former Nazi Death Camp Inmates, Coming To U.S.

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA)--A group of 80 Austrian Jews, most of them former inmates of Nazi death camps, will arrive here Monday for a two-week visit to mark the 25th anniversary of the liberation of the camps by the Allied armies. Aufbau, the German-language Jewish weekly, reported today. They will be led by members of the Jewish community of Vienna and will take part in a number of ceremonial events, including a reception at City Hall and a visit to Washington, where they will meet with Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican. In New York, they will be guests at a reception of the Austrian Consulate-General and will speak at a press conference at Joint Distribution Committee headquarters next Tuesday. Dr. Gustav Jellinek, president of the Federation of Jews From Austria, said a memorial service will be held next Friday at the Congregation of Jews From Austria in New York City, which the delegation will attend.

Former Nazi Doctor Charged With 15,314 Counts Of Murder In Concentration Camp Deaths

BONN, March 18 (JTA)--Horst Schumann, a former Nazi doctor, has been charged in Frankfurt with 15,314 counts of murder in connection with concentration camp deaths during 1940-41, plus additional charges of fatal sterilization and x-ray experiments. The accused, 63, was extradited from Ghana in 1966.

IFALPAMay Ask For Air Ban On Countries Failing To Comply With Air Safety Measures

LONDON, March 18 (JTA)--The International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations indicated here today that it was considering asking for a ban on air traffic to and from countries that failed to comply with measures against aerial hijacking and terrorism against civilian aircraft. The IFALPA meeting on air safety ended with what was described as "quite mild and ineffectual" resolutions. The organization however did ask all of its constituent associations to urge their respective governments to attend and support the forthcoming International Civil Aviation Organization conference on air safety.

First Orthodox Rabbi Appointed Consultant On Communal Affairs In N.Y.C. Government

NEW YORK, March 18, (JTA)--Mayor John V. Lindsay announced today the appointment of Rabbi Bernard Twersky, a Jewish publicist, as consultant on communal affairs, a dollar-a-year post. Rabbi Twersky is the first Orthodox rabbi to hold such a position in the New York City government. In a letter to Rabbi Twersky accompanying the announcement, Mayor Lindsay wrote that, "As I said many times during the recent campaign, one of the great challenges to my second administration is the development of proper channels of communications between the city government and the many groups which comprise New York. If we are to be successful in this period of great urban crisis, it is necessary for us to have the service of individuals with experience both in public affairs and group relations." Adding that Rabbi Twersky had "for many years" had "an important role in Jewish communal affairs, serving many organizations and coming to know the needs of the people of this city," the Mayor also said that "it is most gratifying" that the rabbi had "offered to serve our city on a voluntary basis."

Rabbi Twersky is press secretary for the Rabbinical Council of America, and public relations director for the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. He also serves as general secretary of the Rabbinical Court of America, which is sponsored by the Rabbinical Council. In his new post, Rabbi Twersky will continue a function during Mayor Lindsay's re-election campaign when he advised the Mayor on approaches to New York Jewish voters. Two other Orthodox Jews also serve the Lindsay Administration. Last month the Mayor announced the appointment of Dr. Marvin Schick, a past president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, as an assistant to the Mayor specializing in intergroup relations. Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, a former president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, has served for several years as the only Orthodox Jewish member of the New York City Council Against Poverty, the policy-making agency for the city's anti-poverty programs.

Jewish Welfare Board's Convention Told First Priority Is Jewish Crisis Not Urban Crisis

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA)--Delegates to the Jewish Welfare Board's biennial convention which opened here today were told that their first priority is to solve the Jewish crisis--not the urban crisis--and if they expect to change their institutions, they must expect opposition. Dr. Judah Nadich, Rabbi of the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City, said that Jewish community centers should look inward, rather than outward, for problems to solve. Dr. Herman D. Stein, Provost of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and Chairman of that city's Commission on Crisis in Welfare, cited resistance to change as one of the necessities of significant change. Dr. Stein, the keynote speaker at the convention, said that "if there is significant change being introduced in any social institution, the change will be met with significant opposition. If nobody objects, and the change is easy, the chances are that nothing very important has happened."

Rabbi Nadich said that the "Jewish crisis" is the first priority of the Jewish community center. He said the crisis is in the drift of Jews away from Judaism, partially from intermarriage, partially from ignorance of Jewish heritage, partially from assimilation in small communities where the Jews are too few in number to set and keep their own standards, and partially from the growing hostility of young Jews who belong to the New Left and see Israel as an aggressive, capitalistic puppet. Morton L. Mandel of Cleveland was elected president of the National Jewish Welfare Board, succeeding Louis Stern of South Orange, N.J., who was named an honorary president. The delegates to the five-day convention are from all over the country.

AJCongress Opposing State Aid To Parochial Schools In New Jersey And Rhode Island

TRENTON, N.J., March 18 (JTA)--The thrust of Gov. William T. Cahill's announcement Monday that he would seek to channel state funds to private schools for textbooks and lunches was assailed today by Rabbi Israel S. Dresner, president of the New Jersey branch of the American Jewish Congress. Rabbi Dresner said the Governor's proposal would "set a precedent for largescale direct financing of religious and other private schools by the state," would "stimulate interreligious competition for the favors of the state and involve public officials improperly in the affairs of religious bodies," and would "intensify educational segregation." (A spokesman for the AJCongress in New York told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that organization opposed the textbook, but not the school-lunch, aspect of the Cahill proposal. Rabbi Dresner said he also "deplores" the "pressure" by sectarian groups for private-school aid as a "disservice to religious freedom" and to the public school system. Catholics, who would be the biggest beneficiaries of the suggested assistance, constitute just over half of New Jersey's population and one-fifth of its studentry, and the aid issue is a hot one in the Garden State. Currently, aid to the sectarian sector is limited to busing funds.

In Providence, Rhode Island, a key test case opened yesterday in the U.S. District Court in which six Rhode Island taxpayers challenged the constitutionality of a state law passed last year that permits the state to pay part of the salaries of parochial school teachers. The suit is sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union and the AJCongress. Leo Pfeffer of New York, special counsel of the Congress, represents the plaintiffs. The trial marks the second time in two months that a question involving the constitutional separation of church and state has been argued. The earlier case, which challenges the grant of Federal funds to sectarian colleges in Connecticut under the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, is awaiting decision in the U.S. District Court in Hartford. Both cases are expected ultimately to reach the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Pfeffer will seek a judgment declaring the Act to be unconstitutional and enjoining the defendants "from making any payments purportedly authorized under it."

Editor's Note: Because of the strike of postal employees in the New York area, this copy of the JTA Daily News Bulletin may reach you with some delay.