

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVII--Fifty-Third Year

Tuesday, March 31, 1970

No. 41

State Department Discloses Israel Was Sent Surplus Military Equipment From U.S.

WASHINGTON, March 30 (JTA)--The State Department disclosed today that "Items of surplus military equipment have gone to Israel recently." The disclosure was made by Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey at a press briefing. Mr. McCloskey said the shipment wasn't announced at the time it was sent. He could not say what the items consisted of but noted that other governments have received military equipment under the Surplus Stocks Program. He defined "surplus" as material not in the current generation of weaponry. With regard to the equipment sent to Israel, Mr. McCloskey said, "My guess is that it's all purchased." The matter came up when the State Department spokesman was questioned on the recent unannounced shipment of military equipment to the Chinese Nationalist regime on Taiwan. Earlier in the briefing, Mr. McCloskey was asked if Israel had requested "Shrike" missiles to offset the Soviet-made SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles installed in Egypt. He replied that he never heard of a "Shrike" missile. He said the Israeli Government has purchased missiles from the U.S. but indicated that this was not recently.

Abba Eban Says Israel Continues To Urge The U.S. To Correct Mideast Arms Imbalance

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban indicated today that Israel was still pressing the United States for more warplanes to correct what it considers an increasingly adverse military balance in the Middle East. Mr. Eban told a news conference that "the balance of armaments today is not the same as on March 23 when Secretary of State Rogers made his interim announcement regarding the sale of planes to Israel." Mr. Rogers said at the time that a decision on Israel's request for more Phantom and Skyhawk jets was being held in abeyance. Because in the American view, Israel still retains decisive air superiority over the Arabs.

Mr. Eban said Israeli representatives are again taking up the matter with other nations, especially the U.S. He said Israel considered the latter bound by President Nixon's earlier statement that Israel's military superiority in the Mideast should be ensured. The Israeli Foreign Minister said he did not accept as "reliable" reports from sources abroad that there are 16,000 Soviet personnel now in Egypt. But he acknowledged that the influx of Soviet technicians to Egypt has increased in recent weeks. They are said to be maintaining the SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles that Moscow has provided to Egypt.

(Diplomatic sources in London claim that more than 12,000 Russians have poured into Egypt in recent weeks to operate the SAM-3 missiles. The influx has raised to 16,000 the number of Russian personnel presently in Egypt these sources said. They estimate that a small nucleus of Soviet technicians will operate the missiles while others train Egyptians in their operation. But the bulk of the force, perhaps as much as a Soviet infantry division, will be deployed on defensive duties around the SAM missile sites. Four such sites have already been built around Alexandria, Egypt's main seaport which is used by Russian naval units. Others have gone up around Cairo West airport where Soviet supplies are air lifted and around the Aswan High Dam.)

Report That Syria Is Pressing Soviet Government For SAM-3 Missiles

(According to reports from Cairo, the sites are being built at a furious pace, halting Egypt's private building program so that concrete can be diverted for the missile launcher bases. Russian troops are reportedly instructing Egyptian forces on the battalion level.) An Israeli military commentator said yesterday that he thought reports of 12,000 Soviet technicians in Egypt to be an exaggeration. Gen. Elad Peled, former commander of the National Defense College, said on Jerusalem radio that a force of that size would represent a "complete Soviet intervention" and would permit Israel to transform its war of attrition against Israel to an offensive war using their air force.

(In London, the Daily Telegraph correspondent Eric Downton writes today from Beirut that Syria is pressing the Soviet government for SAM-3 missiles for the defense of Damascus. He said the Syrians renewed their requests for the anti-aircraft missiles when they learned of their installation in Egypt. They point out to Moscow that Damascus and other main Syrian cities are much closer to Israeli airfields than are Cairo and the main Egyptian centers west of the Suez Canal. Mr. Downton wrote. According to the correspondent, the Syrian Government has had fresh promises from Moscow of more military and economic help. Russian naval activity in Syrian ports has increased during the past two weeks, Mr. Downton wrote, reflecting a new build-up of Soviet naval strength in the eastern Mediterranean. But the Damascus authorities are most anxious for anti-aircraft defense missiles because they fear heavy Israeli retaliation for the renewed fighting along the Israel-Syria cease-fire line.)

North African Jews Living In France Coming To Israel For Passover Festival

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA)--Several hundred North African Jews living in France are expected to come to Israel next month for the Maimon Festival, a centuries-old tradition of Moroccan Jews marking the final days of Passover. The visit was organized by Shaul Ben Simhon, a member of the Histadrut executive, who promoted it among North African Jews in France. Some 200 have already registered and El Al will provide transportation.

Israeli Planes Attack Egyptian Positions Along Suez Canal; Israeli Officer Killed

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian positions in the northern and southern sectors of the Suez Canal zone for 45 minutes today and returned safely to base. A military spokesman said the attacks began shortly past noon local time. An Israeli officer, 21 year-old Lt. Yigael Samocha, of Tel Aviv, was killed last night in an exchange of fire between Israeli and Egyptian forces in the southern sector of the Suez Canal zone. Two other soldiers were wounded. An Israeli position in the central Golan Heights was attacked with mortar and bazooka fire from Syrian territory last night. The fire was returned. No Israeli casualties were reported.

A number of shells were fired from Lebanese territory last night on an Israeli position on the western slopes of Mt. Hermon. The fire was returned. There were no casualties. Jordanian regulars joined guerrillas in bazooka attacks on various points in the Beisan Valley. An Israeli spokesman said the fire was returned in all instances and no casualties were reported. Three Arab saboteurs were killed by an Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip today. They were shot when they tried to evade capture during a search for suspected terrorists in the Djebaliya quarter near Gaza.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine boasted today that it was responsible for a series of attacks on American property in Beirut during the past few days. The group claimed that the U.S. was fomenting trouble between Lebanese forces and the commandos operating against Israel from Lebanese soil. Meanwhile, President Charles Helou of Lebanon has called for "rapid implementation" of the 1967 United Nations cease-fire by the Security Council, the Big Four or the Big Two because Middle East peace prospects are growing "more remote every day" and a military solution is imminent. He has also urged the Big Four "to solve the entire Arab-Israeli problem and in the meantime effectively to disavow any Israeli threat against Lebanon, which he said would be carried out militarily if his country does not "adopt a policy of violence and civil war toward the Palestinian population." President Helou's views were carried in an interview in *Baahda* with correspondent John K. Cooley in today's *Christian Science Monitor*. He did not expand on his call for American "understanding." Lebanon has been on friendly terms with the United States.

Assessment Reveals Mideast Arms Balance Tipping in Favor Of Israel's Enemies

WASHINGTON, March 30 (JTA)--The U.S. decision not to sell Israel more warplanes at this time diminishes the prospects of peace and increases the danger of war in the Middle East, according to an official assessment issued by the Israel Embassy here. The Embassy's background policy paper asserts that "While the Arab countries can count on an unlimited supply of war materials of all kinds, Israel is bound to be even more restricted than ever before in its ability to procure essential supplies of planes." It noted that the Israel Air Force is "the most vital element" of that country's deterrent capacity and "the key to the maintenance of the balance of power." The paper said that Israel's request to purchase a specific number of American planes was not arbitrary but "based upon sober intelligence evaluations that reveal a steadily deteriorating ratio in numerical odds."

Thousands Of Israeli Youth In Vigil To Demonstrate Solidarity With Kazakov

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--Israeli youth have a new hero in the person of 23 year-old Yasha Kazakov who has been fasting in front of United Nations headquarters in New York since last Wednesday to dramatize his demand that Soviet authorities allow his family to leave Russia and join him in Israel. Thousands of Israeli high school students from all parts of the country gathered in a four hour vigil in front of the Knesset today to demonstrate their solidarity with Kazakov. Chief Rabbi Nisim published a statement praising the youth for "honoring the name of Israel" and observing the commandment, "Thou Shalt Honor Thy Father and Mother." The student demonstration was organized by the National Union of Students in Israel. Other youth organizations participated.

Young Kazakov was permitted to leave Russia a year ago. He came to Israel where he enrolled at the Haifa Technion, leaving behind his father, Joseph, his mother, Sophia and his brother and sister, Alexander and Vera. They were repeatedly refused exit visas. Chief Rabbi Nisim said, "His (Kazakov's) cause is worthy of awakening every person in the world to whom morality and conscience have meaning so that they join in his struggle until justice becomes obvious to all." (A mass rally in support of Kazakov, to have taken place near UN headquarters yesterday, was called off because of a snow storm. One of the organizers said it might be re-scheduled for next Sunday.)

EI Fatah Reports It May 'Deport' Shmuel Rosenwasser Back To Hungary

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--EI Fatah may "deport" a kidnapped Israeli to Hungary, the country where he came from, the Middle East News Agency said in a dispatch from Damascus. The report referred to Shmuel Rosenwasser, 50, of Metullah, who was abducted by Arab guerrillas from Lebanon last Dec. 31. He is reportedly being held by EI Fatah somewhere in Jordan. According to the Arab news agency, EI Fatah leaders were considering sending him to "his original homeland" and allege that Rosenwasser himself has been "insistent" on going to Hungary. Meanwhile, no developments were reported in efforts by the International Red Cross and the United Nations to have Rosenwasser exchanged for 11 Lebanese prisoners of war held by Israel. Israel made the offer because it holds Lebanon responsible for Rosenwasser's safety. Israeli authorities have refused to deal with EI Fatah. The Palestinian guerrilla organization has intimated that if it succeeds in its goal of defeating Israel it would deport all Jews who came there after 1948 to their countries of origin.

International Civil Aviation Organization Drafts Treaty To Combat Hijacking

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 30 (JTA)--The United Nations today released the text of a draft treaty containing measures to combat aerial hijacking and eliminating safe haven for hijackers. The draft was adopted by the legal committee of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) at its 17th session held in Montreal. It will be taken up at an international diplomatic conference to be held at The Hague next Dec. 1-16 at which time it could be established as an instrument of international agreement. The ICAO draft deals with acts of violence or intimidation directed to seizing control of an aircraft in flight. It contains provisions concerning the prosecution and severe punishment of such offenders, and any state in which an offender is found shall have the obligation to detain him, pending a decision of the authorities to prosecute him or to respond for a request or extradition.

Israel To Raise Question At Monaco Meeting Of Air Piracy And Ways To Counter It

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA)--Knesset member Yohanan Bader said today that Israel would raise the question of air piracy and means of countering it at the International Parliamentary Association meeting this week in Monaco. He said Israel would also propose immediate acceptance by both sides of the United Nations' Middle East cease-fire. Joining Mr. Bader in Monaco will be Knesset members Chaim Zadok and Moshe Carmel.

Investigation Begun In Case Of Former Official Accused Of Aiding In Murder Of Jews

BONN, March 30 (JTA) --The Luebeck Law Court has begun preliminary investigations in the case of Franz Adolf Asbach, 65, former Foreign Minister for Social Affairs of Schleswig-Holstein, accused of participation in the murder of 1148 Jews in Galicia during the war. In Kiel, Israeli and American witnesses have testified at the trial of former SS officer Franz Josef Mueller, accused of abetting the murder of 6,000 Jews in Poland's Bochnia Ghetto. Another defendant in Kiel, Wilhelm Kuender, charged with participation in the killing of more than 40,000 persons, has died of an incurable disease.

Menachem Beigin Asserts Jews Alone Fought For Israel's Freedom

BUENOS AIRES, March 30 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, an Israeli Cabinet member and head of the militant nationalist Herut faction was received with a storm of applause as he addressed the opening of the United Israel Campaign here last night. Mr. Beigin, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, declared that Israel's freedom was fought for by Jews alone, without help from anyone. Mr. Beigin was leader of the Irgun underground fighters who harassed the British Mandatory forces in pre-1948 Palestine. His organization, branded "terrorist" by some, was eventually incorporated into the Israel Army. Referring to that Army, he told his audience, the more modern weapons we have, the fewer casualties we suffer. He maintained that it was the Arabs' objective to kill as many Israelis as possible. He complained that while Israel cannot get modern arms "for gold" Egypt, Syria and Iraq get them for nothing from the Russians.

Mr. Beigin said Israel's strategic position however was far better now than before the June, 1967 war. "Military superiority is not a question of muscles but of brains and that we have," he said. He predicted that 7,000 immigrants would arrive in Israel from the United States in 1970. He also observed that 43 percent of Israel's national budget was spent for defense. Sharing the platform with Mr. Beigin were Israel's Ambassador Eliezer Doron, Leon Mirelman, chairman of the United Israel Campaign and Nachman Radzichowski, chairman of the Argentine Zionist Federation.

Young Liberals Oust Pro-Arab Chairman; Hear Pro-Arab And Pro-Israel Views At Confab

LONDON, March 30 (JTA)--The Young Liberals voted out of office their pro-Arab chairman at the annual conference at Skegness, Lincolnshire yesterday. But they heard an El Fatah speaker and adopted a resolution not likely to endear them to Israel-sympathizers, although it called for direct negotiations. Louis Eaks, who manifested pro-Arab bias in his bitter attack on Israel was ousted in favor of Tony Greaves, a schoolmaster. The conference was addressed by Abu Omar, billed as a leading representative of El Fatah. But the Young Liberals also heard the Israeli case, stated by Shalom Mandelbaum, a student. Their resolution called for an embargo on all arms to the Middle East, the creation of a secular Palestinian state open to all, irrespective of race or creed and the restitution of all Palestinian Arab rights. The resolution was adopted by a large majority. An amendment was added expressing concern over the disregard of the Mideast cease-fire and urging the two sides to enter into direct negotiations.

Hearing Set For Man Charged With Conspiring To Kidnap Israeli Consul In Montreal

MONTREAL, March 30, (JTA)--A preliminary hearing has been set for April 3 in the case of 26 year-old tinsmith Pierre Marcell, who was arraigned in Criminal Court last Thursday for conspiring to kidnap Israeli consul Moshe Golan. Bail was set at \$4,000 in property or \$3,500 in cash. The suspect was officially charged with conspiracy with intent to forcibly detain a person against his will. The police are still looking for his alleged accomplice, Jacques Lancot, 29 year-old taxi driver. The crown prosecutor claimed that a search of their car revealed a document advising the news media that the consul had been abducted.

Miss Angie Brooks, Now In Israel, Says She Will Visit Arab Countries If Invited

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--Miss Angie Brooks, President of the United Nations General Assembly, replied to Arab protests over her visit to Israel saying she would visit Arab countries too if invited and if it would help bring peace. She spoke on the Israel Armed Forces radio station. Miss Brooks came to Israel last week on an official visit, the first by a president of the General Assembly while in office.

Max Fisher Resigns As Chairman Of National Center For Volunteer Action

DETROIT, March 30 (JTA)--Max M. Fisher, Detroit financier and a Jewish community leader, has resigned as chairman of the National Center for Volunteer Action, established by President Nixon to enlist citizen action on the nation's social problems. He said the job should be rotated annually, noting that he had already served 15 months, or since the beginning of the Nixon Administration. An informed Jewish source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resignation definitely did not indicate a break by Mr. Fisher with the Nixon position on the Middle East, adding that Mr. Fisher, whom he called one of the country's leading "Jewish Republicans," had been planning for several months to phase out his chairmanship after activating the NCVA. It is believed that Mr. Fisher will maintain a consultancy with the White House. The NCVA was created as a quasi-public, non-partisan, nonprofit agency. Mr. Fisher was serving as chairman without salary.

Rabbinical Alliance Terms Haggadah Offensive And Without Rabbinical Authority

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Alliance of America, an Orthodox agency, denounced today as "offensive" the "Freedom Seder: A New Haggadah for Passover," written by Arthur Waskow, a Washington Jewish activist. The new Haggadah was published this week. Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the group, declared that the Haggadah was a religious work and that Mr. Waskow did not meet the requirements for changes in such a work for which "one must be an authority in Jewish Law and base his desires on firmly-rooted tradition." Rabbi Gross said Mr. Waskow had the right to issue a book drawing a parallel between the Jewish liberation from Egyptian slavery and the modern civil rights struggle. However, he added, "it is most offensive" for Mr. Waskow to call his book a Haggadah and to make "radical changes" without rabbinical authority. The rabbi added that the author had added "insult to injury" by incorporating in his Haggadah statements from Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver and writer Hannah Arendt among others who have a record of "anti-Semitic public remarks."

Two Jewish Organizations Urge Bishop Of Munich Not To Attend Passion Play

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA)--Charging that the Oberammergau Passion Play "remains deeply hostile to Jews and Judaism," the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith sent a cable Saturday to the Archbishop of Munich urging him to cancel his plans to attend the play, which opens May 18. The production, which has been staged every ten years since 1634, has been widely regarded as anti-Semitic, and a recent analysis in the London Tablet by Sister Louis Gabriel, director of the Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies at the Convent of Our Lady of Slon, concluded that it "distorted" and "falsified" the Gospels. The cable was sent to Julius Cardinal Döpfner by AJCongress president Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld and ADL chairman Dore Schary. Three years ago, Cardinal Döpfner had called on a monk to revise the text, but the monk reported that his changes had been rejected by the play's organizers. The AJCongress also reported that Lufthansa, the German airline, had agreed to suspend advertising for their tours that include tickets to the play, pending Jewish acceptance of a revised text.

Vandals Deface Pictures At Soviet Photo Exhibit; JDL Denies Complicity In Act

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA)--Five vandals defaced 28 pictures Friday at a "USSR Photo '70" exhibit at the New York Cultural Center, according to witnesses questioned by the police. No motive has been established and no suspects apprehended. The Jewish Defense League, which advocates violent action against anti-Israel interests in the United States, said it has "nothing but praise for those gallant persons who, seeing the plight of Soviet Jewry...took those steps which they deemed necessary to spotlight the plight...to a world that would much rather forget about them." A spokesman for the Police Department said the exhibit was on an upper floor and that the vandals had apparently infiltrated the center by means other than the front entrance, where possessions must be checked.

Israel Program For American Jewish Drama Students To Be Launched This Summer

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA)--A seven week summer program in Israel, geared to draw students and developing actors, was announced today by the American Zionist Youth Foundation. Entitled "Theatre of Two Worlds," workshop and theatre study, the pilot project is planned in cooperation with the Jewish Agency Youth and Hechalutz Department. The project is geared to acquaint American Jewish drama students with the flourishing theatre world in Israel. Workshop participants will begin with three weeks of intensive acting classes. They will meet and study with Israeli artists, attend performances and rehearsals of Israeli theatre groups, and receive lectures from leading practitioners in Israeli theatre circles. Participants will also spend time in intensive field trips around the country, a period of time in Jerusalem for visiting and special seminars on Israeli life and a work period on the kibbutz. The American faculty conducting the workshop consists of two couples long active in the American theatre, Jack and Aviv Davidson and Jack and Frances Manning.

Ottinger Charges U.S. Is Aiding Arab Terrorism By Halting Air Shipments To Israel

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA)--The United States is helping Arab terrorism by shutting off air parcel post shipments to Israel, Congressman Richard L. Ottinger charged in a letter today to Postmaster General Winton M. Blount protesting the Post Office Department's failure to arrange for El Al airlines to carry parcel post between the U.S. and Israel. Last week, the Democratic Congressman from New York noted, Trans World Airlines admitted that because of bomb threats it is refusing to carry parcel post shipments over 5 ounces to Israel despite the fact that U.S. postal authorities held such shipments in isolation for 48 hours. "Instead of contracting for parcel post shipments with El Al which has expressed willingness to carry such cargo between Israel and the U.S.," Mr. Ottinger charged, "the Post Office Department claims the best it can do is put parcel post on ships to the Middle East. This is carving in to Arab blackmail and jeopardizing Israeli's economy."