

JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Monday, May 18, 1970

No. 94

Israelis In Heaviest Assault On Egyptian Targets; 2 Israeli Soldiers Killed, 13 Wounded

TEL AVIV, May 17 (JTA)--Aerial warfare between Israel and Egypt escalated sharply over the weekend and the two countries also exchanged blows at sea. According to a military spokesman, Israeli jets downed five Egyptian MIGs over the Suez Canal zone between Friday morning and noon Saturday and sank an Egyptian destroyer and a Soviet-built Komar missile boat in the Red Sea late Saturday afternoon. Israeli warplanes pounded Egyptian targets in the northern, central and southern sections of the canal zone today. A military spokesman said an hour long attack was carried out in the morning and a second attack lasting 35 minutes was launched this afternoon. All planes returned safely to their bases. Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a fire exchange with the Egyptians across the Suez Canal today. A military spokesman disclosed that two Israeli soldiers were killed and ten were injured in earlier shellings. The dead were identified as Sgts. Abraham Bonen, 20, of Nathanya and Abraham David Gerassi, 22, of Haifa.

An Israeli soldier was injured and several houses were damaged in a mortar attack on Kfar Ruppim from Jordan last night. Jordanian and Iraqi forces shelled Ashdod Yaacob and Menahemia. There were no casualties. Fifteen cows were wounded by shell fragments. A military spokesman said the air assaults on Egyptian positions in the canal zone Friday and Saturday were among the heaviest ever mounted by the Israel Air Force. Their intention was to prevent the deployment of Egyptian anti-aircraft defenses in the so-called "middle zone" between the canal and central Egypt which is defended by Soviet SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles and, reportedly by Soviet pilots manning Egyptian jets. A military spokesman said hundreds of bombs were dropped on artillery batteries, camps and roads. An Egyptian MIG-21 and two MIG-17s were downed Friday when they challenged the Israeli attackers. Two more MIG-17s were shot down Saturday. All Israeli aircraft returned safely to their bases. The five planes shot down brought to 103 the number of Egyptian warplanes destroyed since the Six-Day War.

Egyptian Destroyer And Missile Boat Sunk In Retaliation For Sinking Of Fishing Boat

Israel claimed that its planes sank an Egyptian "Z" class destroyer and an 80-foot Komar class missile boat in a strike on the Egyptian naval base at Ras Banas, 500 miles south of the southern end of the Suez Canal near the Sudanese border. The strike was in retaliation for the sinking Wednesday of the 70-ton Israeli fishing trawler Orith by an Egyptian missile boat off northern Sinai in which two crew members were killed and two survived. Israel announced the loss on Friday. At the same time Israel disclosed the death of a civilian frogman and injuries to three others who were removing underwater wreckage at the port of Eilat. They were reportedly the victims of underwater explosives planted by Egyptian frogmen. Israeli sources did not disclose how the two Egyptian naval craft were sunk, what weapons were used or how long the engagement lasted. A spokesman here said the destroyer was one of two World War II-built vessels purchased from Britain in 1955. Their normal complement was 250 officers and ratings but it was not known how many were aboard at the time of the sinking. (Cairo denied that the destroyer was sunk but admitted it was hit and that there were casualties among its crew.) The Komar missile craft, which carries two Soviet-made surface-to-surface missiles and two anti-aircraft guns has a crew of 15-20 men. According to the Israeli report, the destroyer sank slowly and the missile boat went down almost immediately after it was hit. The Israelis said their planes encountered anti-aircraft fire from the destroyer and from Egyptian shore positions but returned safely to base.

The Israeli fishing boat Orith was reportedly trawling off the Bardawill lagoon on the northern Sinai coast when it was hit by an Egyptian missile. Her Captain, Adam Yashar, was killed instantly and her engineer, Segal Ackermann was wounded but managed to abandon ship with two other crewmen, Oded Kopelnik and Boaz Itzhak. They clung to wreckage but Ackermann died during the night. The two others managed to swim to the sand spit that encloses the lagoon. They were picked up in the morning by Arab fishermen who landed them at Nahal Yam, an Israeli settlement in northern Sinai. They were flown to a hospital in Beersheba where they were reported in excellent condition. According to the Israeli report of events at Eilat Wednesday, four frogmen were at work clearing the wreckage of the Bat Galim, an Israeli naval auxiliary vessel that was sunk by Egyptian frogmen last February. The underwater explosion killed Avi Shackak, of Nahariya and wounded his three companions. The sinking of an Egyptian destroyer claimed by Israel evened the score between the two country's navies. In October, 1967, Egyptian missile boats sank the Israeli destroyer Eilat off Sinai killing 51 of her crew. The Eilat, also British-built, was a sistership of the Egyptian destroyer claimed sunk yesterday. Egypt's navy now has only one destroyer of the "Z" class left but it has five other destroyers of the Soviet Skory class.

Paris Bishops Denounce Campaigns Which Call On Christians To Combat Zionism

PARIS, May 17 (JTA)--A group of French bishops has denounced "the two-faced character of certain anti-Israeli campaigns" which are calling on Christians to join in a struggle against Zionism. A statement released by the French Bishops' Committee for Relations with Judaism cited "certain journals and periodicals" which have published such appeals in recent months. "We disapprove of these articles and appeals," the statement said. "The concern which Christians must feel for the poor, more especially the Arab refugees, must not be allowed to lead to reverse injustices. It is a fact that a large number of Jews have found no other country willing to receive them but Israel. Every other political project proved unworkable." The statement carried the signatures of the Bishop of Strassbourg, the Suffragan Bishop of Paris and the Bishop of Natterre.

France Defends Israel's Right To Recognition, Guaranteed Borders, Peace With Neighbors

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 17 (JTA)--A softening of France's stand toward Israel emerged here Friday during the Security Council's continuing debate over Israel's 32-hour incursion against terrorist bases in Lebanon earlier last week. Ambassador Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, of France, Security Council President, declared that Israel has a right to recognition, guaranteed borders and peace with its neighbors. Although M. Kosciusko-Morizet insisted that Israel must withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and deplored its action in Lebanon, his remarks were regarded here as the most even-handed to be made by a French government representative on the Middle East since former President Charles de Gaulle condemned Israel as the aggressor in the June, 1967 Six-Day War. "Israel has the right to existence, to recognition and to security," the French envoy said. "Its neighbors must undertake clearly and unequivocally to live in peace with Israel. But these frontiers cannot be the frontiers of occupation or annexation."

Observers pointed out that M. Kosciusko-Morizet's assertion of Israel's rights went well beyond those spelled out in the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution which is generally regarded as the UN's accepted guideline to Middle East peace. The resolution called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories but did not ask for recognition of Israel or for an explicit undertaking by the Arabs to live in peace with the Jewish state. It was also pointed out here that France has sided with the United States and Great Britain more frequently than with Soviet Russia at recent meetings of the Four Power UN Ambassadors seeking agreement on a Mideast settlement. Friday's Security Council debate, like the four sessions that preceded it, ended inconclusively. The Council adjourned until Monday without the introduction of an expected Arab-Soviet resolution demanding economic and military sanctions against Israel. Such a resolution was reportedly being pushed by the Arabs with Russian support.

Beigin: Israel Not Alone In Its Struggle; Percy: Russia Manipulating Arab States

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, leader of the right-wing nationalist Gahal (Herut-Liberal) faction claimed here yesterday that Israel will not stand alone in its present "fateful struggle." Mr. Beigin said Israel could count on allies because "the growing extent of Soviet control in the region is upsetting the balance between the forces of the free and the Communist worlds." Mr. Beigin, a minister-without-portfolio in the Israeli Cabinet, praised Premier Golda Meir's broad coalition government for the same reasons that it has been criticized by others. According to Mr. Beigin, the 22-member government embracing all but a few splinter parties, is "the most wonderful phenomenon in the history of the Jewish people." He claimed that "not even in the uprisings against the Romans and in the ghettos were the Jews so united." (In Washington, Sen. Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, said that "the Arab states would be well advised that they will be the big losers if they allow the USSR to become more deeply involved in the Middle East." Sen. Percy warned that "Arab sovereignty would be suffocated by greater Soviet involvement in Arab countries." He said the Soviet Union has the "capability to manipulate the Arab state she helps for her own purposes in the military, political, diplomatic and economic fields." If Arab leaders hope to maintain effective control of their own nations, "they would do better to restrict Soviet influence and actions in their countries," Percy said in a statement released this weekend.)

Italian Socialist Leader Says There Is Room For Jewish And Palestinian States

ROME, May 17 (JTA)--Pietro Nenni, the Italian Socialist leader, declared in Milan yesterday that there is room in the Middle East for both a Jewish State and a Palestinian state. He accused the Big Powers of substituting themselves for the United Nations and lacking the will to promote direct or indirect mediation between the conflicting parties. Mr. Nenni made his remarks on the Middle East in the course of an election campaign speech. "There is space in the Mideast for the State of Israel guaranteed in its history, individuality and its frontiers," he said. "There is space to restore nationhood and a state to the Palestinian people and there is space for the Arab countries to develop themselves," he said. The Socialist leader warned of the increasing Soviet military presence in Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea which, he said, dragged the Middle East conflict into the orbit of Big Power interests.

\$57 Million Shaved Off Israel's National Budget; Fear Worsening Economic Situation

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA)--The Cabinet decided to shave \$57 million off Israel's record \$3.5 billion national budget today as the country's financial watchdogs warned of a seriously deteriorating economic situation. The two percent reduction is not likely to affect defense outlays. A nine-man ministerial committee headed by Agriculture Minister Haim Gvati was appointed to decide where the cuts should be made. David Horovitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, told the Knesset Finance Committee Friday that the economic situation was "grave." He repeated the warning in a radio interview yesterday. Mr. Horovitz cited the 60 percent increase in the country's balance of payments deficit during the first quarter of the year following a serious decline in foreign currency reserves during 1969. He said the situation could be remedied if the government maintained "a consistent monetary and fiscal policy." The Treasury is reportedly considering cuts in Israel's record budget for the current year. Mr. Horovitz said the national debt is of such proportions that "every baby in Israel owes \$1000 on the day of its birth." Hebrew University economists warned in a radio interview yesterday that the present slump on the New York Stock Market might have adverse effects on the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bond income for the current year. The economists said Israel's foreign currency reserves have begun a slow rise after hitting a dangerous low at the end of last year. But they warned against attaching excessive importance to this.

Peres: Prior Condition For Mideast Peace Is Removal Of All Foreign Armies

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA)--"A prior condition for peace in the Middle East is the evacuation of all foreign armies from this area," according to Minister of Immigrant Absorption Shimon Peres. Addressing a foreign students convention at Nahariya Friday, Mr. Peres demanded that "the Russians get out of Egypt, the Iraqis out of Jordan and the Syrians out of Lebanon." He said when that happens, "each side can appoint representatives who can then sit down at some agreed place and start talking peace."

World-Wide Anti-Israel Campaign Waged By Communist Regimes And Leftist Movements

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA)--The world-wide anti-Israel campaign carried on by Communist regimes and leftist movements has been accompanied by anti-Semitic persecution in eastern European countries and has resulted in serious tensions in some of the countries of western Europe, Zacharian Shuster, director of the European office of the American Jewish Committee said today at the closing session of the four-day AJCommittee's 64th annual meeting. "This campaign has been carried on with such violence that it is sometimes barely distinguishable from old-time anti-Semitism, although it is couched in contemporary political terminology," Mr. Shuster stated. "In the USSR itself, the attacks against Israel since the Arab-Israel war of 1967 have caused apprehension among large numbers of Jews who fear that the consequent national climate will result in personal attacks against them," he declared. In Poland, Mr. Shuster reported, thousands of Jews have been forced to leave the country in the past few years, adding that most of the 8,000 Jews now remaining in the country are "completely cowed and elderly."

Although the Jews of Czechoslovakia are slightly better off than those of Poland, he continued, there have been constant attacks against personalities of Jewish background since the Russian invasion of 1968. "In western Europe, the Communist parties are the major exponents of the pro-Arab line and are openly supporting El Fatah and other terrorist groups," Mr. Shuster stated. In the universities of Germany, France and Italy, he continued, Jewish students are constantly exposed to attacks by leftist groups that have openly embraced the Arab cause. Madrid is the distributional center for thousands of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic booklets translated and printed by the embassy of the United Arab Republic. Philip E. Hoffman was reelected to a second term as President of the American Jewish Committee here today. Max M. Fisher, of Detroit, was reelected Chairman of the Executive Board. Mr. Hoffman, a communal and civic leader, is completing his first year as President of the AJCommittee. Mr. Fisher is General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, President of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Treasurer of the United Israel Appeal, and member of the Administrative Committee of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Rally Of 20,000 Jews From 14 Hispanic Countries Demand Freedom For Russian Jews

BUENOS AIRES, May 17 (JTA)--Cold autumn rains failed to dampen the ardor of 20,000 Jews from Argentina and 13 other Latin American countries attending a mass rally here Friday to demand freedom for Soviet Jews. The rally was held at Luna Park, this city's largest stadium. Its theme was, "Let My People Go." The delegates called on Soviet authorities to open the gates to Jews who want to emigrate to Israel and to grant the others full religious and cultural freedom and to end the official campaign of anti-Semitism "masquerading as anti-Zionism." The rally expressed "unconditional solidarity" with "Soviet Jews who fight proudly for their national, cultural and religious rights under the Soviet constitution and especially for their right to go to Israel." Speakers included Harry Wohlstein, of San Jose, Costa Rica, representing Jewish youth in Latin America; Mrs. Bertha Sheh, who recited Yevtushenko's poem, "Babi Yar," in Spanish; and Mark Turkow, secretary general of the Latin American Jewish Congress. Mr. Turkow likened the recent Moscow press conference where a number of prominent Soviet Jews denounced Israel to a press conference in Germany in 1933 where Jewish leaders were forced to say that the Nazi regime posed no threat to the Jewish community. He compared the Soviet anti-Zionist pamphlets, Kitchko, Ivanov and Maletsky to Julius Streicher's anti-Semitic newspaper of Hitler's era, "Der Stuermer." Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, speaking on behalf of Argentine Jewry, compared the condition of Russian Jews today with those that prevailed under the Tsars.

AJCommittee And Temple Emanu-El Urged To Participate In Anti-War Activity

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA)--Victor Levin, a member of the Radical Jewish Union at Columbia University, called yesterday upon the American Jewish Committee to open their offices to anti-war activity, establish draft counselling centers, and offer legal counsel to protect young Jewish war resisters. He also urged the delegates attending the AJCommittee's 64th annual meeting this weekend to contribute \$100,000 to the legal defense of the Black Panther Party, and an additional \$250,000 for what he termed a center for creative Jewish living. Mr. Levin, a graduate student of anthropology at Columbia University, had been invited by the AJCommittee to address its session after he and Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman, the rabbinical advisor to the RJU, were arrested Friday evening on charges of disrupting services at Temple Emanu-El, the largest Reform congregation in the world. Rabbi Goldman and Mr. Levin were part of a group of young people who had come to the synagogue to protest the war in Southeast Asia and to present a number of demands to the congregation. During his address to the AJCommittee, Mr. Levin also urged the human relations agency to use its influence to demand "unilateral and immediate withdrawal from Cambodia." The student added, "Jews must speak up. Jews must support their brothers."

On Friday evening, members of the RJU were escorted out of the sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El after they disrupted the services by interjecting demands to "Remember Kent State University" where four students had been killed on May 4 by Ohio National Guardsmen, and "Withdraw all American troops from Southeast Asia." Midway through the service, Mr. Levin shouted that the temple was ignoring the fact that "our brothers are dying in the street." The demonstration took place after Dr. Nathan Perilman, senior rabbi of the Reform congregation, told the RJU that he would call the police to deal with any attempt by the Jewish activists to seize the pulpit. Rabbi Perilman said that no student or other laymen had ever spoken from the temple's pulpit. He offered to let the RJU address the congregants during the hour-long vesper services but the student group rejected this alternative. After the arrest, Rabbi Goldman said members of the group would return to the synagogue in another demonstration to protest the "outrageous action for one Jew to ask for the arrest of another in the sanctuary." He asserted that this had "never before happened in a synagogue in this country." Jews have a right to interrupt services to speak of imperative needs concerning the Jewish community. Rabbi Goldman and Mr. Levin will have a preliminary court hearing Wednesday. Prior to the start of the demonstration, some 20 members of the Jewish Defense League staged a counter-demonstration in front of the synagogue. They marched in a circle, carrying Israeli flags and chanting "Down with Panther sympathizers."

Jewish Community Urged To Make Israel Central To Jewish Educational Curriculum

GROSSINGERS, New York, May 17 (JTA)--America's Jewish community was called upon today to make Israel a central part of the Jewish educational curriculum to bring about the revitalization of young people's interest in their identity and study of Judaism. Some 500 community leaders and educators from the U.S. and Canada at the quinquennial meeting of the American Association for Jewish Education were told that such a change in emphasis would help in reversing the assimilationist process of many young American Jews. A number of delegates at the meeting, however, cautioned that Israel should become "a" not "the" central part of the Jewish educational curriculum. A statement adopted by its Governing Council called for special courses in the elementary and high school grades and relating Israel culturally in the teaching of music, dance and crafts. The statement criticized the paucity of texts available on the teaching of Israel; recommended that new materials be created to meet the need; recommended that the learning process be accompanied by personal experience; and urged that youngsters be sent on part-time study programs to Israel, especially those of high school age, who should spend at least one summer in the country.

The Association statement declared "Israel represents not only the recreation of a political entity, but the restoration of the cultural, religious and spiritual integrity of the Jewish people." Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, of Englewood, N.J., a lecturer on Jewish history at Columbia University in New York, said "Israel today represents a major concrete, dramatic live element in Jewish life, providing the type of idealism and aspiration young people seek today." He also called for a revolutionary change in the present structure of pedagogic methods in Jewish education--"by using Israel to teach about the Jewish past rather than teaching about the past and then relating it to the present." Rabbi Morris H. Finer, Director of the Community Service Division of Yeshiva University, N.Y., and a leader of the Orthodox Jewish community said that he would hate to see Israel become "merely a gimmick to teach young people about Judaism by relating it to a contemporary entity." The Association recommended familiarizing Jewish students with the basic similarities between the democratic ideals of the United States and the State of Israel; relating them to the Jews of Israel in firm bonds of kinship; tying Jewish students more closely to the Jewish people throughout the world; and teaching modern Hebrew as the living language of the Jewish people.

Arnov Urges \$250,000 Study Of Day Schools Involve All Members Of Jewish Community

The AAJE also approved undertaking a \$250,000 scientific study to determine the residual effect a Day School has on the religious practice, communal involvement, and Jewish identity of graduates attending such educational institutions. Members of the Jewish community are disturbed at the assimilationist trend of America's almost six million Jews, particularly among the younger generation, the meeting was told. Newly elected president of the Association, Robert H. Arnov of Scarsdale, N.Y., President of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said "Since the Jewish Day School is the most intensive type of school, it is plausible to assume that it is the most effective educational instrument. At the present there is no objective scientific evidence to support this assumption." Mr. Arnov said, "Therefore, it is in the best interests of all those concerned with the Day School - parent, child, and community - to determine objectively the residual effect such education as compared with part-time religious school instruction." He said that the new study would involve all members of the Jewish community including representatives of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism, as well as social scientists, educators and community leaders.

Irving Stone of Cleveland and President of the National Commission on Torah Education urged the new study, saying "I am convinced such a study will show the remarkable success of the Jewish Day School." He cited the achievement of the Day School in his own community which, he said, has already resulted in the graduating of 75 Jewish teachers currently working in Day Schools throughout the United States. The study was also endorsed by the educational heads of the denominational commissions representing the three branches of Judaism. The present school system suffers from financial difficulties, and an acute shortage of qualified teachers and curriculum materials. Leaders at the Association meeting acknowledged that the establishment of a larger Day School system would place a major financial burden upon the Jewish community. The Association maintains a strict policy against any funds from government sources. Mr. Arnov, who was elected as the new president of the American Association for Jewish Education, succeeds Isadore Breslau of Washington, D.C. The new Association president is the secretary of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York and a member of the UJA's national Campaign Cabinet, serves on the board of the Joint Distribution Committee, and participates as a member of the board of Temple Israel Center in White Plains.

Rabbi Urges Jewish Community To Assert Its Right To Dissent Against War, Repression

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA)--In a caustic denunciation of "ruthless repression that threatens America's freedoms," Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, called yesterday upon the Jewish community to resist "this rape of liberty" by invoking its "biblical right of dissent" through "strong and rightful protest." Declaring that "the bible is packed with champions of dissent," Rabbi Eisendrath urged his constituency to follow the examples of Abraham, Moses and Nathan because the climate in America today "is more than adequate warrant for placing the highest priority upon preserving the indispensable right of dissent." The country's dissenting youth are being "denigrated into the hated minority," he declared in an address to the board of trustees of the UAHC's semi-annual meeting last night. Rabbi Eisendrath warned that "there is no sanctuary for Jews today who do not speak up for youth because they are not youth, who do not speak up for blacks because we are white who do not speak up for due process, even for Black Panthers, because we are seemingly secure in our affluence." Continuing, he declared that if the Jewish community allows itself to be gullible enough to imbibe the poison being systematically offered, "we shall wind up the scapegoats we have always been in times of similar reaction. Those few of us who still, pathetically believe that silence is our strongest armor against sophisticated forms of pogroms are as wrong today as they have always been in the past. Whether we like it or not, our fate is inextricably bound up with those other scapegoats--the blacks and the youth--who are consciously, viciously and diabolically being pitted against each other and against us."