

# 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

Tuesday, May 19, 1970

No. 95

## Ben Gurion Resigns From Knesset; Says Impossible To Spend Time For Parliamentary Work

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA)--David Ben Gurion, the man who proclaimed Israel's independence in 1948 and served twice as his nation's Prime Minister, resigned from the Knesset today thereby removing himself, perhaps finally, from public life. Mr. Ben Gurion who always affected the informality of a bare head and an open collar, submitted his resignation in an equally informal manner. He wrote it on a sheet of blank note paper which he sent with a Knesset usher from his seat in the Knesset hall to the Speaker's podium. The 83-year-old statesman explained briefly that he found it "impossible to spare any of my time for parliamentary work." Entreaties by his colleagues to defer his resignation for several weeks in order to address the centenary of the Mikve Israel Agricultural School, were to no avail. Some political observers recalled that Mr. Ben Gurion had resigned once before and noted that Knesset rules give him 48 hours to rescind his resignation. But most agreed that this time the former Premier has left the political arena for good.

Mr. Ben Gurion who was born in Russia and came to Palestine as a youth when the country was under Turkish rule, served as a leader from 1935 to 1963, first as chairman of the Jewish Agency and later as Israel's first Prime Minister. He issued Israel's declaration of independence on May 14, 1948, against the opposition of many of his colleagues and at a time when the country was threatened with imminent invasion by the armies of five Arab countries. Regarded by many as the greatest personality produced by the Jewish people in this century and revered by most Israelis for his achievements, Mr. Ben Gurion's political influence waned sharply after his resignation from the Premiership, for the second time, in 1963. He engaged in a vendetta with his hand-picked successor, former Premier Levi Eshkol. In the past year he has been a bitter political opponent of Premier Golda Meir and has met with a great deal of public disapproval because of his opposition to coalition government policies.

Mr. Ben Gurion's efforts to form new political factions met with only modest success after he left office. In 1965 he quit Mapai, the Israel labor party he helped found, and joined with Moshe Dayan to form the Rafi faction made up mainly of Mapai dissidents. The party remained small and following the June, 1967 Six-Day War it decided to join a coalition with Mapai and Achdut Avodah to form the present Israel Labor Party. Mr. Ben Gurion refused to go along with the merger and founded a second new party, the State List, which had even less success at the polls than Rafi. Some Knesset observers said today that Mr. Ben Gurion's resignation was not due to "lack of time" but to the decline of his political influence. They noted that the former Premier was in good health for a man of his years and still full of energy.

## Israel Attacks Jordanian, Iraqi Artillery Batteries; New SAM-3 Missile Sites Buildup

TEL AVIV, May 18 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Jordanian and Iraqi artillery batteries in northern Jordan for three hours today following the shelling of four settlements in the Beisan Valley. The Iraqi and Jordanian units have been firing 122 mm. field guns at Kfar Ruppin, Ashdod Yaacov, Menahemia and Tel Katzir. All planes returned safely. Israeli artillery went into action against Egyptian positions on the Suez Canal yesterday following two heavy air strikes on gun-emplacements, encampments and missile sites. One Israeli soldier was slightly wounded by Egyptian artillery and mortar fire across the canal. Israeli shells scored a direct hit on an Egyptian oil tank, setting it afire.

Israeli gunners duelled with Jordanian and Iraqi artillery last night following the shelling of Kfar Ruppin, Tel Katzir, Ashdod Yaacov and Menahemia. The Jordanians and Iraqis used 82 mm. mortars and 122 mm. field guns, apparently in retaliation for an earlier Israeli artillery attack on Irbid village, a guerrilla base in Jordan. The Arab gunners stopped firing when Israel Air Force jets appeared overhead and illuminated their positions with flares. A military spokesman said the damage in the Israeli settlements was slight. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan paid a midnight visit to Kfar Ruppin to inspect the damage caused by an earlier shelling.

Cairo claimed that an Israeli plane was shot down over the Suez Canal zone yesterday. Israel said all aircraft returned safely to their bases. Sources here said the intensification of Israeli air attacks along the 103-mile Suez waterway was intended to keep Egyptian laborers from building re-enforced sites suitable for the new Soviet SAM-3 anti-aircraft missiles. The only known SAM-3s are presently located in northern and central Egypt to defend Alexandria, Cairo and the Aswan High Dam. Israel is determined to keep them out of the Suez Canal zone which it considers vital to its defense lines. Previously installed SAM-2 missiles in the canal zone have been destroyed by Israel's aerial pounding. The Egyptians appear now to be trying to rebuild the damaged sites to accommodate the SAM-3s which are effective against low-flying aircraft. (In Washington, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey asked at today's briefing whether the Soviet Union had installed SAM-3 missiles along the Suez Canal, said he had no confirmation of it.)

## Eban Says Israel Will Not Return To 1967 Line; Vows No Mideast Without State Of Israel

MONTREAL, May 18 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban told a Jewish audience here last night that Israel will "never go back to the juridical anarchy, the political chaos and to the demarcation line" of 1967. "This time, nothing less than peace within rational, secure and permanent boundaries with our neighbors" will be accepted, he said. "Never shall there be a Middle East without an Israeli sovereign state in the area." Mr. Eban, who arrived here from London yesterday, drew a crowd of 18,000 described

as the largest single gathering in the history of Montreal Jewry. He came to Canada to discuss Middle East problems with government officials. He is due in Washington tomorrow for meetings with Secretary of State William P. Rogers and other U.S. government officials. Mr. Eban drew an emotional response from his audience when he declared that the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, Sharm el-Sheikh and Jerusalem "will never be torn from our hearts." He promised however that when Israel's negotiating team goes to the peace table it will carry "many positive proposals for a secure and lasting peace." We don't want to rule one and a half million Arabs, Mr. Eban said. "What we want is a boundary, similar to those existing between the Scandinavian states." Mr. Eban attributed the absence of peace in the Middle East to the refusal of the Arabs, particularly Egypt's President Nasser, "to give up their slogans of passion and hatred and to overcome their psychological illusion that Israel can be destroyed. If a new war should break out, and we hope it won't happen," Mr. Eban said, "the result will be the same as in 1967 because we are fighting for our survival and without victory there can be no survival."

### AFL-CIO Urges Prompt Economic And Military Aid To Israel In View Of Soviet Role

WASHINGTON, May 18 (JTA)--The AFL-CIO Executive Council called on the administration to "act favorably and promptly" on Israel's economic and military needs "and thus preserve the balance of power not merely for the sake of Israel but in the interest of preserving world peace and freedom." The Council, which represents this country's close to 17 million organized workers, issued a statement yesterday noting that in recent months the crisis in the Middle East has taken a sharp turn for the worse due to the course pursued by the Soviet government in this pivotal area. "Moscow has used the Big Four negotiations solely for gaining more time in which to encourage and arm Nasser and his partners for an eventual war to destroy the State of Israel," the statement declared. In this situation, "it would be harmful to America's vital national interests if the administration were to hesitate and continue its delay in providing Israel with adequate economic assistance and the jets and other military equipment it so urgently needs for its defense and self-preservation," the statement concluded.

### Raymond Aron Warns American Disaster In Southeast Asia Can Jeopardize Mideast Balance

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA)--Raymond Aron, eminent French political analyst, told the American Jewish Committee yesterday that an American disaster in Southeast Asia could put into jeopardy "the present precarious balance in the Middle East." Explaining that direct Russian intervention in the Middle East has been restrained by risk of a confrontation with the United States, Mr. Aron told the final-day session at the Committee's 64th annual meeting: "Between the Vietnam war and the Israeli-Arab conflict there has been no direct connection, but this connection soon may be progressively created. An American disaster in Vietnam, a loss of confidence, a refusal of outside intervention by the Congress or the people may put in jeopardy the present precarious balance in the Middle East."

### Israel To Propose Ban On Air Traffic To Countries Involved With Hijackers, Saboteurs

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA)--Israel will propose sanctions amounting to a virtual ban on all air traffic to countries involved with aerial hijackers or saboteurs, when the International Civil Aviation Organization meets in extraordinary session in Montreal June 16-30, it was disclosed here today. The Israeli proposal will include the suspension of all air traffic to and from such countries and the denial of all air services to its national airlines and other aircraft. It has already been circulated in advance to the members of the ICAO along with the draft of a suggested resolution "condemning the criminal acts recently perpetrated against international civil aviation...and affirming its determination to maintain at all costs the security of international air transport." The Montreal meeting was initiated by ten member states of the ICAO after their representatives were approached by Premier Golda Meir in the aftermath of last February's fatal sabotage to an Israel-bound Swissair jet.

### Defense Forces To Maintain Strict Vigilance Over Israeli Fishing Boats

TEL AVIV, May 18 (JTA)--Israeli defense forces will maintain constant vigilance over Israeli fishing boats operating in dangerous waters, it was disclosed today. In the aftermath of the sinking of the Israeli trawler Orith by an Egyptian missile boat off the northern Sinai coast last week, all fishing boats have been given new instructions concerning communications and identification. The instructions are to be followed whenever the boats enter potential danger zones such as the waters of northern Sinai. The area is rich in fish but has been abandoned by Egyptian fishermen fearing capture by Israelis.

### Peres Says Jerusalem Housing Plan Will Perpetuate Its Jewish Character

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA)--In the past two years, 20 percent of single immigrants but only eight percent of immigrant families left Israel, Minister of Immigrant Absorption Shimon Peres disclosed here last night. Mr. Peres made the disclosure before the Jerusalem City Council where he outlined his plan for the construction of 25,000 new housing units in East Jerusalem, the sector formerly occupied by Jordan. Mr. Peres said his housing scheme was part of a plan to settle 200,000 immigrants in Jerusalem during the next decade out of a total of 500,000 expected to come to Israel. This would contribute toward eliminating international debate over the city's status and would perpetuate its Jewish character, Mr. Peres claimed. It would more than double Jerusalem's present population. He said a capital outlay of about \$170 million was necessary for the plan to be completed in the next five years. The City Council unanimously endorsed the housing program. Mayor Teddy Kollek warned however that detailed planning would be required before the city's population was doubled.

### Israel International Tennis Foundation Receives \$10,000 Gift From Armistead Carter

SAN DIEGO, May 18 (JTA)--The Israel International Tennis Foundation announced today receipt of a \$10,000 gift from Armistead B. Carter for the building of the Carter Tennis Center in Israel. Joseph D. Shane, chairman of the Foundation, said the Carter Center is already in the process of construction. Mr. Carter is an old time resident here.

## Syria Postpones Security Council Hearing; Seeks Support For Anti-Israel Resolution

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 18 (JTA)--The Security Council postponed today's scheduled Middle East deliberations until tomorrow afternoon on the request of Syria, which said it needed more time to prepare a resolution. The resolution, according to diplomatic sources, would condemn Israel officially for its military action into Lebanon last Tuesday; provide sanctions against Israel on the grounds that its actions endanger peace, and state that no military or civilian aid is to be given to member nations occupying territory of other member nations. The third point refers to Israel's takeover of Arab areas in the Six-Day War. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from diplomatic sources that Syria sought more time because it was having difficulty attracting an African or Asian co-sponsor for such a strong resolution. It was believed that, as it is apparently now worded, the resolution could not gain more than four votes in the 15-member Council--those of Syria herself, the Soviet Union, possibly Poland and possibly an African country like Zambia, which seconded last Tuesday's unanimously approved Spanish resolution calling for immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Syria, sources say, could easily have the USSR as co-sponsor--and may eventually do so--but it reportedly wants a non-Arab co-sponsor to demonstrate a broader-based support for the resolution. It is possible, diplomatic sources said, that Syria may temper the language of its resolution--perhaps reducing it to support for the UN cease-fire and for the resumption of the Jarring peace mission--in exchange for the acquisition of a co-sponsor. It is also possible that Syria may stand by its strongly worded resolution despite probable defeat in order to put its uncompromising position on the record. Secretary General U Thant was scheduled to meet this afternoon with Soviet Ambassador Yakob Malik. The subject of their discussion was not disclosed. A UN spokesman, asked about reports that 10 more observers were to be added to the UNTSO force at the Suez Canal, said he had no information on the matter. Mr. Thant had complained last week over the presence of only six UNTSO observers in that critical area.

## AJCongress Calls For Boycott Of Passion Play; German Writer Files Suit Against Play

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has criticized the decision of Julius Cardinal Doepfner, Archbishop of Munich, to attend the opening of the Oberammergau Passion Play today and called for a worldwide boycott of the performances that are scheduled from now through September. In a statement yesterday, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Congress President, said the West German prelate's action would "invariably be interpreted as Church endorsement of an anti-Semitic spectacle whose producers have obstinately refused to change the text in accordance with Vatican Council II." Last March 28 the Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith examined the 1970 "revised" text and found it still identified Jews as "the principal malefactors who scheme to bring about the death of Jesus" and still imputed collective guilt for deicide to the Jewish people.

(A suit was filed in a Munich court charging the organizers of the Passion Play with anti-Semitism and incitement against the Jewish people. Cardinal Doepfner, who attended the performance with members of the Bavarian state government, rejected charges that it was anti-Semitic. But the Cardinal apparently had some reservations. He published an open letter two days ago in which he said he felt uneasy about certain "over-exaggerations" in the script which could be interpreted as blaming the Jewish people collectively for the Crucifixion. Cardinal Doepfner wrote that the next production of the Passion Play, ten years hence, should "clearly express that Christ died for all mankind." The Cardinal's letter was reportedly the result of pressure from world Jewry. Legal action against the play was taken by Bernt Engelman, a non-Jewish German writer who is chairman of the League of Human Rights.)

## Catholic Bishops Of Belgium Disassociate Themselves And Church From Passion Play

BRUSSELS, May 18 (JTA)--The Catholic Bishops of Belgium have instructed priests that their parishoners attending the Passion Play at Oberammergau should be reminded that "Jesus was a Jew" and made aware of the objections raised by Jews that the play is anti-Semitic. The instructions were contained in a pastoral letter to priests of the Archdiocese of Malines which includes Brussels. "It is of the utmost importance that the Christians who go to Oberammergau should know of the objections of the Jews to the Passion Play as well as the problems created by the play for Christians," the bishops wrote. "In this connection it is important to know whether Christian circles take the declaration on the Jewish faith by the Vatican Council seriously. The Passion Play at Oberammergau is, of course, not organized by the Church. Nevertheless, it is a Christian event...Christians must not let themselves be placed in a position where they become responsible for the Crucifixion of Jesus after having watched the Crucifixion of Jesus on the stage. They must also remember that when Jesus spoke of Jews he spoke of people of his own religion. He was not an outsider--He was a Jew, and as such he had the right to teach his fellow Jews as the prophets had done before him."

## Jewish Community Center In La Plata Severely Damaged By Bomb Explosion

BUENOS AIRES, May 18 (JTA)--The Jewish community center in La Plata was severely damaged by a bomb explosion last night. Two women of the maintenance staff were injured. The DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry, telegraphed Interior Minister Francisco A. Imaz today demanding protection against the recent wave of vandalism aimed at the Jewish community. The La Plata bomb blast was denounced today at the third plenary session of the Latin American Jewish Congress. The delegates also referred to last week's murder of an Israel Embassy employe in Asuncion, Paraguay by Arab terrorists and called for more action to fight anti-Semitism, terrorism and Arab propaganda in Latin America. The session also discussed plans to strengthen Jewish youth activities and community work. It adopted a resolution urging the World Jewish Congress' Governing Council to call a world conference of Jewish communities in defense of Soviet Jewry when it meets in Montreal May 25-27.

## Stock Exchange Reverses Yarmulka Wearing Policy; Lindsay Supports Sabbath Observers

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA)--The New York Stock Exchange has reversed its position against permitting the wearing of yarmulkas on the job. The American Jewish Congress confirmed today it had received a letter to that effect from Exchange President Robert W. Haack, addressed to Theodore J. Kolish, Executive Board Chairman of the AJCongress' Metropolitan Council. Mr. Haack said a de facto reversal was made "immediately following" the uproar over the decision, in the wake of a suit filed with the City Commission of Human Rights by Abraham Jacob Goldstein, of Forest Hills, N.Y. Mr. Haack said "a formal settlement" would be made "within a day or two." The Commission's hearing today on the suit was thus canceled. Mr. Goldstein, a 25-year-old tube operator at the Exchange since April, 1968, had agreed when hired not to wear a skullcap on the floor during trading hours so as not to "disturb the brokers." He filed his complaint this past January when a supervisor forbade him from wearing a yarmulka on an upper level of the Exchange. Mr. Kolish had urged Mr. Haack to "exercise (the Exchange's) good judgment by reversing its untenable position" before the Commission hearings. Mayor John V. Lindsay pledged yesterday the city's aid in eradicating discrimination against the city's 100,000 Sabbath-observing employees. He said the Human Rights Commission was soliciting employers' policy statements and preparing hearings on discrimination charges by those denied employment because of their need to leave work early Sabbath eve. The Mayor also said the Department of Purchases and the Office of Contract Compliance would insist on the absence of such bias on the part of firms dealing with the city. Mayor Lindsay spoke at the national awards dinner of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. He received the union's 1970 Public Service Award for "fostering harmonious inter-faith relations."

## Orthodox Rabbi Calls For White House Parley To Help Stem Increased Polarization

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA)--Rabbi Joseph Karasick, President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, urged yesterday that President Nixon convene a "White House Conference on National Purpose and Unity" to help stem "the dangerously increased polarization of the American people." He spoke at the organization's national awards dinner. Rabbi Karasick recommended that the conference include religious and intellectual leaders, educators, sociologists, labor leaders, industrialists and "most important, spokesman of youth and of every legitimate consenting or dissenting stream which makes up the panorama of America's youth society." The conference, he said, would have "a calming, restoring influence on the American public," and would "re-establish the confidence (in American leadership) many have lost." Regarding the Middle East, Rabbi Karasick declared that Soviet intervention is "a threat to America and to all Western democracies," and commented: "If prior to the critical Soviet step some people believed that the demand of Jewish citizens for more weapons for Israel was a partisan demand, now every thoughtful and patriotic American must recognize that the vital interests of the United States and of Israel are coalescing in the Middle East." Rabbi Karasick received the Union's Kether Shem Tov (Crown of the Good Name) Award.

## UAHC Calls For Greater Jewish Participation To Help Combat Pressures On Dissent

WASHINGTON, May 18 (JTA)--The Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism was empowered by its governing body today to develop programs to insure greater Jewish participation in efforts to combat the "extraordinary pressures on dissent" that threaten "traditional American liberties." The authority was given by the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, at its semi-annual meeting here after hearing a report on the findings of a weekend seminar conducted by the Commission on "Pressure Against Dissent: The Open Society in Crisis." The report placed responsibility for "the climate of hate" in America on government policy in Southeast Asia and on political leaders who have "resorted to demagoguery, name calling and statements which impugn the loyalty of Americans who, in conscience, disagree with their policies."

The report urged the UAHC, which is the central congregational body of Reform Judaism in the United States and Canada, to "create an understanding of the legitimate role of dissent so that reaction against some of the current excesses will not create a spirit of intolerance among our own people." It also recommended that "the tradition of dissent in Judaism" be taught in the curriculum of our religious schools at all levels with discussion of its application to current synagogue and social problems." The report stated that "extension of the war into Cambodia, the recent killing of young people at Kent State University and Jackson State College, Mississippi and the vast outpouring of anger and frustration on college campuses are among the latest bitter fruits of the Vietnam conflict." It also called for a prohibition of live ammunition by National Guardsmen and police on college campuses.

## Boston, N.Y. Rabbis Score Escalation Of War And Harassment Of Political Dissidents

BOSTON, May 18 (JTA)--The Massachusetts Board of Rabbis deplored "the growing divisiveness in our country," which has been "cruelly exacerbated by the war in Vietnam and its further extension into Cambodia." The board called for "an end to the harassment of political dissidents" and "the brutal treatment of suspects." It endorsed Senate proposals for immediate United States withdrawal from Southeast Asia and Richard Cardinal Cushing's call for amnesty for draft evaders. The board issued its statement "in consonance with the Jewish ethical imperative which calls upon us to choose life and seek justice, love and peace." The declaration was signed by board president Rabbi Ephraim Bennett, of Temple Beth El in Swampscott, and social action chairman Rabbi Judea B. Miller, of Temple Tifereth Israel in Malden. (In New York, Rabbi Harold I. Saperstein, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, called on Washington to "reverse the process of military escalation which devours our youth, torments our conscience and divides our nation." He said the Board of Rabbis "shares the sorrow of young and old of all faiths throughout the nation" at the tragic death of the four students at Kent State University who were killed on May 4 by Ohio National Guardsmen. Rabbi Saperstein added, "We deplore the climate of violence and repression which has pervaded our country and wrought this painful harvest.")