

# 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 26, 1970

No. 100

## Israeli Patrols Cross Lebanon Borders; Action Gives Rise To Reports Of New Invasion

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA)--Israeli patrols and a small armored unit consisting of four tanks crossed the Lebanese border on three separate occasions today. A military spokesman said the operations were part of the intensified security precautions undertaken in the Israel-Lebanese border region since last Friday's fatal ambush of an Israeli schoolbus by terrorists based in Lebanon. None of the Israeli forces penetrated more than a mile inside Lebanon, the spokesman said. The patrol actions may have given rise to reports from Beirut that Israel mounted a new invasion of southern Lebanon this morning. There was no confirmation of the report from any Israeli sources. (In New York, a United Nations spokesman said that no word had been received from either Lebanon or Israel about renewed fighting.)

Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian positions in the Suez Canal zone for an hour this morning and returned safely to their bases. The latest raids followed five hours of intermittent pounding of Egyptian targets yesterday afternoon and night. A military spokesman said Egyptian artillery was inactive during the night. A spokesman describing today's action on the Lebanese border said a seven-man Israeli patrol crossed into Lebanon at about 3:30 a.m. local time in search of saboteurs. At six a.m. a second patrol consisting of 20 men went into Lebanon to track down possible ambushers. At noon four tanks entered Lebanon and destroyed a recoilless gun that was fired at one of the tanks. A short time later, three tanks on the Israeli side of the border were fired on from Lebanon. They returned the fire and destroyed two Lebanese bunkers, the spokesman said.

This morning's reports from Beirut reflected a panicky situation in the Lebanese capital as thousands of villagers poured out of the border regions and headed north in anticipation of a new Israeli assault. According to Beirut, Israeli armored units, supported by tanks and jets, invaded Lebanon at 6:45 a.m. near the village of Bint Jbeil. Beirut said Lebanese tanks were engaging Israeli forces north of Yaroun village. But there was no further word of fighting during the day. A heavy retaliatory blow by Israel has been expected since last Friday's schoolbus ambush, which shocked and enraged Israelis more than any other event in recent years. Premier Golda Meir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Deputy Premier Yigal Allon all made it clear that Israel holds the Lebanese government fully responsible for outrages committed by terrorists based on its territory. Roads leading out of the border region were reported clogged with vehicles carrying household goods. Red Cross convoys carrying food and medicine were turned back by refugees shouting "We want defense, not food," according to reports reaching here. According to Lebanon's Interior Minister, Kamal Jumblatt, about 15,000 persons had left southern Lebanon by late Sunday. The Beirut newspaper An Nahar put the number at 30,000.

## Dayan Warns Lebanon To Restrain Terrorists On Its Territory Or 'We Will Do The Job'

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned the Lebanese government last night that if it does not consider itself obligated to restrain terrorists on its territory, "We will do the job." Gen. Dayan issued his warning during a visit to Avivim, the Upper Galilee settlement that was the home of eight Israeli school children slain in a terrorist bus ambush near the Lebanese border Friday. "The government of Israel considers it its duty to ensure the safety of its inhabitants," Gen. Dayan said. He went from home to home of the bereaved families in Avivim and met with representatives of neighboring settlements. He promised that the Israel Army would do all in its power to protect travel, work and living in the border region. But he told the settlers to "take a deep breath" because not all problems could be solved overnight. He told one mother, "You shall bring your children up and we shall do everything possible to protect their lives." The nature of the new defense measures was not disclosed. Some sources said Israel's strategy would be to force the terrorists to move their bases much further than they are now behind the Lebanese border. This would increase the distance they would have to traverse in order to attack Israeli border settlements or set up ambushes. In this connection one observer recalled an Israeli threat to create a six-mile wide no-man's-land inside the Lebanese border for its entire length. Such a plan would necessarily entail Israeli occupation of the area.

## Pope Paul VI Deplores School Bus Attack; Michael Stewart Expresses Profound Shock

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--World leaders continued to express grief and shock at the ambush by Arab guerrillas of an Israeli school bus near the Lebanon border Friday that resulted in the death of eight children and four adults and the wounding of 21 other passengers, mostly children. Pope Paul VI, through the Papal Delegate, Msgr. Pio Laghi, sent a message to Foreign Minister Abba Eban declaring "His heartfelt sentiments and sympathy both to your government and to the families of the innocent victims" killed and wounded by an Arab terrorist assault on a school bus. The Papal message, however, even-handedly condemned violence by both sides in the Mideast conflict. It stated: "The Holy Father deplored all acts of violence no matter what their source which do serious harm to innocent people and which only deepen the rift between one people and another. His Holiness prays that such acts will come to an end and implores the Almighty to send peace and tranquility to the entire Middle East for the benefit of all of its people." The Vatican does not recognize the State of Israel.

Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York condemned the Arab ambush as an "unspeakable act of terrorist violence." He also condemned the apparent reprisal beatings of three Arab nationalists in New

York on Friday, declaring that all violence is "intolerable" and "serves no decent cause." Britain's Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, said "I am profoundly shocked at this cruel act of terrorism which I unreservedly condemn. I wish to express my deep sympathy with all those who have suffered, particularly those who have lost children." The British Foreign Office issued a somewhat longer statement asserting that "Her Majesty's government have repeatedly deplored attacks, by whomsoever committed, which have caused so many casualties and contributed to the further deterioration of the situation in the area." Dr. Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, said at the World Jewish Congress Governing Council meeting in Montreal that he was "overcome with grief" at the ambush. "The lives of innocent children were senselessly sacrificed," he said, adding he hoped the "terrible conflict" in the Middle East would end "as soon as possible."

The Israel Students Association mailed 100,000 pamphlets in several languages to student organizations all over the world describing the massacre and containing the photograph of a child on a stretcher. The inscription reads, "A day in Israel--murderous attack on children, Russian pilots in Egypt, a nation fighting for survival. Can you remain indifferent?" Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Yitzhak Nissim, called on the leaders of the Moslem faith last night "to act with all means at their disposal to halt and put an end to the criminal murders perpetrated by members of their religion." The Chief Rabbi's statement continued, "The enlightened world and the spiritual leaders of all faiths must lift their voices against such atrocities. The attack shows an abyssal depth in criminal deeds, one that only sickens the imagination." Mr. Eban, meeting with Mr. Stewart at his country home yesterday before flying home to Israel reportedly thanked the British diplomat for his expression of profound sympathy with the victims of the schoolbus ambush. However, Mr. Eban also conveyed Israel's regret that Britain voted in the Security Council last week in favor of an Arab-backed resolution censuring Israel for its May 12-13 incursion against guerrilla bases in Lebanon. Britain's prompt and unequivocal denunciation of the schoolbus ambush has nevertheless eased some of the resentment felt by Israeli diplomats here and British Jews generally at what they consider an unfriendly act by a friendly government.

### **Eban: Israel's Request For More Jets Being Urgently Considered By Nixon Administration**

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--Political circles here believe the United States will act to restore the military balance in the Middle East in a manner satisfactory to Israel but without publicity and apparently without a public warning to the Soviet Union. Foreign Minister Abba Eban told newsmen on his return from the U.S. last night that Israel's request for more American Phantom jets was being considered "with urgency" by the Nixon administration. Mr. Eban said President Nixon expressed concern over Israel's security in their talk in Washington last week. He said he had stressed to the President and to Secretary of State William P. Rogers that it was vital to maintain the balance of power in the Mideast in order to avoid a new war. He said his talks with American leaders centered on Egypt's repudiation of the 1967 cease-fire agreement and the increasing involvement of Soviet military personnel in Egypt. The Foreign Minister said his talks in London on his way home were along similar lines. He said that on his visit to Canada he found strong public support for Israel.

Mr. Eban went directly to Premier Golda Meir's residence presumably to report on his talks with American officials. Mrs. Meir will deliver a political report to the Knesset tomorrow. Optimism in local political circles stems from President Nixon's assurances that he will stand by his obligations to support Israel's defense capabilities. Mr. Nixon has said that the balance of power in the region must not change for the sake of peace and "we shall keep this undertaking." He is believed here to be fully aware of the imbalance created by Soviet involvement in Egypt and to favor hastening action as soon as he decides the best form American action should take. (Before his departure from Washington, Mr. Eban, declaring that his country's survival was "the most urgent international necessity today," warned in a television interview that a rejection of her request for more American Phantom jets would make an Arab-instigated war "absolutely inevitable." Mr. Eban appeared yesterday on the ABC-TV program "Issues and Answers." His interview, by correspondents Roger Peterson and John Scali, was taped Friday. Mr. Eban said if the U.S. rejected Israel's request for more jets, Israel would have to conclude that U.S. policy was to see Israel grow "relatively weaker and weaker" and become a "helpless victim of an assault by our enemies." Asked if the sale of more jets would not result in severe repercussions against the U.S. throughout the Arab world, Mr. Eban replied that on the contrary, the Arabs would have more "respect" for the U.S. for standing by its ally.)

### **NATO Officials Place Mideast Crisis High On Agenda; Rogers At NATO Council Meeting**

ROME, May 25 (JTA)--A NATO official said here today that the Middle East conflict would be high on the agenda of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Council meeting here tomorrow which will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Mr. Rogers arrived here today and met with Italian Foreign Minister Aldo Moro who returned yesterday from a visit to Cairo. British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart also conferred with Mr. Moro. The Italian Foreign Minister said Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad had asked for Italian aid in bringing up the whole Middle East situation at the NATO Council meeting Tuesday and Wednesday. Manlio Brosio, secretary general of the NATO Council said the Mediterranean situation was heavily influenced by events in the Middle East even though the latter is not the territorial responsibility of NATO. He said the conflict was deteriorating without signs of negotiations or compromise and because the Big Powers are involved, a new flare-up in the Middle East could endanger world peace. Mr. Stewart, on his arrival, reaffirmed Britain's position that breaches of the cease-fire in the Mideast must stop.

(The New York Times correspondent, Drew Middleton, reporting yesterday from Brussels, the NATO headquarters, stated that NATO military sources are becoming increasingly concerned that the Middle East balance of power may have shifted to Israel's detriment as a result of Soviet activities in Egypt and are seriously questioning Israel's ability to defend its own borders in face of concerted

Arab attacks on several fronts. Mr. Middleton said the military sources believe Arab strategy, developed under Soviet tutelage and training, is to intensify guerrilla assaults from southern Lebanon and along the Jordanian frontier while a Soviet-manned air defense system in Egypt deters the Israel Air Force from interfering with Egypt's military build-up for a new offensive across the Suez Canal. According to these sources the Arabs are planning amphibious landings on Israel's coast in coordination with overland attacks. Mr. Middleton wrote, "The ultimate question asked by authoritative NATO sources is whether Israel can prevent the Arabs from widening the war without sizable material reinforcement from the United States, including Phantom bombers.")

### Caradon And Morizet Meet To Discuss Possible UN Action On Arab Ambush Of School Bus

UNITED NATIONS, May 25 (JTA)--A spokesman for the British Mission to the United Nations told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Ambassador Lord Caradon met with Security Council President Jacques Kosciuszko-Morizet on Friday "to consider possible action being taken by the United Nations" regarding the Arab guerrilla attack Friday on an Israeli school bus. The British spokesman said that Lord Caradon and Mr. Morizet met shortly after learning about the ambush attack "but no position was taken at that time." Asked if the two ambassadors considered calling an emergency meeting of the Security Council, the spokesman hinted that such a meeting might have been favored by both if Israel had initiated a request for a Council meeting. "Interpret the phrase 'possible action' as you will," the spokesman told the JTA. "At this time, there is no reason to suppose that any early meeting of the Security Council will take place. Israel should ask for that but hasn't."

A spokesman for the Israeli Mission said Israel has not called for a Council meeting "because it is pointless" in view of the resolution adopted last week which condemned Israel's May 12 incursion into Lebanon. The resolution did not mention the terror attacks against Israel. The mission spokesman said that the Council is evidently stacked against Israel. "The Council has not passed a single resolution condemning Arab aggression in the 22 years since Israel's establishment." Since the Six-Day War, the Council has slapped Israel nine times for cease-fire "violations." Meanwhile, the Big Four are scheduled to meet tomorrow with no indication that the latest tragedy will have any effect on their continuing sluggish talks to establish a guideline for the resumption of Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring's Middle East peace mission.

### New Battle Looms Whether Or Not Conversion By Reform Rabbis Can Be Recognized In Israel

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--A new battle loomed in the government today over the perennial issue of state support for the religious establishment. Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro, of the Labor Party, made it clear to his National Religious Party colleague, Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro, that the government would not defend in court the NRP's insistence that conversions by Reform rabbis cannot be recognized in Israel. The NRP called an urgent caucus of its Knesset faction today and the party's executive committee is expected to meet later to decide what steps to take. As always happens in these controversies there was pressure for the NRP to quit the government if the issue is not settled to its satisfaction. Zevulun Hammer, an NRP Knesset member, returned from a visit to New York today with word that Rabbi Menahem Schneerson the Lubavitcher Rebbe is opposed to the recognition of Reform conversions in Israel. According to Mr. Hammer, he thinks the NRP should leave the government unless Israeli law is amended to provide for conversions only according to halacha--Jewish religious law. In effect that would invalidate conversions performed by other than Orthodox rabbis.

The issue came to a head when Mrs. Helen Zeidmann, who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi, demanded that her conversion be recognized by the state though there is no official reform rabbinate here and the Orthodox establishment recognizes only Orthodox rabbis. The NRP demanded that the State Attorney General testify in court against Mrs. Zeidmann. It was the Justice Minister's rejection of their demand that brought about the present contretemps. An amendment to Israel's Law of Return, passed under heavy Orthodox pressure last year, officially recognized as Jewish only persons born of a Jewish mother or converted. But the amendment did not spell out that conversion must be in accordance with halacha and Orthodox protests at the time were of no avail. The Zeidmann case may bring the issue to a test. But there were hints in political circles that a compromise might be reached if the Labor Party and the NRP agree that a court decision in Mrs. Zeidmann's favor would not be regarded as a precedent for other conversions performed by Reform rabbis.

### JDL Admits Forging Daily World Editorial On Soviet Jews To Publicize Plight Of Jews

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--The executive editor of the Daily World, the official organ of the Communist Party U.S.A., today branded as "a forgery from beginning to end" a "special issue" of the paper condemning Soviet anti-Semitism. The editor, Simon Gerson, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the two-page "issue" was "something filthy" and that "there isn't the slightest veracity in the whole thing." Rabbi Meir Kahane, chairman of the Jewish Defense League, which brought the "special issue" to the attention of the press, admitted to the JTA that it was a forgery. "Of course it is," he said, adding that the JDL was willing to use "all sorts of possible gimmicks" to publicize the plight of Soviet Jewry. Rabbi Kahane said the intent of the forged Daily World was to cause a split in American Communism on the question of Soviet Jewry, with the resultant rift generating publicity about Soviet Jews.

### A Labor Party Victory May Make Britain Amenable To Selling Chieftain Tanks To Israel

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--Arye Eliav, secretary general of the Israel Labor Party, said on his return from London yesterday that the supply of Chieftain tanks to Israel may depend on the outcome of the British elections next month. According to Mr. Eliav, a Labor victory would bring new younger men into the government and create an atmosphere more conducive to a discussion of the subject. Up to now the Labor government has refused to supply Chieftains to Israel, but a fresh mandate from the electorate might cause it to reverse its stand, Mr. Eliav said.

## AJCongress Official Urges Creation Of Jewish-Black Coalition To Tackle Urban Problems

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA)--Richard Ravitch, chairman of the American Jewish Congress commission on urban affairs, told the 500 delegates attending the national biennial convention here this weekend that hostility between Jews and blacks was caused by "a society that fails to allocate sufficient resources to meet its human needs." Mr. Ravitch, who is also president of the New York Citizens Housing and Planning Council, said that when jobs, housing and educational opportunities are in short supply, the result is "a fierce rivalry, competition and intergroup tension." He called for a "broad-based coalition" of Jews, blacks and organized labor to demand more government funds for the solution of urban problems. Sanford Solender, executive vice-president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, declared that Jewish organizations should share its vast body of experience with groups in the black community seeking to build their own structures. He also called for meeting the "special needs of Jewish ghetto residents in our community programs, working with law enforcement agencies to insure their physical security, helping to establish harmonious relationships with the newer people in these ghettos, and assisting the Jewish residents and businessmen in relocating if that is their desire." In addition, Mr. Solender urged focusing the educational programs of Jewish organizations for their own membership on the problems of urban life and "establishing clearly the link between Jewish values and our obligations to act on the urban crisis."

During yesterday's session a group of student delegates walked in a silent demonstration to the Lebanese Embassy in a mock funeral procession to protest the murder last Friday of eight school children and four adults and the wounding of 21 others by Arab guerrillas who attacked an Israeli school bus near the Lebanese border. During the demonstration here, a school bus draped in black, circled the Embassy. Earlier in the day, the convention adopted a resolution to "condemn and repudiate the indefensible recourse to lawlessness" like the attack on three Arabs in New York last Friday by an as yet unidentified extremist group in apparent retaliation for the ambush bombing of the Israeli school bus. The resolution expressed grief over the tragedy but noted that this "must not distort our responses. We cannot allow the horrifying act of the Middle East to push us into committing or condoning irrational attempts to take violent reprisals against Arab representatives in our country."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, who was reelected president of the Congress, compared the attacks on the three Arabs with a beating he recalled suffering at the hands of "red-neck bigots" in Mississippi while he was there as a counselor during a voter registration drive in 1964. "Mindless violence," he declared "is no answer no matter how deep our anguish at those who make innocent children on their way to school the victims of political horror." On Saturday, the 500 delegates marched to the Soviet Embassy to demand religious and cultural freedom for Soviet Jews and the removal of barriers to free emigration. Rabbi Lelyveld was permitted by police to approach the Embassy gates while other demonstrators were kept 500 feet away. A Soviet official who emerged from the Embassy refused to accept from Rabbi Lelyveld a petition from the delegates. The rabbi then offered the Russian a rose.

## Rabbinical Court Declares Jews Can Justifiably Be Conscientious Objectors To War

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 25 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Court of Justice of the Associated Synagogues of Massachusetts has declared that Jews can justifiably be conscientious objectors to war. This declaration, made several days ago at a seminar on Jewish Law at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, followed a one-and-a-half year study of the Talmud and the history of the Jewish people by the "Beth Din" court, a rabbinical court. Rabbi Samuel I. Korff, spokesman for the court, said the foremost Jewish law is that nothing is "greater and more important than the single individual, not the society, its institutions or one's country." The court's statement added that it is up to the individual to "decide if he considers killing in a particular war to be murder or not." Continuing, the statement observed that "If he decides that to engage in a particular war would be murder, according to his conscience, he not only can conscientiously object to engage in that war, he must protest that war."

## AJCommittee Critical Of U.S. Cambodia Involvement; Urges Action On Other Fronts

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee, in a statement sharply critical of the American involvement in Cambodia, declared that "anguish over Indo-China or our urgent domestic needs," must not blind the United States to "other grave and stubborn problems on the international scene," including the Middle East. The statement listed the other problem areas as Latin America, Western Europe, the United Nations, the under-developed countries and refugees. The statement warned that the American action in Cambodia "now threatens to increase the already intolerable drain on our human and economic resources; has provoked the most violent and widespread dissent in our country since the draft riots of the civil war; has exposed the Bill of Rights to new strain and peril; and has made all the problems of human relations in the United States infinitely more difficult to deal with. The statement added it was "vital" that the United States "avoid any enlargement of our military participation in Indo-China and pursue unremittently our announced intention to withdraw our forces from that area," perhaps even "in advance of the specified time," which Pres. Nixon said was June 30.

## 500 Youth, 10,000 Persons In Pro-Israel Parade; Stevenson Calls For Planes To Israel

CHICAGO, May 25 (JTA)--More than 500 young people marched yesterday in a parade celebrating Lag b'Omer and in support of Israel's independence. Ray Goodman, director of the Salute to Israel Independence parade in New York, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that in addition to the youths, some 10,000 persons participated in the outdoor celebration at the Bernard Horwich Center. Adlai Stevenson III, candidate for State Treasurer in Illinois, told the gathering he supported Israel's request for additional plane and urged the Nixon administration to "support the young democracy in the Middle East." Shaul Ramati, consul general of Israel in Chicago, was a guest speaker.