

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

Wednesday, May 27, 1970

No. 101

Mrs. Meir Appeals For More Planes; Scores Arab Claim That Israel Rejects 1967 Resolution

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir delivered an urgent, almost desperate appeal to the United States today to sell Israel more Phantoms and other jet planes that Israel has requested. In a lengthy political report to the Knesset, Mrs. Meir declared, "I find it inconceivable that the United States will not carry out its declared undertaking" of maintaining the balance of power in the Middle East. She warned however that "any delay in granting our request is liable to injure our interests and be interpreted by our enemies as an encouragement of their aggression and by the Soviet Union as condoning its intensified involvement" in the Mideast conflict. A large part of Mrs. Meir's 6000 word report was devoted to detailing the steady escalation of Soviet aid to the Arabs, principally to Egypt. "At a time when in New York and Washington Soviet representatives were participating with representatives of the Western powers in discussions on the renewal of the Jarring mission and on a peace settlement, Soviet cargo ships were sailing to Egypt laden with cargoes of SAM-3 ground-to-air missiles and thousands of Soviet experts were arriving in Egypt to install and operate them," Mrs. Meir said.

She said the "gravest step so far" in Soviet involvement was the introduction of Soviet pilots into Egypt who have Egyptian air bases at their disposal and fly operational missions in Egyptian jets. Mrs. Meir insisted that the military victories Israel has achieved "have never intoxicated us to such an extent that we might give up our yearning for peace." She rejected Arab claims that Israel has refused to accept the United Nations Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution. Mrs. Meir did not say Israel accepted it but quoted a statement to that effect by the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations on May 1, 1968.

Addressing herself to the United States, she pointedly reminded the Nixon administration of statements it has made in the recent past. "I paid attention to what the President of the United States said at his press conference on May 8 about the ominous situation in the region as reports had been received that Soviet pilots had been integrated into the Egyptian Air Force," Mrs. Meir said. "He (the President) went on to say that the United States was following the situation and if it became clear that the reports were true and if the escalation continued, this would drastically shift the balance of power and make it necessary for the United States to re-evaluate its decision with regard to the supply of jets to Israel," Mrs. Meir recalled. She also cited a March 24 statement by Secretary of State William P. Rogers who said the U.S. would not permit the security of Israel to be jeopardized and that if steps were taken that might upset the present balance of power the President would not hesitate to reconsider the matter. "I need not say that I attach great importance to these statements," Mrs. Meir declared.

Rogers At NATO Meeting Hints Israel May Get More Planes; Request Being Reconsidered

ROME, May 26 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers hinted today that Israel may get more Phantom jets from the United States. He told the NATO foreign ministers' meeting here that Israel's request to buy the warplanes was being reconsidered. Other U.S. sources said it was not likely that the U.S. would re-open a study of the matter only to veto it a second time. Israel's request was "held in abeyance" by the Nixon administration last March. But President Nixon ordered full review of the matter when evidence appeared that Soviet pilots were flying Egyptian planes on missions over Egypt. Mr. Rogers, who is attending the two-day session of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Council, said the Nixon administration believes the introduction of Soviet pilots into Egypt has added a new "qualitative element" to the Arab-Israeli conflict but has not yet necessarily altered the Mideast balance of power.

Mr. Rogers met privately with several of the delegations. According to reports Cambodia, rather than the Middle East, was the main subject of his remarks. But Premier Mariano Rumor of Italy, opened the NATO session with a warning that the Middle East conflict could spread war throughout the entire Mediterranean region. "The continuing tension," he said, "increases the risk of war extending in the Mediterranean and prolongs the state of paralysis which prevents it from playing its traditional role as a major international seaway of vital interest to Italy." Mr. Rumor was obviously referring to the continued shut-down of the Suez Canal, which has shifted much of the Mediterranean's former shipping traffic around Africa. He told the NATO Council members that any settlement in the Mideast is "a long way off." Italian Foreign Minister Aldo Moro, just returned from a visit to Cairo, reported that President Nasser of Egypt insists on the implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution and all UN resolutions since 1949 pertaining to Palestinian refugees before he would agree to peace talks.

Israel Sends Preventive Mission Patrols Into Lebanon; General Strike In Beirut

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA)--Israel continued to send patrols into Lebanon on preventive missions against guerrilla bases today as Beirut was paralyzed by a general strike demanding stronger military measures against the Israeli raids. An Israeli military spokesman said that forces that crossed the border today were carrying out "observation missions" from hilltops overlooking the frontier and were "interfering" with the movements of Arab guerrillas. (Beirut claimed today that a Lebanese lieutenant was killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol 800 yards inside the Lebanese border last night. Israel reported a small clash involving one of its patrols but mentioned no casualties. Israel sent

infantry columns and small armored units into Lebanon yesterday and reported skirmishes that lasted as long as five hours. But there was no large-scale invasion as reported by Beirut yesterday. An estimated 3000 strikers marched through the Lebanese capital today shouting criticism at the government for failing to protect the border villages against Israeli attacks. Strikers marched in Sidon, the largest city in southern Lebanon. Schools and shops were shut down all over the country and Beirut Airport was closed for three hours by the strike, which was said to be supported by both left-wing and right-wing factions. An estimated 30,000 Lebanese villagers are reported to have fled the border regions during the past week. But some have apparently remained. Israeli soldiers inside Lebanon reportedly encountered several farmers working their fields. The farmers were left unmolested. A Lebanese woman from Yaron reportedly told an Israeli soldier that the villagers did not want terrorists in their midst but were helpless against them.)

(The Pakistani Mission to the United Nations released a statement today condemning Israel's "inhuman shelling" of Lebanese border villages Sunday. The statement, originally made by a Foreign Office spokesman in Rawalpindi yesterday, described the alleged shelling as "an act of barbarism." It made no mention of last Friday's terrorist bus ambush near the Lebanese border, which took the lives of eight Israeli schoolchildren and four adults. The Pakistani statement said, "Israel has repeatedly been condemned by the world community for reverting to savage tactics of military reprisals." It warned that the "presumption that an increase in barbarity and frequency of these military attacks will blunt the determination of the Arab people is a dangerous miscalculation." The Pakistani spokesman expressed confidence that "all peace-loving people will support Lebanon in its just and righteous stand.")

French Government Silent On Israel-Lebanon Crisis; Believe Lebanese Government Doomed

PARIS, May 26 (JTA)--The French government, which has in the past proclaimed its deep-rooted ties with Lebanon, has been officially silent so far on the latest crisis in that half Moslem, half Christian nation, once a mandated territory of France. The crisis is double-edged, involving the Israeli-Lebanese border conflict on one hand and the challenge to the Lebanese government by Palestinian guerrillas on the other. President Georges Pompidou is briefed daily on the border fighting and on developments inside Lebanon. But up to now, government spokesmen have carefully avoided making any statements on the subject and Israeli diplomats here have not been summoned to the Quai d'Orsay to answer for their government's actions. Some sources here say the French lassitude is motivated by a belief in government circles that the present Lebanese government is doomed. They say France is pursuing a neutral course in the conflict between the Beirut regime and the Palestinians which amounts to "abandonment" of Christian, moderate Lebanon in favor of the more extremist Arab states, notably Egypt, Syria and Libya which France is courting.

Israel Jets Attack Egyptian Targets; Two Israeli Soldiers Killed, Two Wounded

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian targets in the Suez Canal zone for 35 minutes today and returned safely to their bases. An Israeli soldier was killed yesterday and another was wounded last night in exchanges of fire with Egyptian forces across the canal. The name of the dead soldier was withheld pending notification of next of kin. An Israeli soldier was killed yesterday and another wounded when a mine exploded near Ajar village in the Golan Heights. The dead man was identified as Corp. Daniel Liberty, 20, of Ramat Gan. A military spokesman said today that the silencing of Egyptian artillery along the Suez Canal was one of the main assignments of the Israel Air Force. He said daily sorties were necessary because the Egyptians were continuously shifting their gun positions.

Egyptian artillery took a heavy toll during the past week. Nine Israeli soldiers were killed, among them seven who died when a shell scored a direct hit on an officers' mess Saturday. A spokesman said that Israeli planes have carried out 14 attacks in the past few days. Two of the raids were not on the canal zone but against Safage, an Egyptian naval base 350 kilometers south of the canal. The raids took place last Saturday but were not announced at the time. There are still no details available. A military spokesman said only that the objectives were limited and that the attacks were not against naval targets. In contrast to their artillery barrages, Egyptian air and ground raids on Israeli positions in the Sinai peninsula have been ineffective, the spokesman said. Six Egyptian planes have been shot down over Sinai in recent attacks and heavy casualties were inflicted on Egyptian commandos. Israeli casualties were three killed and several men wounded.

Soviet Advisers And Technicians May Have Been Killed In Israeli Air Raids Over Egypt

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA)--A State Department official said yesterday that it was "quite likely" that some Soviet technicians and advisers have been killed in Israeli air raids over Egypt. The official added, "We have no firm indication of how many casualties there might have been." He said there was no indication that any of the casualties were Russian pilots shot down by Israeli aircraft. The State Department's comment was prompted by persistent press reports that Russian personnel stationed in Egypt have suffered casualties, some fatal. But the reports have received no confirmation from Egyptian, Israeli or Russian sources. The State Department official indicated that the American assessment was based in part on the law of averages inasmuch as Moscow has been sending technicians, advisers and military personnel into Egypt since the June, 1967 Six-Day War.

Informed sources here said Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban warned the Nixon administration when he was here last week that Russia may be planning to force the re-opening of the Suez Canal under its own auspices. Mr. Eban was said to have based his warning on Israeli intelligence reports that the increased Soviet military activity in Egypt appears aimed at achieving aerial dominance over the waterway. In the Israeli view the Soviet strategy is to inch up to the canal cautiously and eventually to challenge Israeli air power forcing Israel to withdraw from the east bank of the canal.

800 Students Hold Vigil For Slain Israelis; Peace Groups Denounced For Remaining Silent

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA)--The Jewish community continues to express its grief and sympathy to Israel and the families of the eight school children and four adults and the 21 others wounded in the ambush attack on an Israeli school bus last Friday by Arab guerrillas. Approximately 800 Jewish students conducted a vigil outside the United Nations headquarters for more than an hour yesterday to protest what they termed UN passivity in the face of Arab terrorism against Israel. They scored the terrorists' schoolbus ambush and the Security Council's resolution last week which condemned Israel but not the Arab terrorists. Participants included groups from City College, Brooklyn College, Students For Peace in the Middle East, Betar, the Youth Committee for Peace and Democracy in the Middle East, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, and the Young People's Socialist League. One of the signs carried by the students read: "El Fatah is Unhealthy for Children and Other Living Things," a play on the popular peace slogan "War is Unhealthy..." The secretary of the Palestine Liberation Organization observed the demonstration in the company of police, apparently in an attempt to identify participants as among those who beat three Arab nationals here last Friday in presumed reprisal for the bus attack.

The United Labor Zionist Organization today excoriated "anti-war groups" in this country and "the overwhelming majority of social, political and religious institutions" for failing to speak out against the ambush slaying. "We share their justified desire for peace in Southeast Asia. We mourn with them the deaths of the six students at Kent State and Jackson State. But where are they now when the dead students are Israeli? Where is their outcry? Where is their sense of horror?" the ULZO statement said. "From the anti-war students, as from their elders, there is only silence." It also assailed the UN Security Council resolution and declared the UN "must be held responsible for the deaths of 12 Israelis. Its one-sided anti-Israel policy has given carte blanche to the terrorist organizations in their genocidal ambitions." The Labor Zionists also condemned "those elements who would utilize hooliganism as a means of voicing their indignation." The reference was to those who invaded two pro-Arab offices.

UN Condemned For Encouraging Arab Terror: Those Who Beat Arabs Scored As 'Hooligans'

The American Jewish Committee, in a telegram to Secretary of State William P. Rogers, urged the United States to exert every effort to convince the Arab countries and the UN that "toleration of such acts of indiscriminate terror is morally reprehensible and gravely intensifies the dangers of war in the area." The telegram, signed by AJCommittee President Philip E. Hoffman, expressed "shock and outrage" at the "wanton murder of innocent children and their teachers," and specifically pointed out that the failure of the UN Security Council to "take note of similar acts in the past, while condemning Israeli retaliation to such terrorist provocations, only serves to encourage Arab belligerency." Mr. Hoffman implied that the United States had abrogated its responsibility in the past by merely abstaining from voting on such resolutions, and urged that "our government should henceforth fully exercise its charter right to prevent the adoption of such partisan resolutions."

Earl Morse, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, sent a telegram to UN Secretary General U Thant which stated that, "The wanton massacre" of Israeli children by Arab guerrillas cries out for "firm and effective action" by the United Nations and deserves condemnation by every civilized nation. The continuing "one-sided position" of the UN in "failing to censure Arab terrorism," may well be "an important contributing factor to the climate of violence in the Middle East." The statement added, and declared that this "heartless slaughter" of defenseless children places "Lebanon, and all other nations which reject Israel's right to exist on clear notice that they must bear full responsibility for the bloodshed that is launched from their territories." Mr. Morse also urged New York City authorities to make "a prompt and vigorous investigation" into the attack on the three Arab officials, and were asked to prosecute those responsible for "this cowardly and contemptible violation of law." Mr. Morse declared that "such hooliganism" does a "disservice to Israel, to the Jewish community and to the maintenance of a democratic order in the United States. He added that this "blatant and reckless vigilante action should be condemned by every person, regardless of faith."

Big Four Meet Minus Memo; Report Malik Urges Any Memo To Indicate Progress

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA)--The Big Four ambassadors met again today on the Middle East situation with their deputies' memorandum on the progress of the talks still uncompleted. Sources indicated that today's meeting could not be substantive without the memo and suggested it was held primarily to avoid adverse publicity over a cancellation. But a U.S. Mission spokesman reiterated that the ambassadors had not made the memo a prerequisite for continued meetings. It was expected that the ambassadors would schedule their next meeting for several weeks hence to give the deputies more time for their memo. There were unconfirmed reports that the Soviet Ambassador Yakob Malik, had recommended the issuance by the deputies of any kind of memo, even an inconclusive one, as an indication of progress. But the other ambassadors were said to have rejected the idea. There were indications late last week that even an "interim" report approved by all four ambassadors could be sufficient to spark the resumption of the Mideast peace mission of UN special envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring.

Arab Saboteur From Lebanon Sentenced To 18 Years Imprisonment

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA)--An Arab saboteur from Lebanon, 41-year-old Hasan Sajayero, was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment by a military tribunal in Lydda today. He was convicted of entering Israel with the intention of recruiting saboteurs for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The defendant told the court that Lebanese Army officers issued permits for saboteurs to enter southern Lebanon in order to infiltrate into Israel.

AJC Congress Accuses UN Of Indifference To Plight Of Jews Living In Arab Lands

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress Governing Council condemned United Nations' "indifference," domestic "repression," Soviet anti-Semitism, church-state links in a series of resolutions adopted at the Congress' biennial convention this weekend. The resolutions called for "massive" educational aid, Senate ratification of the Genocide Convention, and equal domestic rights. The Council accused the UN of "callous indifference to the plight of Jews living in Arab lands," and charged it has "failed to initiate an investigation into their perilous condition." The Council warned against entrusting the problems of crime, law enforcement and criminal justice to "the easy answers of repression." It expressed "fears for the survival of Soviet Jewry" and called the USSR "the principal source of worldwide anti-Semitic propaganda." The Council declared that "the increasing success of the well-financed drive to divert public funds to support religious-affiliated schools" was "a powerful threat to the principle of church-state separation." Another resolution urged "massive educational expenditures" to bolster quality integrated education despite some parents' "intransigence." The Council called for the "full use of the powers of government" to ensure "full equality" in employment, housing, education and other areas.

Indifference Worse Than Alienation Among American Jewish Youth Says Col. Bar-On

BOSTON, Mass., May 26 (JTA)--Col. Mordecai Bar-On, member of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem and head of its Youth and Hechalutz Department, said that if he had to choose between indifference and alienation among American Jewish youth he would choose alienation. "The moment youth begins to demand and challenge the existing attitude toward Jewish communal life it also means that youth begins to get involved," he declared. "The adult leadership of the community ought to understand this." Col. Bar-On, speaking here yesterday at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Communal Services, said, "Although much can be criticized in youth's attitude toward Jewish life we should be pleased with such symptoms of youth involvement in Jewish life even when they embarrass us occasionally in the short run." Commenting on recent developments among Jewish youth, Col. Bar-On said that the "large unrest stemming from the Kent State tragedy where Ohio National Guardsmen shot four students on May 4 will cause changes," but that it's too soon to evaluate them.

He divided Jewish radical youth today into three groupings: radicals who "try to do their radical thing" within and to the Jewish community; students, much more deeply concerned with their Jewish self-identity and identification, who seek to radicalize Jewish education and values; youngsters, who might be called radical Zionists, who have given up their hope of integration in the American Jewish community and the diaspora in general, and have turned towards Zionism. Col. Bar-On said that "all three developments are positive, though as a Zionist I am, of course, happier with the latter two." The organized American Jewish community, he added, "must make huge efforts to help our Jewish youth in their desire to find relevancy in the organized Jewish community and the Jewish way of life. That," he said, "is the key to holding and recapturing our Jewish youth." Col. Bar-On, who has been in the U.S. for the past three weeks conferring with leaders of the American Zionist Youth Foundation and visiting campuses, also spoke Sunday at a Habonim dinner honoring Sidney Troy, a member of the American Habonim Association's National Executive Board.

Orthodox Leader And Jewish Youth Group Leaders Score Use Of Violence Against Dissent

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA)--The president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and leaders of three Jewish youth organizations have called for the forsaking of "violence" in quelling campus disorders. They also called for the cessation of "abusive" and "inflammatory" language on the part of both political leaders and campus militants. Rabbi Joseph Karasick, the Orthodox leader, asserted that the "needless deaths" of students at Kent State University and at Jackson State College were "in substantial measure an outgrowth of the lack of communication between those who guide America's destiny and those who are America's future." He said that "The raw use of power has undermined the respect before the law and its representatives," and serves only to advance the cause of "the small minority of violent campus revolutionaries and outside agitators." Jack Mintz, Amy Horowitz and Pam Gewirtz, international presidents of Aleph Zadik Aleph, B'nai B'rith Girls and B'nai B'rith Young Adults, branches of the B'nai B'rith Youth organization urged "a more sensitive response to mass protests." They said, "what we need is not less--or even less intense--debate and discussion; far from it. Young people must become more--not less--involved in the issues of our time."

5000 Lubavitcher Youths And Adults March In 'Salute To Judaism' Parade

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA)--Five thousand schoolchildren and adults--ranging from tots to bearded black-frocked congregants--braved drizzles and cloudy skies to participate in a "Salute to Judaism" parade Sunday in central Brooklyn. The march was organized by Congregation Mesibos Shabbos, whose spiritual leader, Rabbi M. Schneerson, the "Lubavitcher Rebbe," called on the gathering in Yiddish to live and work in the spirit of Torah. The parade, held on Lag b'Omer day, also honored Rabbi Shimon Ben-Yochai, the Talmudic sage and teacher of Rabbi Akivah. The marchers, sparked by an exuberant band and a youthful drum corps, carried signs reading "Torah Education Is Our Preservation," "It's Your Obligation to Give Your Children Torah Education" and "Keep Shabbos Holy."

Some 1000 Religious Leaders Call For An End To U.S. Involvement In Southeast Asia

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA)--Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, was among the close to 1,000 rabbis, priests and ministers who arrived here today to mobilize congressional support to end the war in Indo-China. The "Emergency Religious Convocation" was sponsored by 60 religious leaders, including Rabbi Eisendrath, who have been prominent in the anti-war movement. In a joint statement, the religious leaders declared that "no further military expenditures should be authorized nor appropriations voted without clear and definite provisions for the termination of U.S. military operations in Southeast Asia." They also called for a definite deadline for U.S. withdrawal from the area. The religious leaders conducted a "silent vigil" on the steps of the Capital to dramatize their "witness for peace," visited Congressmen and Senators,