

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

Thursday, June 4, 1970

No. 107

Two Children Killed, Ten Children And Five Adults Injured In Terrorist Attack On Beisan

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--Two Israeli school girls were killed and 10 children and five adults were injured in two rocket attacks launched at Beisan township this morning by Arab terrorists operating from Jordan. The first attack was 7:30 a.m. local time. The second attack at 9:30 a.m. The attacks were the second to hit Beisan since Monday morning when a nine year-old girl was killed on her way to school and five other children and three adults were wounded. Terrorist rockets were also fired this morning at Kibbutz Maoz Chaim in the Beisan Valley without causing casualties. Kiryat Shemona, near the Lebanese border, the target of two fatal rocket attacks last month, was hit by Katyusha rockets again last night but suffered no casualties.

The second attack on Beisan in two days to claim the lives of children was denounced by Foreign Minister Abba Eban today. "One of the factors which encourage the activities of the murder organizations such as El Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization is an impression of international apathy and indulgence," Mr. Eban charged. "Every government or religious leader, every newspaper or public official who raises an unqualified and vehement voice against these outrages and those who perpetrate and support them will contribute to the struggle against the moral decadence in which children of Israel lose their lives and mankind loses its human dignity," Mr. Eban declared.

The first rocket salvo to hit Beisan this morning instantly killed ten year-old Shula Levi and injured her eight year-old sister, Michal while they were on their way to school. Four other children and three adults were hospitalized for injuries. The second rocket attack, two hours later, struck the Tahkemoni school, a wooden structure that collapsed and caught fire trapping children and teachers inside. Rescuers found one girl dead and extricated four wounded children and two adults. Several nearby buildings were damaged in the attack. The name of the second child killed was not immediately disclosed. The attack on the Tahkemoni school occurred shortly after children and adults came out of shelters after an all clear was sounded following the earlier attack. A government official said in Jerusalem today that Israel does not intend to seek a Security Council meeting over the latest terrorist outrage. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "In view of the composition of the Security Council, with its built-in hostile majority, we have no chance even to secure a condemnation of the murderers."

Tekoah To U Thant: Attack On Beisan School Premeditated Murder, Blood-Thirsty Design

UNITED NATION, N.Y., June 3 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoah, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, called Secretary General U Thant this morning and drew his attention to the "further act of aggression of utmost gravity" in the two terror attacks on Beisan schools. Mr. Tekoah, in his conversation with Mr. Thant and in a letter sent at the same time to Security Council President Padma Bahadur Khatri of Nepal, called attention to the fact that this morning's assault followed the ambush attack on a school bus near Avivim on May 22 and the rocket attack on Beisan two days ago. "It is clear from these attacks," Mr. Tekoah stated in his letter and in his discussion with Mr. Thant, "that the murder of Israeli children is a premeditated objective of Arab terror warfare. The choice of the targets and execution of the attacks during the hours when children are on the way to school or in class, leaves no doubt about the blood-thirsty design." In the ambush attack on the school bus, eight children and three adults were killed, and 20 other persons, mostly children, were injured. A spokesman for the UN said today that Mr. Thant had no immediate comment on this morning's atrocity but repeated Mr. Thant's standard reply to such events in the Middle East that "I deplore acts of violence on either side." Mr. Tekoah's letter included the statement by Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban issued in Jerusalem following this morning's attack.

Eban, Hillel Warn Arab Countries Will Be Held Responsible For Terrorist Attacks

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Two Israeli Cabinet ministers warned neighboring Arab countries today that they would be held fully responsible for fatal terrorist attacks on Israeli civilian communities from their territory. Minister of Police Shlomo Hillel spoke while visiting Beisan township after the terrorist attacks this morning. He warned the Jordanian government that it was making a "grave mistake" if it allowed the terrorists to continue their assaults. Mr. Eban, speaking in the Knesset, said the Lebanese government faced serious consequences if it continued to collaborate with terrorists who used Lebanese soil for attacks on Israel. Referring to last month's rocket attacks which took two lives at Kiryat Shemona and the terrorist ambush that killed eight Israeli children in a school bus near the Lebanese border on May 21, Mr. Eban said the world had no right to ask Israel not to strike back at Lebanon because it might imperil the Beirut government.

Mr. Eban declared that Lebanon "must understand that it is impossible to be at one and the same time a partner to an aggressive agreement against Israel while still expecting Israel not to do her duty." The Foreign Minister said Israel was ready to establish peace with Lebanon on the basis of the present frontier. In an earlier speech at a police training center, Mr. Hillel said an investigation was in full swing of a series of explosions at the Nahariya beach resort yesterday. He said that every case of sabotage so far has been solved and every terrorist will be caught sooner or later. Four explosives were detonated at noon yesterday on the beach of Nahariya, north of Acre. There were no casualties, but there was some damage done to construction.

COJO Calls On Nations To Demand Arab Countries End Complicity In Murder Of Children

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--The World Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO) opened its annual meeting here today with an expression of "shock and outrage" over Arab terrorist attacks against children in Israel and a demand that Arab countries which offer haven to terrorists halt their "complicity in murder." In a resolution adopted at the first session of the three day meeting, COJO declared that it voiced "its shock and outrage at the mounting wave of Arab terrorism directed at innocent children in Israel. The cold-blooded murder of Israeli children on their way to school near Lebanon and the deliberate shelling of school buildings across the border from Jordan mark a new low in Arab cowardice." The resolution continued: "Having failed in their challenge to the defense forces of Israel, the terrorists have now chosen to make targets of Israeli boys and girls." The ultimate responsibility for these attacks lies with the Arab governments that give shelter and support to the terrorist bands within their borders. Lebanon and Jordan, by "permitting these murderers to operate freely and, indeed, by aiding and abetting them, share their guilt," COJO said, and added, "We call on the civilized nations of the world to demand that the Arab countries end their complicity in murder and take effective steps at once to prevent any further use of their territories as bases for Arab terrorism."

Israeli Jets Down Three Egyptian MIG-21 Interceptors; Tiberias Shelled For First Time

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets shot down three Egyptian MIG-21 interceptors in a dog fight over the northern section of the Suez Canal today. The Israeli planes pounded Egyptian military targets in the area for six hours and returned safely to their bases. Two persons were killed and at least four were injured today when Jordanian long range artillery shelled Tiberias on the western shores of the Sea of Galilee. It was the first time Tiberias has come under fire. Israeli artillery retaliated. Smoke was seen rising from Irbid village, a guerrilla stronghold in Jordan. A bomb exploded in Jerusalem this morning, shortly before celebrations were to begin marking the third anniversary of the liberation of East Jerusalem in the Six-Day War. No casualties or damage was reported.

Guerrilla bases in Jordan opposite the Beisan Valley were bombed and strafed by Israeli jets for five hours today. The air assaults followed two terrorist rocket attacks on Beisan township this morning. All planes returned safely to their bases. Eight Arab guerrillas were killed in a running battle with an Israel Army patrol in the Araba region of the Negev last night. The clash followed a mortar attack on Hatzeba settlement. There were no Israeli casualties. A military spokesman said today's air battle over the Suez Canal brought to 101 the number of Egyptian planes shot down by Israel since the June, 1967 Six-Day War. The encounter lasted three-and-a-half minutes. The Egyptian MIGs challenged Israeli jets on bombing missions and were shot down with aerial cannon and air-to-air missiles. One plane exploded in mid air. The pilots of the other two bailed out and their planes crashed on the west side of the canal.

A military spokesman disclosed today that Israeli bombing raids during the past three days have severed all road connections between Port Said, at the northern entrance to the Suez Canal and the Egyptian mainland. The spokesman reported Israeli planes were on the attack for 34 hours in three days, an average of almost 12 hours a day. He said huge smoke columns were seen rising from the outskirts of Port Said. Port Said was formerly one of the busiest junctions on the Mediterranean. All shipping entering and leaving the Suez Canal passed through its harbor. Along with Alexandria to the West it is presently a main entrepot for Soviet cargo ships bringing military equipment to Egypt. Tiberias is the largest Israeli town to have come under Arab gun fire since the Six-Day War. Dating from the period of Roman rule in Palestine, it is famous for its antiquities and is a popular resort. The bodies of two Syrian soldiers killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol on the Golan Heights were returned to Syria today under Red Cross auspices.

East Jerusalem, Nablus Arabs Plan General Strike On Third Anniversary Of Six-Day War

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--The Arabs of East Jerusalem and of Nablus, the largest West Bank town, are planning a general strike for Friday, the third anniversary of the start of the Six-Day War, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned from Arab sources. The strike call has been made and kindled by Arab radio stations and the Arab underground. There have also been strike rumblings in the West Bank towns of Jenin, Tulkarm and Hebron. June 5 demonstrations the past two years have often been violent. The Israeli authorities have not established a general policy for dealing with such demonstrations, although on a few occasions they have punished Arab shopkeepers for closing their businesses during shopping hours. But Friday, on which the anniversary falls this year, is the Moslem Sabbath, and the closing of their shops cannot be deemed an offense. Security forces have been alerted to possible violence. Demonstrations per se are permitted with permits--applicable to Jews as well as Arabs--and along prescribed routes.

Report On Israeli Occupation Of Arab Territories Shows Jews And Arabs Can Coexist

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--The Military government summed up three years of Israeli occupation of Arab territories today and concluded that Jews and Arabs can coexist and work in harmony together. The report was issued on the third anniversary of the June, 1967 war in which Israeli forces occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank of the Jordan, the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip and the entire Sinai peninsula. According to the Military government's report, 30,000 Arabs from the occupied territories are now working at jobs in Israel proper. Some 26,000 Arabs from neighboring countries vacationed with friends and relatives on the West Bank last summer compared to 16,000 the year before. Summing up the military aspects of the occupation, the report disclosed that 378 Israelis were killed or wounded in the occupied territories since the end of the 1967 war. The dead number 43. During the same period, Israel suffered 2200 frontline casualties including 528 dead.

Rabbi Rosen Optimistic About Future Growth Of Rumanian Jews Despite Recent Losses

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Dr. Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania since 1948, reaffirmed here today his faith in the future growth of his country's Jewish community despite heavy population losses through emigration and from the current series of destructive floods. Dr. Rosen and his wife were guests here of the World Council of Synagogues as part of a fund-raising tour on behalf of the 500,000 Rumanians made homeless by the floods. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Dr. Rosen said he was gratified at the response of world Jewry to the needs of Rumanian Jewry in the current disaster. He emphasized the \$30,000 contributed by the Claims Conference and the \$30,000 to be presented to the Rumanian ambassador in Washington tomorrow by the Joint Distribution Committee. At a lunch at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Dr. Rosen accepted a relief check for \$500 from Jacob Stein, president of the United Synagogue of America, part of the World Council. Mr. Stein also condemned the "wanton murder" of school children in Beisan today and called on the nations of the world to "bitterly condemn" the act.

In the interview, Dr. Rosen expressed mixed feelings over the emigration of three-quarters of Rumania's 400,000 post-war Jews to Israel. He was happy about their "vital interest" in Israel, but realized the loss to his country. He said the exodus had resulted in a decrease in the number of Rumanian rabbis from 600 to three, including himself. But he noted that the remaining 100,000 Rumanian Jews were renewing their faith. The Chief Rabbi, who has established an amenable though sensitive relationship with the Communist Rumanian government, declined comment on the possible reaction in his country--by the government or by the Jews--should open Soviet-Israeli hostilities break out in the Middle East. Rumania is the only Iron Curtain country maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel, but it is also a member of the Eastern-bloc Warsaw Pact. Dr. Rosen contended, however, that an open Soviet-Israeli war was "not possible." Mr. Stein told the JTA that a group of 35 to 40 members of United Synagogue Youth will visit Rumania and the Soviet Union this summer on a seven-week "pilgrimage." A group of 440 will also visit Israel. In Rumania the teenagers will help raise funds to aid the flood victims.

Police Disperse Youth Demonstrating Against Soviet Treatment Of Jews; 15 Arrested

PARIS, June 3 (JTA)--Fifteen youths were arrested last night as police violently dispersed several hundred Jews demonstrating in Bastille Square against the repression of Soviet Jewry. Demonstrations were also held at the Place de l'Opera and Republique Square. Six Jewish boys and two girls are staging a hunger strike at the monument to unknown Jewish martyrs here. The demonstrations were organized to coincide with the visit here of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Jewish groups plan to march on the Soviet Embassy tonight to hand Mr. Gromyko a petition demanding freedom for Russian Jews to emigrate to Israel. The head of the Mideast Department of the French Foreign Ministry expressed France's sympathy today with the Israeli school children who have fallen victim to Arab terrorist attacks in recent weeks. Eytan Ron, Minister of the Israel Embassy in Paris visited the Foreign Office today to draw official attention to the serious situation on the Israel-Lebanese border. He handed over documents and photographs taken on the site of the May 21 schoolbus ambush in which eight Israeli school children were killed.

Dr. Goldmann: Solution Of Mideast Conflict Will Aid Soviet Jewish Immigration

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, predicted tonight that Soviet Russia would permit the mass emigration of Jews to Israel following a solution of the Middle East conflict. Dr. Goldmann, addressing the annual meeting of the Synagogue Council of America, also warned that Soviet intervention in the Middle East has made the Arab-Israel conflict more explosive than ever. He said, "The world Jewish community must be prepared to stand with Israel and support her cause even in the face of possible opposition and declining sympathy by non-Jews." Focusing on Soviet Jewry, he declared that no improvement can be expected as long as Soviet Russia remains antagonistic to Israel and as long as the Arab-Israel conflict remains unsettled. "In the meantime, the Jewish community of the free world must see to it that the problem of Soviet Jewry remains a major concern of world public opinion," Dr. Goldmann said. Dealing with Jewish survival, he said that "Growing alienation among large segments of the younger Jewish generation and among Jewish intellectuals poses the most significant and the most difficult problem in Jewish life today." The task of surmounting this alienation must be given the highest priority in Jewish life, along with relief problems and social issues, if there is to be a Jewish future. Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman was re-elected president of the Synagogue Council at the meeting.

Labor Party Will Not Surrender To Orthodox Demands On Conversion Issue

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--The Labor Party will not give in to Orthodox demands on the conversion issue, even if it means the departure of the National Religious Party from the government coalition, Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro declared today. His position was approved last night by the Labor Alignment's Knesset faction. The NRP has voted to quit the cabinet unless the Labor Party pushes through legislation that will declare conversions to Judaism invalid if performed by other than Orthodox rabbis in Israel. The Orthodox would also like Israel to refuse to recognize conversions performed by Reform or Conservative rabbis abroad. The NRP so far has rejected a compromise offered by the Labor Party, suggested by Mr. Shapiro, which calls for an informal agreement under which future conversions in Israel would be recognized as legally valid only if approved by the Chief Rabbinate. The NRP insists that this principal be frozen into a law. Mr. Shapiro said he was not prepared to sponsor a law making such an arrangement retroactive or extending it to conversions performed abroad. Meanwhile women of the Lubavitcher Hassidic sect have petitioned Premier Golda Meir to act on the issue of conversions so that it is settled to the satisfaction of the Orthodox rabbinate and "Israel can have peace." The five Lubavitcher women identified themselves as the mothers or wives of soldiers in the Israel Army reserve. Similar cables were sent by Lubavitcher women from the U.S. to Mrs. Meir.

Two Dorchester Synagogues Desecrated By Fire; Catholic Diocese, NAACP, Voice Outrage

BOSTON, June 3 (JTA)--The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have joined area Jews in voicing sympathy and outrage over the desecration by fire of two Dorchester synagogues. A fire set in the ark of Congregation Chevra Shaas destroyed the Torah scroll, while two back rooms were vandalized. Two fires in Congregation Agudath Israel gutted the Beth Midrash and its contents, the front of the synagogue and parts of the main sanctuary. The Hadrath Israel synagogue, located between Chevra Shaas and Agudath Israel, was skipped by the vandals. The Rev. Michael F. Groden, urban planning director of the Catholic Archdiocese, declared: "Violence of this kind directed against the most sacred values of Jewish tradition imperils the very foundation of our society...Outraged as they have every right to be, the members of the Jewish community are urged to look upon this desecration as the work of a few sick members of society already sadly divided and tormented by crime and violence...Good people of every creed, every race and calling must join in brotherhood now to save our city and country." Leon T. Nelson, president of Boston NAACP, called the destruction "a deplorable and regrettable act." Similar expressions were made by the Mayor's Office of Human Rights, Youth Inc. and area rabbis. The Torah and other burned religious articles were buried in a Jewish cemetery, in line with Judaic law.

Memorial Foundation Allocates \$1.5 Million To Aid Programs In Jewish Culture

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Allocations of \$1,500,000 to aid programs in Jewish culture and higher education were granted here yesterday by the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture at its annual meeting. The allocations went to over 100 scholarly institutions and organizations in 16 countries conducting activities in Jewish education, research and publication and the commemoration and documentation of the Jewish catastrophe in Europe, as well as to the scholarship and fellowship program conducted directly by the Foundation. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Memorial Foundation and president of the World Jewish Congress focusing on major problems in Jewish education, said that a shortage of rabbis, teachers and other religious and communal functionaries is plaguing Jewish communities the world over as a long-term legacy of Nazi persecution. The aim of the Foundation has been to help relieve those shortages. A spokesman for the MFJC said the Board also paid special attention to the problems of the growing alienation of spirit from the Jewish community, and even from Judaism itself, which is afflicting many Jewish university students and young intellectuals. "The problem is staggering in its complexities and it calls for a variety of possible solutions rather than a reliance on any single one," the spokesman said.

Soviet Periodical Rebukes Farbstein's Hearings On Soviet Treatment Of Jews

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--A Congressional hearing on the condition of Soviet Jews, held in New York April 13 by Rep. Leonard Farbstein, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs sub-committee on Europe, has elicited a sharp response from the "New Times" a Soviet English-language periodical. Mr. Farbstein, a candidate for renomination in the Democratic Primaries on June 23, said today, "I apparently touched a sensitive nerve of the Soviet government by holding the hearing." Among those testifying at the hearing dealing with persecution and discrimination of Jews in the Soviet Union were Jerry Goodman, director of European affairs of the American Jewish Committee, Moshe Decter, director of Jewish Minorities Research and Stanley Lowell, national vice president of the American Jewish Congress. The New Times article, "What Congressman Farbstein Ought To Know," is signed by M. Kobrin. According to the writer, Soviet Jews are "full-fledged citizens and active builders of our new society." Mr. Kobrin wrote, "The political, social and economic emancipation of the Jews made possible by the October Revolution has enabled them to overcome the tendency toward self-isolation, which has always been inculcated in Jewish people by militant Zionism. Most Soviet Jews have voluntarily merged with the peoples in whose midst they live and adopted their language, customs and culture."

Mr. Kobrin concluded that if Mr. Farbstein was really interested in defending the Jews, he and his friends "would find a vast field for their efforts in defense of equality at home in the United States." Commenting on this article, Mr. Farbstein said, "It is strangely silent about the fact the Jews are kept virtual prisoners in the Soviet Union," so much so that appeals had to be made to the United Nations for permission to emigrate. "Nothing is said," he continued, "about the Jewish people's deprivation of the cultural and religious rights given to all other citizens of the U.S.S.R. Nothing is said about the Jewish people being treated as second-class citizens by being compelled to carry travel cards with a designation of 'Jew' thereon." When one scratches the surface, Mr. Farbstein observed, "one must notice that the Jews in the Soviet Union have been silenced. The right of Jews to find their own identity and to assert themselves, to find some sort of Jewish meaning, is non-existent."

Bank Rescinds Ban Against Permitting An Employee To Wear A Yarmulka At Work

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--A student of an Orthodox day school in Brooklyn has obtained permission to wear a skullcap while working as a summer employee at the Anchor Savings Bank of Brooklyn, after being told initially he could not, an official of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) reported today. Howard Rhine, vice-president of COLPA, said he had intervened when he was informed that Mark Krauss, a student of the senior graduating class of the Mesivta and Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenetz, had been told he could not wear his yarmulke at his summer job. The bank manager told the youth, who appeared for job registration at the bank wearing his skullcap, that this was against bank regulations. Mr. Rhine said he had discussed the matter with the bank's personnel supervisor, pointing out that the ban was contrary to the city's anti-bias law on employment. He said he then notified Rabbi Yehuda Oelbaum, the school principal, that the bank had cancelled the restriction.