

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel 'Freezes' Programs With Ceylon; Response To Ceylon's Break With Israel

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA)—Israel announced today that it was "freezing" all development cooperation programs with the government of Ceylon in response to the latter's decision to suspend diplomatic relations with Israel until it withdraws from all Arab territories occupied in the June, 1967 Six-Day War. The Israeli move will effect about a half dozen Israeli experts currently engaged in planning two regional settlement projects in Ceylon. They will be withdrawn, but Ceylonese trainees now in Israel will not be asked to leave prior to completion of their training according to schedule. The Israelis now in Ceylon started their work six months ago and were supposed to remain there for several years. The Foreign Ministry statement announcing the suspension said it was taken with "regret." The statement observed that Israel did not make its technical development aid dependent upon the policies of the recipient countries. However, in a case where the country suspends diplomatic relations, Israel has no alternative. The statement noted that Israel did not react when Ceylon took positions unfriendly to Israel in the past but these had always stopped short of breaking diplomatic relations.

The Israeli statement emphasized that Israel "has no obligation under the terms of the Security Council resolution or international law to alter the cease-fire lines in default of the establishment of a permanent peace." It said further that the Ceylonese step would "serve no positive purpose and certainly not the cause of peace." Ceylon, the Foreign Ministry asserted, "would have done better to use its relations with the Arab states to influence them to respect the cease-fire in accordance with the Security Council resolution and to achieve an agreement between the parties on the establishment of a just and lasting peace." Ceylon, an island nation just south of the Indian sub-continent, is a member of the British Commonwealth that received independence in 1946. The majority religions are Buddhist and Hindu. Only seven percent of its 12 million population professes the Moslem faith.

## Uneasy Quiet In Jordan; Future In Hands Of Guerrillas; Groups Split On Aims

LONDON, June 14 (JTA)—Uneasy quiet prevailed in Jordan today in the aftermath of a crisis that almost toppled King Hussein and left the future of his rule in the hands of the Palestinian commandos whom his troops had been battling for five days. The 34 year-old Hashemite monarch was forced on Friday to yield to commando demands for the dismissal of his uncle, Maj. Gen. Nasser Ben Jamil, commander in chief of the Jordanian Army and Maj. Gen. Zaid Ben-Shaker, commander of the Third Armored Division, who is Hussein's cousin. The two officers were close advisers to the King and had sought to exercise firmer control over guerrilla operations against Israel from Jordanian soil. The guerrillas accused them last week of attacking commando units and ordering the shelling of refugee camps housing guerrilla headquarters. Only their ouster ended the fighting in Amman and other Jordanian towns which, according to estimates caused 500 fatalities on both sides, wounded considerably more and left parts of the Jordanian capital in shambles. The events of the week left King Hussein in a weaker position than ever since he assumed the throne on May 2, 1953, two years after the assassination of his grandfather, King Abdullah. Apart from the guerrillas he faced dissident elements within his own loyal Army.

A tank force advanced on Amman Friday following the King's capitulation to guerrilla demands but was stopped by a combination of troops loyal to the King and commandos. Shortly afterwards unidentified gunmen, believed to be dissident officers, fired on a motorcade carrying Maj. Gen. Mashur Haditha, the army chief of staff who was a figure in negotiations between the King and the guerrillas. Yesterday King Hussein appealed to his army to "exercise full discipline and obedience." Observers here believe King Hussein would have been overthrown during last week's crisis had it not been for El Fatah, the largest and most respected of the Palestinian guerrilla groups. El Fatah joined in the demand for the ouster of Hussein's two senior officers and for a free hand in its operations against Israel, but it apparently has no desire to see the government overthrown at this time, an event that could result in chaos and precipitate action by Israel. (Abu Lotuf, an El Fatah leader, whose real name is Farouk El Kadoumi, in an interview with the Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci in this week's Look magazine, said his guerrilla group is not Communist. "We have no gripe against oil wells, only against Israel," he was quoted saying. "We are not trying to destroy capitalism, we are trying to destroy Zionism in all of its social, military, economic, cultural and ideological forms.")

The guerrilla forces themselves are split. El Fatah leader Yassir Arafat faces a challenge from the more militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a guerrilla group that specializes in terror acts against Israeli civilians and Israeli premises abroad. The Popular Front is headed by Dr. George Habash, a Palestinian Arab Christian and a free-wheeling Marxist described by some as a fanatic. The Front's declared aim is not only the destruction of Israel but the overthrow of all Arab governments including that of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt which Habash considers a "bourgeois regime." Commandos of the Popular Front were the most active in last week's pitch battles with Jordanian regulars. The Front denounced a cease-fire agreement concluded earlier between Arafat and Hussein. Arafat is believed to have disapproved of the Popular Front's actions but was reluctant to take measures against them in the interests of guerrilla unity. Observers here say that the future of King Hussein now depends on Yassir Arafat. If he is forced into solidarity with Habash's commandos, the deposing of King Hussein is seen as only a matter of time. But if Arafat decides to cooperate with the King, as he seems personally to desire, an alliance of the Jordan Army and El Fatah could suppress the Popular Front. Middle East experts say King Hussein has lost control of part of his army, much of his authority in government, and most serious, lost face with the masses of the Arab world.

## Pravda Critical Of Extremist Guerrilla Groups; Says They Aid Imperialist Plans

LONDON, June 14 (JTA)--The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda sharply criticized "irresponsible and adventuristic" elements among the Palestinian guerrillas for battling Jordanian troops and trying to overthrow King Hussein last week. According to a Pravda article Friday by Yevgeny Primakov, the guerrillas were impairing "the difficult and complex struggle conducted by the Arab peoples to liquidate the aftermath of the Israeli aggression." Pravda accused the United States of responsibility for the clashes in Jordan but also blamed extremist guerrilla groups for "objectively assisting" the "imperialist plans" to split the Arabs. The guerrilla group most active in the Jordan fighting was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Dr. George Habash. Mr. Primakov's sympathies were with El Fatah leader Yassir Arafat who professes no ideology but will seemingly accept aid from any source to eliminate Israel. Observers here said the Pravda commentary reflected Moscow's desire to control events in the Mideast and not let "irresponsible" Arabs--meaning Arabs not under Moscow's direct control--take matters into their own hands. Arafat, who was an official guest in the Soviet capital last winter is considered more amenable to control than the mercurial Dr. Habash. It was also considered significant that the Russians took up the cudgels for King Hussein, one of the few remaining pro-Western Arab rulers. Observers said the Soviets were seeking to use rather than overthrow the relatively pro-Western regimes in Jordan and Lebanon in order to achieve an influence comparable to what they exert now in Egypt and Syria.

## Shadow Palestine Government-In-Exile Emerges; Military Strength Estimated At 20,000

LONDON, June 14 (JTA)--A complex Arab political-military organization that displays the features of a shadow Palestinian government-in-exile has emerged from the crisis in Jordan last week. Its main element is a 27-man Central Committee representing the various Palestinian guerrilla groups which last Tuesday elected El Fatah chief Yassir Arafat as its chairman. Mr. Arafat is also chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, an umbrella body embracing the ten commando groups based in Jordan and Lebanon that have been conducting guerrilla warfare against Israel. The new Central Committee represents an expansion of the 11-member PLO executive committee. Its creation was decided on earlier this month in Cairo at a session of the Palestine National Council. The latter consists of 112 members representing commandos, students, workers and individual Palestinian leaders in host countries. It meets every six months and according to observers, acts as a Palestinian legislature in exile. The speed with which the new Central Committee was formed has been attributed to the virtual civil war that broke out in Jordan a week ago. The Palestine National Council adopted three major resolutions at its Cairo meeting. They called for formation of the Central Committee; formation of a unified military council and formation of a joint committee of commandos and leftist political organizations in Jordan and Lebanon to "protect" Palestinian "revolutionaries" against "counter-revolutionary" elements in those countries. In terms of military strength the guerrillas have an estimated 20,000 men under arms in Jordan, half of whom belong to El Fatah.

Commando strength in Lebanon is placed at 4000 men, a third of them El Fatah and a third members of the Syrian-backed As Saikh guerrilla movement. The rest belong to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and other smaller commando groups. The Palestine Liberation Organization which has acted in effect as a government-in-exile for two million displaced Palestinians since 1964, has nominal command over a 12,000-man army of Palestinians. But part of that force is under the effective command of the Egyptian Army on the Suez Canal front, another part under Iraqi command in Jordan and a third is in Syria, commanded by the Syrian Army. Observers here said it remained to be seen how effectively commando actions can be coordinated under the new central political and military commands. El Fatah is relatively the most moderate. Saikh, the second largest, is controlled by the ruling Syrian Baath Party which is regarded as the most militantly leftist of the Arab regimes. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine is goaded from the left by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an even more radical group that split from it some time ago. In addition, there is the Palestine Arab Organization which broke from the Popular Front, the Action Group for the Liberation of Palestine which broke from El Fatah, the Liberation Front sponsored by the Iraqi Baath Party and the Popular Liberation Forces, the military arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Observers here say that if the new Palestinian body can avoid internecine warfare and agree to a coordinated political line, the nucleus may have been created for a Palestinian entity with which the government of Israel may eventually find itself forced to negotiate.

## While Dobrynin, Sisco Discuss Mideast Political Settlement, Brezhnev Assails U.S.

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA)--The United States and the Soviet Union began Friday a detailed exploration of the possibilities of resuming United Nations mediation in the Mideast. U.S. officials emphasized that the crisis in Jordan had added to the urgency of such a search for a political settlement. Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin conferred with Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State. The meeting was arranged last week after Mr. Dobrynin spoke with Secretary of State William P. Rogers. While there was no indication of progress at Friday's Dobrynin-Sisco meeting, the two officials will meet again this week, according to State Department officials. At the same time it was reported from Moscow that Leonid Brezhnev, Russia's Communist Party boss, accused the Nixon administration on Friday of talking about peace while carrying out "aggressive actions." In a nationally televised Kremlin speech, Mr. Brezhnev appeared irritated by Nixon administration efforts to get the Soviet Union to end military support for Vietnamese Communists and the Arabs and to work for negotiated settlements. He said "the defense capability of the attacked Arab states has been restored. Relations between the Soviet Union and the Arab world have expanded considerably and have grown stronger."

## All-Day Attack By Israeli Jets On Egyptian Targets; Heavy Attacks During Weekend

TEL AVIV, June 14 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian targets in the Suez Canal zone intermittently all day today following heavy attacks Friday night and Saturday morning. A military

spokesman said all planes returned safely. An Israeli soldier was wounded in a fire exchange with Egyptians in the canal zone this morning. An Israeli civilian was injured today when his tractor hit a mine southeast of the Sea of Galilee. Israeli commandos early today blew up a guerrilla base eight miles inside Jordan. Israeli commando forces crossed the northern and southern sectors of the Suez Canal Thursday night, killed 20 Egyptian soldiers and demolished bunkers, anti-aircraft guns and fortifications along a five mile stretch of the canal's west bank. Israeli casualties were four dead and 15 wounded. One of the Israeli forces destroyed an Egyptian guard station north of Ras Gharib. An Israeli spokesman reported two Arab guerrillas killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol on the Lebanese border yesterday. Arab guerrillas shelled Nahal Golan and Kuneitra in the Golan Heights last night. Israel's latest commando raids across the Suez Canal were described as retaliation for an Egyptian commando raid on May 31 in which 14 Israeli soldiers were killed from ambush. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said in a television interview that Thursday's raids were "a crushing example of our steadfastness along the canal despite the red strings entangled with Egyptian forces." The latter was obviously an allusion to Soviet military forces deployed in Egypt. Gen. Dayan predicted that Soviet involvement in Egypt would not increase because of the raids.

## Senate Rejects Two Proposals That Would Impede Arms Sale To Israel

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA)--The Senate rejected Friday two proposals which opponents said might impede arms sale to Israel. By a 56-6 vote the Senate refused to end the \$600 million in the Foreign Military Sales Act for credit sales of U.S. arms abroad. Observers noted this money could be used to give Israel fast credit if Nixon approved the request for more jet warplanes. By a 50-1 vote the Senate refused to remove language from the bill urging President Nixon to make such credits available to Israel if he decided she needed arms help. Senator John Williams, Delaware Republican, offered both amendments. He said he did not intend to stall possible aid to Israel but to give Congress control over which nations would get U.S. arms.

## Mrs. Meir Urges NRP Not To Quit Cabinet; Supreme Court To Decide Conversion Case

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir appealed to the National Religious Party today not to quit her coalition cabinet. She warned that this is not the time to take "such a grave step." The Orthodox party has threatened to walk out over the issue of conversion. The Israeli Supreme Court will render a decision next Wednesday in the case of Mrs. Helen Zeidman, an American-born Israeli who is suing the government for official recognition as a Jew. Her conversion was performed by a Reform rabbi in Tel Aviv whom the Orthodox Rabbinate refuses to recognize. The NRP, backed by the Chief Rabbinate, has demanded that the government initiate a new law that will invalidate conversions to Judaism performed by non-Orthodox rabbis. The government has refused and the NRP executive is scheduled to meet Wednesday to decide on whether or not to leave the Cabinet. The Cabinet also decided today to meet in extra-ordinary session Wednesday following the Supreme Court's decision. It is regarded as almost a foregone conclusion that the Court will rule in Mrs. Zeidman's favor, especially as the States Attorney refused a week ago to contest the case. The Chief Rabbinate has banned the Orthodox politicians from continuing to serve in the coalition Cabinet unless the government gives in to their demands on the conversion issue. The government apparently is standing firm against Orthodox pressure at home and from abroad. Mrs. Meir met last night with two NRP leaders, Minister of Welfare Joseph Burg and Minister of Religious Affairs, Zerach Warhaftig, but no agreement was reached. Mrs. Meir reportedly reiterated that no new legislation in the matter of conversions can be contemplated.

## Police Department Says Sabbath Jews Who Open Stores On Sunday Will Not Be Harassed

NEW YORK, June 14 (JTA)--Police procedures to help insure that observant Jewish shopkeepers who do business on Sundays in New York City will not be harassed or be given summonses was announced by Police Commissioner Howard Leary. The city's business law provides that a person doing business on Sunday is exempted from the Sunday closing law if he observes a Sabbath on a day other than Sunday. Under the new procedures, a continuing survey will be conducted in each police precinct of those enterprises closed on Saturday for religious reasons which are open on Sunday, according to Judah Dick, a vice-president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, (COLPA) who worked with the police department on the problem. A record of such businesses will be kept in each precinct. Police men are being instructed not to give summonses on Sundays to merchants who claim they are Saturday Sabbath observers unless the officers personally witnessed that the shop was open on Saturday or after determining from the precinct list that the shop is not on the list of stores closed on Saturdays.

## U Thant Calls On Big Four To Aid Mideast Peace; Urges Arabs, Israelis To Compromise

UNITED NATIONS, June 14 (JTA)--Secretary General U Thant, contending that the Middle East war has reached a stalemate that "seriously threatens the peace of the world," has called for greater Two Power and Four Power peace efforts followed by "an international consensus on the vital issues." Mr. Thant, addressing the annual luncheon of the UN Correspondents Association, said Thursday that all UN efforts to ameliorate the crisis "have been unavailing thus far," and that since "there has been no evidence that the issues of the Middle East conflict can be settled by the parties through their own efforts," international aid "should be increased and intensified." The Four Powers, Mr. Thant said, "will have to do much more than they have been able to do thus far in support of and in carrying out (cease-fire) Resolution 242 of November, 1967, and in helping Ambassador (Gunnar V.) Jarring's efforts." Mr. Thant will meet in Moscow June 14 with Dr. Jarring, who is formally Swedish ambassador to the Soviet Union. In his plea to the Arabs and the Israelis to compromise their "hardened" positions, Mr. Thant reasserted the thrust of the cease-fire resolution: "the inherent right of a state to be free of military occupation of its territory, on the one hand, and the entirely legitimate demands for the right of a state to exist behind secure boundaries, on the other." Mr. Thant stated that "the provision of arms which are clearly and primarily for use in offensive actions, can serve only to intensify the war and impede progress toward peace." He declined to differentiate between Soviet aid to Egypt and U.S. aid to Israel.

## B'nai Zion Urges Administration To Facilitate Direct Arab-Israel Peace Negotiations

MONTICELLO, N.Y., June 14 (JTA)--B'nai Zion, the American fraternal Zionist organization, adopted today a resolution at the closing session of its 61st annual national convention urging the Nixon administration to "encourage and facilitate direct peace negotiations between the Arab states and Israel." The resolution stated that "only by this means can there be a binding peace settlement. Inaction or delay will only give way to further Soviet intervention and Arab intransigence in the Mideast." Dr. Harris J. Levine, chairman of the B'nai Zion Foundation, a subsidiary of B'nai Zion, announced today that \$750,000 has been pledged toward a \$1 million goal for a new project to establish an American Israel Friendship House in New York to serve as a cultural and membership center. The delegates to the four-day convention elected Harold Bernstein, a New York attorney, national president of B'nai Zion. For the past two years he served as national vice-president and succeeds Raymond Patt of New York who concluded three consecutive terms in that office. At an earlier convention session, Lt. Col. Giora Navon, counsellor to Israel's Mission to the United Nations, said that the "growing involvement of Russia in Egypt is an outcome of failure of Egypt to wage a war of attrition against Israel. The Israel reaction--destruction of Egyptian air defense along the Suez Canal and in the Egyptian heartland--turned the Egyptian war of attrition against Israel into an Israeli war of attrition against Egypt. Russia became concerned about the fate of the pro-Russian Egyptian government. This was the main reason for increased Russian involvement in Egypt."

Lt. Col. Navon added, "the capacity of Israel to survive in this war of attrition is much greater than the capacity of Arab countries to wage this conflict. There are three reasons for this: Israel's military superiority; the continued development of Israel's economy despite the war; and the support of world Jewry and, we hope, too, of the pro-Western powers." Dr. Allen Pollack of Yeshiva University faculty and executive committee chairman of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East, told the convention: "There is an internal war within each Arab state and between radical and moderate states. This is the Middle East version of a war for modernization besetting the entire undeveloped world, with Arabs trying desperately to adjust their traditional societies to the needs of the modern world. Israel to them represents all they fear of the modern world, all they hoped to be, but didn't know how to achieve. This psychological image of Israel presents the greatest stumbling block to their making peace with Israel." Similarly, Dr. Pollack added, "As long as they cannot solve their own domestic problems they need a scapegoat. Israel in the Mideast plays the same role that Jews traditionally played in Eastern Europe, being a scapegoat for domestic society in which they live." Rabbi Shehard Z. Baum of the Bronx, hailed dissent not only as "an American right to be respected," but also rooted in Jewish tradition and Talmudic opinion.

## Dr. Halpern Says Rebellion For Sake Of Rebellion Never Acceptable To Socialist Zionism

NEW YORK, June 14 (JTA)--A Labor Zionist scholar yesterday told a leadership seminar of the Poale Zion-United Labor Zionist Organization of America that rebellion for the sake of rebellion, sheer breaking loose "never was acceptable to Socialist Zionism." Professor Ben Halpern of the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University, added that American Jewish youth do not always understand this. He declared "We did not break with the past to have our minds blown but to build something new. Nor, like some young rebels today, could we regard the groups we formed, the collective brotherhood, as a mere therapeutic instrument; constructed at need and disbanded at will, and constituting for a moment a separate world, with no functional ties to the other world." Dr. Halpern, speaking to more than 100 leaders of the Labor Zionist Movement gathered here from throughout the nation for an ideological conference, observed that "if there is to be a reunion of generations and a revitalized movement, we elders must recapture the mood and motivations of our ideological origins. We must find new ways of stating old ideas so that the young will not be repelled and may be able to identify with them." He added, "The young people have suffered trumas that demand expression. What distinguished them from their immediate predecessors as well as from their parents is their radicalism--their fundamental rejection of the American way of life and of the American Jewish establishment. And many among them, driven back on themselves by black nationalism, demand a radical expression of their Jewish identity."

## Abraham Tabachnik, Jewish Editor Of JTA, Poet, Literary Critic, Dies At Age 68

NEW YORK, June 14 (JTA)--Abraham Ber Tabachnik, poet, writer, literary critic, and Jewish editor since 1941 of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency died Saturday at the age of 68 after suffering a stroke while at work in the JTA editorial office. Mr. Tabachnik collapsed at his desk at 3:40 p.m. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital where he died at 5:10 p.m. His funeral will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. from the Zion Memorial Chapel at 41 Canal Street. Mr. Tabachnik, who at the time of his death was in the process of working on a major literary analysis of the Jewish playwright and poet Itzik Manger, was born in Russia and came to the United States in 1921. He attended the Jewish Teachers Seminary from 1924-26. He was the author of numerous essays, poems, and critical analyses including "Der Man Fun Lied," "Mentsh in Cholem," "Dichter und Dichtung." He was the editor of the Yiddish literary quarterly, *Vogshall*, since 1958, and a member of the Yiddish Writers Union, Yiddish PEN Club, and a contributor to Yiddish periodicals. Mr. Tabachnik was a former night editor of the JTA and translated articles from English into Yiddish for the Jewish Day-Journal and the Forward.

## Israel Barzilai, Israeli Cabinet Minister, Former Minister Of Health, Dies At 57

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA)--Israel Barzilai, a Cabinet member and former Minister of Health, was buried today at Kibbutz Negba, his home village which he helped found in 1939. Mr. Barzilai, 57, died of a stroke Friday at Hadassah Hospital here. He was one of the founders and leaders of the Mapam Party, a leftist labor faction that is part of Premier Golda Meir's Labor Alignment. He was born in Poland, educated there and in Paris, and settled in Israel in 1934. He was active in Hashomer Hatzair, the left Labor Zionist movement and represented it on various Jewish national institutions during the pre-Statehood years. In 1948 he was named Israel's first Ambassador to Poland and later served in the third, fourth and fifth Knessets. He served two terms as Minister of Health, one as Minister of Posts and for six years was deputy speaker of the Knesset.