

JTA daily news bulletin

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Robin Returning To U.S. With Instructions, Directives; No Message To Nixon

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA)--Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, who left Lydda Airport today for Washington, told newsmen before his departure that he was bearing no message from Premier Golda Meir to President Richard Nixon. Gen. Rabin said he was given "instructions and directives" which he would bring to the attention of American officials. The Israeli envoy to Washington was called home last week for consultations on the new U.S. peace initiative in the Middle East. He attended Sunday's Cabinet meeting and participated in a meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs committee yesterday dealing with the American peace plan. But he would not disclose any information about the plan to reporters. He observed, as Premier Meir did in her Knesset speech yesterday, that the U.S. government asked that no details be released at this time. Gen. Rabin said Mrs. Meir's address was "a clear statement of what Israel's position is."

The Israeli press generally approved of Mrs. Meir's address. Davar said that despite the diplomatic vagueness in which the speech was couched, Mrs. Meir made it clear that Israel rejects a limited cease-fire that would provide Egypt with strategic and tactical advantages. Haaretz said the government did well in employing quiet diplomacy in its contacts with the United States but warned that a formulation must be found "which will not expose Israel once again to accusations of inflexibility." Hatzofe did not think the new American initiative would lead any closer to peace but approved Mrs. Meir's assertion that Israel was ready to discuss any proposal that will further the prospects of peace. Lamerhav warned that "The Prime Minister's real toned tone should not and cannot implant delusions concerning the latest American initiative which is contrary to Israel's best interests." But Al Hamishtar thought that Israel should have accepted a cease-fire of limited duration "that would leave so room for anxiety lest it be exploited by her enemies." According to the paper, Nasser would have rejected efficient supervisory conditions and the onus of continuing the war would be on him.

Administration Says Mrs. Meir's Rejection Of Temporary Ceasefire Not 'Considered Response'

WASHINGTON, June 30 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Carl Bartch said today that Israeli Premier Golda Meir's rejection Monday of an American-proposed temporary cease-fire in the Middle East was not seen by Washington as a "considered response." He said that "As of today, we do not believe we have a considered response from any of the parties concerned." Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser has so far publicly indicated opposition to aspects of the American "initiative," especially the apparent omission of the Golan Heights from the occupied territories Israel is called on to leave in connection with a peace settlement. Mr. Bartch, responding Saturday to Pres. Nasser's rejection of the U.S. peace initiative in a speech last Friday, said that the Egyptian President's stance was not the "considered response" the U.S. had awaited. Mr. Bartch also announced today that Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin will meet Wednesday morning with Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and Southeast Asian Affairs. He did not disclose their specific agenda.

ICAO Adopts Israel's Proposals For Sanctions By Vote Of 91-1; Syria Lone Dissenter

MONTREAL, June 30 (JTA)--The International Civil Aviation Organization, the majority of whose delegations had originally considered Israel's proposal for sanctions against airline saboteurs too "political" for acceptance, approved the motion today by a vote of 91-1. The "solemn declaration" calls for condemnation of all violent acts against civil aviation and ICAO action against such acts. The dissenting delegation was not identified other than as being "Arab." (In New York, it was learned that the dissenter was Syria. The Egyptian, Jordanian and other Arab delegations to the ICAO emergency conference voted, however reluctantly, for the Israeli proposal.) Two Arab amendments were defeated. The first would have restricted the authority of the proposed legislation to aircraft and passengers in flight or at airports. The ICAO chose to include, as well, airline terminals and town offices, which have also been the targets of terrorist attacks--notably the strike against the El Al office in Athens. The second Arab amendment would have omitted from ICAO condemnation attacks on planes "carrying arms and war materials." The convention, called into extraordinary session here in the wake of the Feb. 21 Swissair disaster, called on member ICAO states to adopt by the summer of 1971 a resolution making airline violence an international crime. The proposal adopted today will be taken up formally by international diplomats next December in The Hague.

NJCRC Urges Mass Campaign To Explain Importance Of Israel's Survival To U.S.

CLEVELAND, June 30 (JTA)--The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council is urging all Jewish community relations agencies to use their resources to convince American public opinion that vital United States interests as well as Israel's survival are threatened by Soviet intervention in the Middle East. A recommendation to that effect was incorporated in a lengthy report and resolution adopted at the NJCRC's plenary session here Sunday. It noted that while most Americans, according to public opinion polls, favor Israel, there is mounting public preoccupation with other foreign issues and domestic crises and especially the continuing war in Indo-China which lead many to oppose U.S. involvement anywhere in the world, however vital to American interests. "The general American public must understand that America's vital interests in the Middle East and the cause of peace itself de-

pend on our country's resistance to Soviet pressures and the maintenance of the deterrent strength of Israel," the NJCRAC declared. It urged that Jewish community efforts be directed specifically toward groups it considered especially susceptible to Soviet-Arab anti-Israel propaganda, mainly young radicals and blacks, and toward Christian groups "unable to grasp the concept of Jewish peoplehood."

"Friendly attitudes toward Israel and hostile attitudes toward Jews and Judaism—or conversely, friendly attitudes toward Jews and Judaism and hostile attitudes toward Israel—appear to coexist compatibly in the minds of many Christians," the NJCRAC report said. It found in the staunchly pro-Israel camp Christian evangelical groups and Protestant intellectuals "who are engaged in explicating Christianity's roots in Judaism." It also found that local Protestant clergymen are more likely to be favorable toward Israel than the leadership of denominations and church councils. NJCRAC said it was essential for Jewish community agencies to "interpret the significance of Middle East developments to government officials and legislators." It would have them stress that "in the absence of peace, the best safeguard against wider war is the deterrent military ability of Israel. Our government's pledge to supply additional supersonic planes to Israel, together with sufficient economic and other aid to sustain Israel's deterrent ability, should be redeemed without further delay... A binding, just and permanent peace among Israel and the Arab states can be achieved only by direct agreement among the parties."

Beisan, Yarden Hit By Rockets; Jordan Guerrilla Bases Hit; Saboteurs Damage Pylon

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA)—Gaston settlement in Western Galilee suffered a shortage of electric power today after Arab saboteurs damaged a nearby pylon. An estimated four kilograms of explosives were used. A hand grenade was thrown at a Gaza civil administration car today but missed and exploded harmlessly. An investigation is under way. Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian military positions in the Suez Canal zone intermittently last night and returned safely to their bases. Israeli jets attacked guerrilla bases in Jordan for a half hour this morning after Beisan township was hit twice by Katyusha rockets fired from Jordanian territory. There were no casualties. The planes were called in after Israeli artillery opened fire on the guerrilla positions. Katyusha rockets were fired at Yarden this morning but caused no casualties or damage. Several bazooka shells were fired last night at an Israeli position in the Golan Heights causing no casualties. The fire was returned. Several bursts of fire were aimed at Israeli troops on Mt. Hermon last night without causing casualties. Saul Weizman, son of Transport Minister Ezer Weizman, was reported in satisfactory condition in Raddassah Hospital today after undergoing four hour surgery for a serious head wound he suffered when his unit came under Egyptian fire in the Suez Canal zone yesterday. His parents were at his bedside. He was visited later by his uncle, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

Syrian Troops Along Cease-Fire Line Assist Palestinian Terrorists Against Israel

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA)—Syrian troops stationed along the cease-fire line are under orders to assist Palestinian guerrillas operating against Israel, but only if they have written permission for their operations from the Defense Ministry in Damascus, an Israeli military spokesman disclosed today. He said this and other information was gleaned from the interrogation of 33 Syrian soldiers taken prisoner during Israel's retaliatory armored thrust into Syria last Friday. The Syrians, all enlisted men, disclosed that they had been abandoned by their company commander who left just before the battle on the pretext of gathering more intelligence. They said that assistance to the guerrillas took the form of supplying provisions, information and covering fire. If Israeli opposition at one point seems too strong Syrian troops re-direct the guerrillas to other points along the cease-fire line. Nevertheless, Damascus maintains strict control over the guerrillas' activities, the soldiers revealed. They also reported that Syrian military authorities are delaying the discharge of some conscripts due to be released from service. The Army announced the final tally of Syrian casualties and losses in last week's fighting. According to a military spokesman, Syrian forces suffered 103 men killed, 131 wounded, 21 tanks burned out, 10 tanks damaged by direct hits, nine anti-tank guns and recoilless cannons destroyed along with 49 bunkers and shelters, three vehicles and 16 other structures.

American Friends Of Histadrut Urges Immediate Sale Of 125 Jets To Israel

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA)—The American Friends of Histadrut, marking the organization's Golden Jubilee, received last night to urge the United States government to sell Israel its requested 125 additional jets immediately. They said that only American military and political aid to Israel can insure a lasting Middle East peace. They also called on Washington to warn the Soviet Union that Kremlin control of the Mideast will not be permitted. The convention was addressed yesterday by Minister-Without-Portfolio Shimon Peres and Gen. Aharon Yariv, Chief of Intelligence.

Hanna Meron, Injured In Terrorist Attack on Airliner, Returns Triumphant To Stage

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA)—Hanna Meron, the popular Israeli actress who underwent a leg amputation following an Arab terrorist attack on El Al passengers at Munich Airport, made a triumphant return to the stage last night. To tremendous ovations, she presented a program of songs and classical readings in a benefit for the Tel Aviv Hospitals Association. Miss Meron was greeted by Mrs. Hanna Rovina, the "First Lady of the Israeli Stage."

New Taxes For Israelis, More Problems For Golan Heights Settlers Forecast

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA)—New taxes for all Israelis and more trouble for settlers on the Golan Heights were forecast by two Cabinet Ministers today. Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, chairman of the government's settlement committee said "Our villages in the Golan Heights will have to organize themselves for a new situation" following last week's battles with Syrian forces. Finance Minister Pishas Sapir said at a press conference that the government will probably have to impose new taxes and take other fiscal measures to combat inflation, including possibly, rationing. He said defense expenditures were increasing rapidly and that 25 percent of the population is presently employed directly or indirectly in defense work. He said, however, that he was against devaluation of Israel's currency.

Ouster Of U.S. Newsmen From USSR Linked To JDL Attacks Against Soviet Agencies in U.S.

LONDON, June 30 (JTA)--The ouster from Russia of two American correspondents within a month was linked today to Soviet anger over recent attacks on Soviet premises in New York by members of the Jewish Defense League and the alleged failure to punish the culprits. According to observers here, the connection became evident when an article in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda described the attacks and anti-Soviet demonstrations in New York as links in a "single chain" in an article last Saturday. Yesterday, Soviet authorities "suggested" that Columbia Broadcasting System correspondent William Cole leave the Soviet Union "because he was engaged in activities incompatible with the status of a foreign journalist." Time magazine correspondent Stanley Cloud was ousted on June 12 when authorities refused to renew his 90-day visa. The Pravda article linked the JDL assault last week on the New York office of Amtorg, the Soviet commercial organization in the U.S. with a Time cover story on May 4 on Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev and the Russian military machine. According to Pravda, the story was "an invitation to anti-Soviet violence" and led to "Zionist" demonstrations against Soviet entities. Observers here believe the Kremlin is using the correspondents to re-enforce their demands for an end to assaults on Soviet premises and more vigorous prosecution of the demonstrators.

Arab Involved In Grenade Attack On El Al Office Sentenced To 5-Year Prison Term

BRUSSELS, June 30 (JTA)--An Iraqi Arab involved in a grenade attack on the El Al office here last September was sentenced in absentia to a five-year prison term by the district court today. The accused, Kamal Abdul Kadir, 33, fled across the border after the grenade incident in which three El Al employees were injured. He was charged with giving hand grenades to two Arab youths, aged 12 and 16, with instructions to throw them into the El Al office. One of the boys escaped but the other was apprehended and will be tried separately behind closed doors at the Brussels Children's Court.

Queen And Duke Of Edinburgh Express Gratitude To Britain's Chief Rabbi

LONDON, June 30 (JTA)--Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, received today a letter from the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh expressing their pleasure at having attended a recent gathering to mark the centenary of the United Synagogue, the Jewish religious establishment in Britain. The letter from Buckingham Palace said, "It gave Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh the greatest pleasure to be able to attend the reception and I can assure you Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were in no way embarrassed by the exuberance of the guests, which in fact delighted them." The letter was in reply to one written by Rabbi Jakobovits to the royal couple which said, "The throng--painstakingly reduced from some 400,000 (the estimated Jewish population of the United Kingdom) would-be participants to just over 800 delighted guests--may at times have been a little excessive and we crave your understanding and indulgence. But I hope you could sense the feelings of sheer exhilaration to be taken of the boundless affection and loyalty of your Jewish subjects."

Michael Fidler Elected To Second Term As Jewish Board Of Deputies President

LONDON, June 30 (JTA)--Michael M. Fidler was elected Sunday to a second three-year term as president of the Jewish Board of Deputies. Mr. Fidler, who was unopposed, was elected to Parliament as a Conservative (Tory) MP for Bury and Radcliffe, Manchester, in the June 18 general elections. He pledged himself Sunday "to continue to serve the best interests of the Board and of British Jewry as a whole to the best of my ability." The Board also bade farewell to departing Israeli Ambassador Aharon Romes, who is returning to Israel next month after five years as envoy to the Court of St. James's. He will be succeeded by Michael S. Comay, the South African-born career diplomat who has been ambassador to the United Nations and to Canada.

Wiesenthal Issues Worldwide Appeal To Help Save Documentation Center In Vienna

LONDON, June 30 (JTA)--Simon Wiesenthal, the "Nazi-hunter" who tracked down Adolf Eichmann, Franz Paul Stangl and 960 other Nazi criminals, has issued a worldwide appeal to help save his Documentation Center in Vienna from what he fears is imminent closure by the Austrian government. In a letter being circulated to "our friends abroad," Mr. Wiesenthal states his apprehension over "heavy attacks and defamations" made against his center at the June 11 Congress of Austria's ruling Socialist Party. He reports that Minister Leopold Gratz called the center a "secret-agent organization." The letter continues: "Presently we are the only ones to be active against the Nazis...We know very well that the Socialist Party needs the votes of the former Nazis to reach the majority. It is reported that there might be a Nazi amnesty." (In New York, Harry Evans, a lawyer, said he had received a copy of the appeal and had cabled Dr. Bruno Kreisky, head of the Austrian Socialist Party and the country's new Premier, stating: "Austria will be shamed by world opinion if Herr Wiesenthal's Documentation Center is closed.")

Previously Agreed Upon Sale Of 50 Phantoms To Israel To Be Completed Next Month

WASHINGTON, June 30 (JTA)--The previously agreed upon sale of 50 Phantom jets to Israel, which began last September and October at the unannounced rate of four per month, will be completed in July--three months ahead of schedule--according to State Department sources. There was no immediate official explanation for the acceleration. The 50-jet pact predates Israel's still-pending request for 125 additional Phantoms and Skyhawks.

JOHANNESBURG, June 30 (JTA)--Through an unfortunate error in transmission, a story on Page Two of the JTA Daily News Bulletin of June 1 dealing with a report of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, the impression was conveyed that the South African government had barred transfer to Israel of funds raised by South African Jewry in 1967 after the Six-Day War. Actually, the government facilitated the transfer of these funds to Israel through special currency concessions following representations by the South African Zionist Federation and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

Rabbi Says No Responsible Leader in Williamsburg Invited JDL To Protect Jews

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA)--A leading Williamsburg rabbi declared today that "no responsible leader" in that Jewish community had invited the Jewish Defense League for protection after clashes broke out between local Jews and blacks following the death of a Negro girl who was struck by a truck driven by a Hassidic Jew. Rabbi Meir Kahane, JDL leader, and four JDL members were arrested after a clash with police. Rabbi Bernard Weinberger of the Young Israel of Williamsburg added that, during the sporadic violence between the mostly Hassidic Jews and blacks, a telegram had been sent to Rabbi Kahane, urging him not to send JDL members to the area. Rabbi Weinberger said the telegram had been sent by the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg, an umbrella group for the section's Jewish organizations, after it had learned of JDL plans to send its members to the area. Police reported that the truck was in good working order but that it had been impossible for the driver to stop the vehicle when the girl Cynthia James, 13, darted into the street in front of the truck. Police said that after learning of the girl's death, Negro residents of the area threw bottles, rubbish and other debris at passing cars. A Hassidic Jew and his son, riding in a cab, were hit by the objects. The father was injured slightly but his son was critically hurt and was to undergo brain surgery. Two Molotov cocktails have been thrown into homes of Hassidic Jews but no damage or injuries have resulted. Windows have been broken and firecrackers thrown into a Hassidic synagogue.

On Sunday night, police acted to disperse hostile crowds of Jews and Negroes gathered on a street corner. The five JDL members, including Rabbi Kahane, were arrested when they refused to move. Rabbi Kahane was charged with assaulting Patrolman David Speciale of the Tactical Police Force, with obstructing a police officer and with resisting arrest. He was released yesterday in his own custody for a hearing on Sept. 10. He said he would file charges before the Police Civilian Review Board against three policemen in the incident. Rabbi Juda Lichtenstein of the Yeshiva Ahavath Israel said that the area needed more policemen but that he felt that Deputy Chief Inspector Jack Angrist and Captain Ralph Cohen of the local precinct "are doing as much as they can do." Rabbi Weinberger declared that "the very fact of having 50 JDL members on the streets with clubs tends to augment the tension." He said that currently, the situation was quiet, adding that Williamsburg Jews were obeying appeals from their rabbis not to loiter on the streets, particularly after nightly synagogue services, because crowds tended to be targets and to respond in kind to attacks. He said that some 20 JDL members came to the area last night but left after being asked to do so by Inspector Sullivan, chief of the Tactical Police and by local Jewish leaders.

Student Group Asks B'nai B'rith For Greater Involvement In Plight Of Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA)--A possible confrontation between the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the B'nai B'rith over the issue of involvement in the plight of Soviet Jews has developed into an at least temporary cease-fire. Fifteen of the students walked into the B'nai B'rith office here last Friday following an all-night vigil at the Jewish Wall across from United Nations headquarters, and sought to speak with officials there over what they termed insufficient B'nai B'rith activity on behalf of Soviet Jewry, it was reported today. They conferred for two hours with B'nai B'rith executives representing the Anti-Defamation League, the B'nai B'rith District Office and the affiliated Academic Committee for Soviet Jewry. Both report that a degree of mutual understanding was reached. Glen Richier, coordinator of the Student Struggle, called the meeting "very constructive." He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the B'nai B'rith officials indicated they would seek greater B'nai B'rith activity on behalf of Soviet Jews. The student vigil near the UN was held to protest the arrests, raids and searches of Jews in several Soviet cities in connection with an alleged Jewish hijacking attempt of a plane at the Leningrad airport June 15.

The students made three suggestions to B'nai B'rith, Mr. Richier said--that it reprint the appeals of Soviet Jews as newspaper and magazine advertisements; that it initiate a regular Soviet Jewry newsletter to be sent to Jewish organizations, schools and synagogues; and that it create action committees for special crises like the arrest of the "Leningrad 8." Mel Klarfeld, B'nai B'rith associate director for lodge services, told the JTA that he and his colleagues had advised the students that it had taken out such ads, but that a regular Soviet Jewry newsletter and the mailing of special appeals would be "very costly." (B'nai B'rith now publishes a "National Jewish Monthly" and a monthly "Metropolitan Star.") Mr. Klarfeld said B'nai B'rith had indicated to the students that "we are keeping abreast of the situation," and that his organization had arranged for the students to meet separately with the national ADL. He told the JTA he recognized that the students are "a little frustrated" over repression of Soviet Jews. Both spokesmen reported agreement on relating the students' requests to top B'nai B'rith officials. Mr. Richier said the executives at the meeting had promised "intensive thinking" about special-action committees, although Mr. Klarfeld noted the budgetary limitations.

\$1 Million Emergency Drive For Expansion Of Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem Of America

WASHINGTON, June 30 (JTA)--The Gaon Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, dean of Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem of America has announced here a \$1 million emergency drive to acquire nine acres on the New York City borough of Staten Island for expansion of his rabbinical seminary, one of America's oldest. The new acreage, added to the yeshiva's present four-story building, would give Mesivtha Tifereth the largest contiguous campus of any Jewish school in the New York metropolitan area. Rabbi Feinstein said he hoped the new campus will be ready for use by September, when the new semester begins. "Research in and application of the values and teachings of Talmudic Law," he said, "can provide the remedy and solutions to the present-day ills of society, which, although adequately catalogued and identified by the various sciences, appear to be immune to scientific solutions." The rabbi is also president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, chairman of the Council of Sages, chairman of Torah Schools for Israel, a leader of a number of other organizations and an authority on halacha.