

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, September 10, 1970

No. 175

Security Council In Emergency Meeting On Hijackings; U.S. Calls For Release Of All Captives

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA)--The United States, acting jointly with Britain, has asked for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to seek the support of all member states for the release of the hostages held in Jordan, it was announced here this morning by State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey. He made the announcement at a press briefing devoted almost entirely to questions about the aerial hijackings and their victims. Mr. McCloskey said the U.S. wanted the support of all Security Council members for "international measures that might sensibly be applied to thwart such activities as have happened." He said the request for the meeting was conveyed by U.S. Ambassador Charles Yost to Dr. Davidson S.H.W. Nicol of Sierra Leone, this month's Security Council president. Mr. McCloskey also disclosed that the White House has ordered six U.S. military transport planes presently in Turkey to stand by with medical teams to evacuate the hostages in Jordan should that become necessary. He said that if necessary, the American planes would take out all nationalities. Asked if the U.S. was seeking political or military action by the Security Council, the State Department spokesman replied, "it is not my understanding that we are soliciting military action."

(At the United Nations headquarters in New York, the Security Council began meeting in emergency session late this afternoon to act on a resolution by the United States and Britain which stated: "The Security Council, gravely concerned at the threat to innocent civilian lives from the hijacking of aircraft engaged in international travel, calls for immediate release of all passengers and crews without exception held as a result of these hijackings, calls on states to take all possible measures to ensure against further hijackings or any other interference with international civil air travel.")

Mr. McCloskey confirmed that an International Red Cross team was negotiating with the hijackers--the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--for release of the hostages and that they were representing the governments of Britain, West Germany and Switzerland as well as the U.S., but not Israel. He said it was the objective of the governments to secure the release of all of the hostages. Asked if he would rule out a piece-meal arrangement--release of some but not all, Mr. McCloskey replied, "We couldn't rule it out but that is not our objective." He indicated that Israel was not represented by the IRC because it would have no dealings with the terrorists. Mr. McCloskey said all he knew of Israel's position was what was said by Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin that the nations concerned should not submit to "blackmail." But Mr. McCloskey confirmed reports that Jews among the hijacked passengers had been singled out by the terrorists. "We are very much disturbed to note an apparent pattern in the action of the PFLP that certain of the hostages are being treated on a separate basis of religion and this is deplorable," he said. Asked what the U.S. would do if the hijackers released non-Jewish passengers but held Jews, Mr. McCloskey said that was a hypothetical question, adding, "It would just add cruelty to cruelty."

Correspondent Confirms Guerrillas Removed Jewish Passengers From Hijacked Planes

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Arab guerrillas boarded the hijacked TWA jet in Jordan Monday night and took off six Americans and Israelis, according to a report today by United Press International correspondent David Zenian in the Washington Post. Mr. Zenian said he was the first outsider permitted to visit the desert airstrip in northern Jordan and speak to the hijacked passengers. He said he was allowed only ten minutes with them and was not permitted to board the plane. The reporter said the guerrillas denied that any men were taken off the plane but the TWA co-pilot, James Major said they were and identified five of them as Gerald Berkowitz, James Wood, John Hollingsworth, Abraham Harari Raful and Joseph Raful. One was an American soldier. Mr. Berkowitz was identified as "a New York City rabbi." Mr. Zenian reported that "A middle aged Israeli woman, Mrs. Harari Raful, said 'The commandos took my husband and his brother and four other men. They gave no reasons. Where have they taken them?' She wept as she told of the incident." About 60-70 women and children from the TWA plane were bussed to hotels in Amman. Mr. Zenian said co-pilot Major told him that "it is true no Jewish persons of any nationality left the plane."

Terrorists Seize BOAC: Red Cross Negotiating For Release Of Captive Passengers

LONDON, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Arab hijackers seized a BOAC (British) airliner over the Persian Gulf today and forced it to land at a terrorist controlled airstrip in Jordan after a refueling stop at Beirut. It was the fourth successful hijacking since Sunday. It occurred as a three-man International Red Cross delegation was negotiating with Arab guerrillas in Amman for the release of over 200 passengers and crew members of two other hijacked planes who are being held hostage. The BOAC hijack was apparently carried out to put additional pressure on the British government to free Laila Khaled, the survivor of a commando team that tried unsuccessfully to hijack an El Al jet over Britain last Sunday. Israel has demanded Miss Khaled's extradition. (A warrant for her arrest was issued in Jerusalem today at the request of Israeli States Attorney Meir Shamgar charging the 24-year-old Palestinian with attempted murder and conspiracy to murder.) The Red Cross team, headed by Andre Rochet, is negotiating on behalf of the governments of the United States, Britain, West Germany and Switzerland for the release of their nationals held by the terrorists in Jordan. The IRC is not representing Israel which has refused to have any dealings with the terrorists.

Terrorist demands were not entirely clear today. They appeared to want to exchange Miss Khaled, and six other Palestinian guerrillas now held in West German and Swiss prisons, for the freedom of the

British, Swiss and German nationals aboard hijacked TWA and Swissair jets. They also apparently want a separate deal with Israel in which Israeli passengers and some passengers said to have dual Israeli and U.S. citizenship would be swapped for two high-ranking Algerian officials detained in Israel last month and an undetermined number of Palestinian guerrillas serving sentences in Israeli jails. But there is no certainty as to what the extent of their demands will be met particularly now that a British airliner with over 100 passenger and crew members has been seized. With the lives of some 300 people at stake, the West German and Swiss governments appeared to be ready today to make a deal with the hijackers. The British government too seemed likely to accede to terrorist demands and free Miss Khaled. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine which claims credit for all of the hijackings, has threatened to blow up the aircraft with all of their passengers if their demands are not met by a deadline tomorrow.

Explosives Attached To Fuselages Of Planes; Guerrilla Says Jews Not Held Because They Are Jews

Explosive charges reportedly have been attached to the fuselages of the TWA and Swissair jets in Jordan. A hijacked Pan American 747 jumbo jet hijacked to Cairo Sunday was blown up at Cairo airport only moments after its passengers and crew scrambled to safety. A spokesman for the Popular Front was quoted today as saying that the hijacked aircraft would be destroyed but that the passengers would be removed to a guerrilla camp. The apparent inclination by the Western governments involved to submit to terrorist demands has raised the question of whether a deal would include freeing all of the victims or whether Israeli nationals would be left behind at the mercy of the guerrillas. The Israel government demanded yesterday that any "package deal" cover everyone, regardless of nationality or religion. According to reports that could not be confirmed here, there are 46 Israelis aboard the TWA jet and 12 persons holding both Israeli and American citizenship. Reports from the guerrilla airstrip in Jordan yesterday said that Jewish passengers had been segregated from the others after everyone was asked to state his nationality and religion.

A terrorist spokesman identified only as "Bassam" said yesterday "We are not holding them because they are Jewish--they're being kept for interrogation." Asked whether the guerrillas planned to destroy the planes, he said, "You will know later." Observers here said that if the Popular Front succeeded in freeing Arab guerrillas jailed abroad its stock would soar in the Arab world. Success for the PFLP is also viewed here as the probable death knoll for the regime of King Hussein of Jordan, whose authority in his own country is diminishing rapidly. Egyptian leaders also apparently fear a rise in the PFLP's stature. The semi-official Cairo daily Al Ahram was critical of the hijackings though it did not go so far as to condemn them. The paper, a mouthpiece of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, said yesterday that "One of the main goals of the battle [with Israel] is to gain world public opinion on the side of the Palestinian struggle and not to lose it. It is evident that the attack on international civil aviation does not encourage world feeling of solidarity with the Palestinian cause. On the contrary, it incites a feeling of criticism in the ordinary man."

Assurances Given That Negotiations For Release Of Passengers Will Include All

JERUSALEM, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Israel had assurances from Britain, West Germany and Switzerland today that negotiations with Arab terrorists for the release of hijacked airline passengers would be based on the understanding that no differentiation would be made between the passengers because of their nationality. The assurances did not come from the highest diplomatic levels. They were conveyed by the chiefs of mission of the three countries to Gideon Rafael director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry who summoned them to his office today. They said their respective governments shared Israel's view that the hostages should not be separated by nationality. According to reports here, the terrorists are now demanding the release of all guerrillas--about 2500 of them--currently in Israeli prisons.

Informed sources here said Israel has made no offer to release anybody and was not prepared to contribute to an international "package deal" to free the hostages. Yuval Katzenstein, of Haifa, whose brother, Aryeh, was killed when a terrorist grenade exploded in a bus carrying El Al passengers at Munich Airport last year, made a personal telephone call to West Germany's President Gustav Heinemann yesterday urging him not to release the three Arab terrorists responsible. According to Mr. Katzenstein, Dr. Heinemann was "sympathetic" but pointed out that 200 lives were at stake. However, he agreed that all of the hostages, Jews, Israelis and others, must receive the same treatment. Mr. Katzenstein said he told the West German President that if only other nationalities are freed, the Israeli and Jewish passengers would be abandoned to the mercy of the terrorists.

Israel's Proposal For Boycott Receives Lukewarm Reception

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Israeli proposals that the world aviation community boycott countries that provide a haven for aerial hijackers has received a lukewarm reception in industry circles so far. The proposal is under consideration by officials of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations meeting in London. But highly placed aviation sources here said yesterday that such measures would not solve the immediate problem which is to rescue more than 200 passengers and crew members from two hijacked jets who are being held hostage by Arab terrorists in Jordan. They felt that even if a boycott decision were to be announced it would not contribute toward freeing the hostages. The U.S. government has a similar attitude. Asked about the matter at a press briefing yesterday, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said, "I believe we would be very reserved about that kind of a boycott."

Mitchell Sharp Expresses Anger At Massive Outrage Of Air Piracy

OTTAWA, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, yesterday voiced the anger of the Canadian government and people at the latest "massive outrage of air piracy" by Arab terrorists which has brought the lives of "hundreds of innocent non-involved people into danger and caused

them unnecessary suffering and distress." In a statement to the press, Mr. Sharp said "criminal" acts of this kind which menace the security of air travel everywhere are of "vital concern to Canada" and a "direct threat to the safety of Canadians" who are among the world's most extensive travelers. He said Canada was deeply involved in the "initiatives" taking place in the UN and particularly in the international civil aviation organizations where "we have been playing an active part." Mr. Sharp said Canada was pursuing as a matter of the "utmost urgency" the search for a solution to the problems posed by air piracy and air sabotage.

State Department, Pentagon Mum On Report U.S. Agreed To Sell Jets To Israel

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Neither the State Department nor the Pentagon would confirm reports today that the United States has agreed to sell Israel 16-18 more supersonic F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers. The report, published in the Washington Post, was attributed to "well informed sources." It said that the first deliveries, at the rate of four to five aircraft a month are expected to start this month and continue through December. The Pentagon this morning referred queries to the State Department. The latter had no comment. According to the Washington Post the agreement to supply Israel with more Phantoms was reached over the week-end during discussions at the State Department and the Department of Defense.

74 Cholera Cases In Israel; Disease Confined To Jerusalem Area But Could Spread

JERUSALEM, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Israel's cholera outbreak worsened today as the government pressed a massive sanitation campaign and continued to seek the source of the disease. There were 13 new cases diagnosed over the week-end and seven more reported yesterday and today bringing the total to 74. Most of the cases are in the Jerusalem area but Health Minister Victor Shemtov warned that the disease could spread to other parts of the country. He conceded that the Ministry has been unable to isolate the source of the outbreak. He said he was seeking approval to enlist Gadna, Israel's para-military youth corps, and other youth movements to serve as volunteer health inspectors to see that sanitary measures are enforced. The Health Minister denied allegations in the press that the government was delaying mass inoculations for financial reasons. He said there was no shortage of money for vaccine but for valid medical reasons, inoculations are not being administered on a mass basis. Mr. Shemtov disclosed that his inspectors so far have shut down five hostels, an ice cream factory in Ramat Gan and two restaurants in Nahariya.

Israel Lodges 12th Cease-Fire Complaint With UNTSO; New Missile Sites Constructed

TEL AVIV, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Israel lodged its 12th complaint with the United Nations today of cease-fire violations by Egypt along the Suez Canal. The complaint, submitted to the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), claimed that information obtained as recently as yesterday showed that the Egyptians are continuing to construct new missile sites in the standstill cease-fire zone.

Settlements Shelled By Rockets; 10 Suspects In Grenade Throwing Incidents Arrested

TEL AVIV, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Katyusha rockets were fired at Ramat Naphtali settlement in Upper Galilee last night. No casualties were reported in this incident. Police arrested ten suspects in Jerusalem today in connection with two grenade incidents this week. A grenade thrown from the Old City wall exploded harmlessly outside the New Gate this morning. Only a red traffic light, that had halted traffic, averted possible casualties. The grenade was hurled at an hour when traffic outside the gate is normally heavy. Israelis in the Beisan Valley reported witnessing fighting today between Jordanian Army regulars and Palestinian guerrillas. They said the guerrillas were taking refuge in caves under fire from tanks. Several stray bullets landed on Israeli territory but there were no casualties or return fire. A military spokesman said the Beisan Valley, a frequent target of guerrilla attacks, has been unusually quiet for the past three days. Premier Golda Meir inspected Israeli positions along the Suez Canal today. She was accompanied by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar Lev.

British Airlines Suspend All Flights To Beirut Following Seizure Of BOAC

LONDON, Sept. 9 (JTA)--British airlines today suspended all flights to Beirut, Lebanon until further notice. The suspension followed the hijacking of a BOAC airliner today by Arab commandos who forced it to make a fuel stop at Beirut and then reportedly flew it to a guerrilla-controlled airstrip in Jordan. The suspension of Beirut flights was ordered on the recommendation of Michael Noble, president of the Board of Trade. A British European Airlines jet that left for Beirut this afternoon had its flight terminated at Athens.

Jewish Organizations Continue To Express Outrage At Hijackers

NEW YORK, Sept. 9 (JTA)--Jewish and non-Jewish groups continued to express outrage at the Arab terrorist hijackings. Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress, called upon King Hussein of Jordan to warn Arab hijackers that their own lives will be forfeited if anything happens to the passengers. "Every step must be taken to deter the terrorists from the ultimate insanity of their acts," he said. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith called upon Pres. Nixon to react to the hijackings "in the manner the U.S. acted when it refused to submit to the Barbary pirates who threatened international shipping early in the history of our nation." In a letter to the President, Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the ADL urged the U.S. to take a leadership role in a boycott of Arab states which have supported guerrilla air outlawry and terrorism. Leaders of Agudath Israel of America urged the government to take firm action to secure the immediate release of American citizens held by the terrorists. Mrs. Faye Schenk, president of Hadassah, urged Pres. Nixon to "use every means available to your high office to secure the release of the hostages, many of them Americans held by the Arab terrorists." Mrs. Schenk was aboard the El Al airliner that foiled a terrorist hijacking attempt over Britain on Sunday. Lloyd S. Schwenger, president of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, said, "Unless these international desperadoes are brought to justice, no one will be able to travel in safety anywhere in the world...The depraved moral stature of these gangsters of the air is further revealed by their subjecting innocent passengers to the burning heat of the desert and singling out women and children because they are Jewish."

