

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Guerrillas Free Most Passengers; Talks Suspended On Remaining Hostages

LONDON, Sept. 13 (JTA)--The fate of between 39 and 64 hostages still held by Arab terrorists somewhere in Jordan hung in the balance today after the commandos released 235 hijacked passengers and crew members and then destroyed the three aircraft they seized and forced to fly to a deserted desert airstrip near Amman last week. The guerrillas, members of the Marxist-oriented Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said yesterday they were holding 40 persons hostage but later they released a Dutch engineer. The engineer reported that there were a number of American Jews among the remaining captives but he did not make it clear whether they were persons holding dual U.S. and Israeli citizenship. The guerrillas said that the remaining hostages were all males, except for "about five" Israeli women alleged to belong to the Israeli army.

As has been true throughout the week since the hijackings last Sunday, reports on the number and nationalities of the hijack victims continued to be confused and contradictory. A Popular Front spokesman said the remaining hostages included 23 Israelis and Americans with dual citizenship, six Swiss, six West German and six British nationals, a total of 41. But other sources said the total still held "somewhere in Jordan" was 34. In addition, 18 passengers released in Amman yesterday, presumably women and children, remained there because they had relatives among the final detainees and wanted to await the outcome of negotiations for their release. (The released passengers were being flown to Nicosia and other Mediterranean points for transfer to places of their respective countries. Several flights with released Americans aboard arrived at Kennedy airport last night and more were scheduled to arrive today for tearful re-unions with relatives, some of whom had waited for many hours.)

## Confusion Marks Suspension of Red Cross Release Talks

Negotiations that had been going on most of last week between the terrorists and an international Red Cross team headed by Andre Rochet apparently broke down over the week-end. It was not clear whether this happened before or after the terrorists blew up the three jet airliners 13 hours before their deadline for the release of the hostages was to expire. There was some confusion today as to the status of negotiations. The guerrillas said they were holding the remaining hostages in exchange for seven Palestinian commandos jailed in West Germany, Switzerland and Britain and for an unspecified number of prisoners in Israel. The three European governments are apparently prepared to free the Arabs, all of whom were jailed for previous attacks on airliners, but are reportedly standing firm on their demand that all the hostages be released simultaneously without regard to their nationality or religion. That demand was the basis of the negotiations conducted by the Red Cross. According to unconfirmed reports, Israel was prepared to release an unspecified number of guerrillas in its custody. A demand on Israel from the terrorists was supposed to have been handed to the Red Cross but was not made public.

The British Government said yesterday that it was willing to release Laila Khaleel, the 24 year-old girl commandeered into custody after an abortive attempt to hijack an El Al airliner off the British coast last Sunday. But Britain has not withdrawn from the position of the United States, Switzerland and West Germany which is opposed to a piecemeal ransom deal.

## Countries Involved Reaffirm United Front On Releases

Authorities here were puzzled by the destruction of the three aircraft--a TWA 707, a Swissair DC-8 and a BOAC VC-10 valued together at \$25 million--a half day before the terrorists' own deadline expired. The PFLP claimed that the aircraft were destroyed because of "a conspiracy by various imperialist powers to abort this operation." The reference was to broadcast reports of large U.S. naval and air movements in the Eastern Mediterranean. (The Nixon Administration sought Friday to allay the terrorists' fears of American military intervention. White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler characterized the movements of the U.S. Sixth Fleet as "routine precautions in such situations for evacuation purposes." The Swiss Government met in emergency session in Berne yesterday. Chancellor Karl Huber said afterward that the destruction of the planes had not changed the demand of the four Western nations for the release of all the hostages regardless of nationality.) Reports here said the PFLP blew up the planes in advance of their deadline because of growing dissension with other Arab guerrilla groups. The Palestine Liberation Organization, the umbrella group representing nearly a dozen Palestinian commando organizations, suspended the PFLP from membership yesterday for the hijack and hostage operation which has aroused a storm of world opinion against the Arabs.

## No UN Talks Till Missiles Removed, Mrs. Meir To Tell Nixon

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13 (JTA)--Informed sources here said today that Premier Golda Meir has a meeting scheduled with President Nixon Friday at which she is expected to tell the President that Israel is firmly opposed to any return to the peace talks at the United Nations until Soviet-made SAM missiles installed illegally in the Suez Canal zone are removed. Mrs. Meir also is expected to express strong disagreement with views of some Nixon Administration officials who

question whether the Soviet-Egyptian installations of new missiles have changed the power balance in the area. She reportedly plans to stress to President Nixon that, prior to the United States-initiated 90-day cease-fire and standstill which began last August 7, the Soviets were deterred from moving missiles toward the Canal, but not since.

Mrs. Meir's scheduled arrival in the United States has been preceded by a flurry of reports that the Nixon Administration has decided to make a \$1 billion weapons offer as an offset to the Egyptian missile buildup and as an effort to persuade Israel to resume participation in the peace talks under Dr. Gunnar Jarring, the UN special peace emissary. Support for the reports on additional United States arms was given by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in testimony yesterday at an unusual Saturday meeting of the foreign operations subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Mr. Rogers appeared before the subcommittee in an effort to obtain Senate reversal of a \$536 million House cut in an Administration request for \$1.8 billion for foreign aid for fiscal 1971. He told the subcommittee that the Administration was planning to resume economic aid to Israel and to increase military assistance.

Israel has not received U.S. economic aid for some five years, purportedly because of the advanced state of its economy but Mr. Rogers said that Israeli defense purchases had created "a serious economic problem." He said a decision on the aid would be reached "in the near future" and that "we now have under consideration economic assistance or supporting assistance for Israel." He declined to tell the Senators how much help and of what type the Administration was considering for Israel. His disclosure that the Administration was studying a comprehensive aid program for Israel was the first time it had been made publicly.

(Confirmation of the report that the main points of Mrs. Meir's agenda for the Nixon meeting will be the suspended Jarring talks and the removal of the illegally placed missiles came today from Jerusalem. Sources there said that Mrs. Meir also intends to renew Israel's request, made last year, for \$1 billion in economic aid. Because of vastly increased outlays for defense because of the Soviet involvement, Israel feels entitled to ask for aid of that magnitude, the sources said. Mrs. Meir will also ask for a United States guarantee against Soviet attacks, the sources added, but gave no details as to specifics of the planned request for such a guarantee.)

The report of plans for a \$1 billion weapons package, on which the White House refused comment yesterday, was made by Thomas Ross, a Chicago Sun-Times correspondent in Washington, who asserted that President Nixon was expected to discuss the proposal at his meeting with Premier Meir. According to Ross, Pentagon sources said the arms package included tanks, bombs, jet planes, anti-aircraft missiles and electronic detection and jamming equipment. He wrote also that the package "reportedly" included 24 additional Phantom jets, which the United States "started to deliver secretly in July."

The correspondent quoted "reliable sources" to the effect that six additional Phantoms were shipped to Israel in July, that six more will be delivered later this month and four each in October, November and December. He said that the 24 new Phantoms will fall one short of Israel's long-standing request for 25 additional Phantoms, as well as for 100 more Skylark jets. He asserted also that Israel was "reportedly given long-term credit" for purchase of the Phantoms and for a "secret shipment of Shrike air-to-ground missiles."

In a related development, The New York Times reported here yesterday that a growing number of senior Administration officials had come to the conclusion that the Soviet-Egyptian missile violations had shifted the power balance in the canal zone to Israel's disadvantage. The Times reported that to correct the new imbalance "and to improve deteriorating relations" between the Nixon Administration and Israel, the officials were studying the possibility of providing Israel with a variety of sensors and reconnaissance devices to increase Israeli capability to guard against any Egyptian military thrusts across the Suez Canal.

### Israel Arrests 450 Arabs; Sends West Bank Delegation to Amman

JERUSALEM, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- Israeli authorities disclosed today that 450 Arab residents of the occupied territories have been arrested during the past 48 hours for "interrogation." They are suspected of being members or supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the terrorist organization still holding a substantial number of airline hijack hostages, mainly Israelis, somewhere in Jordan.

According to Army sources, 350 of the arrests were made in the Judeaea-Samaria region (West Bank) and 100 in the Gaza Strip where the PFLP is said to control most terrorist activities. Reports said that about 80 women are among the arrested suspects. It was learned in addition that Israel has expelled six prominent West Bank Arabs to Jordan for alleged collaboration with the PFLP. They were described as physicians, lawyers and influential merchants.

The mass arrests took place as the Israel Government sought assurances from the United States, Britain, Switzerland and West Germany that they would stand fast in their refusal to negotiate piecemeal ransom for their nationals still held by the terrorists. The Foreign Ministry announced today that Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, met with Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco on the matter. Similar representations were made by the Israeli envoys in Bonn, Bern and London. The terrorists released 255 hostages yesterday and blew up the three hijacked aircraft at an airstrip in northern Jordan. They are holding an undetermined number of hostages, vari-

ously reported at 39 to 54, at another location in Jordan. Reportedly 23 of them are Israeli nationals, including some who hold dual Israeli and American citizenship. The Israeli Government was reported to be standing firm in its refusal to have any dealings, direct or indirect, with the terrorists. It was disclosed today, however, that Israeli authorities sent two West Bank Arabs as an unofficial delegation to Amman to meet with high-ranking members of the PFLP. The two returned today but no word of the outcome of their mission was released. PFLP leader Dr. George Habash reportedly refused to meet them.

### U.S. Christian Leaders Urge Release Of Hostages; Interfaith Prayers Held

NEW YORK, Sept. 13 (JTA)--Leaders of major Christian denominations, acting independently and in concert with American Jewish leadership, have voiced urgent appeals for the release of hijacked airliner passengers held hostage by Arab terrorists in Jordan and offered prayers for their safety. The vigorous response of the Christian clergymen to the latest outbreak of aerial piracy preceded the release of most of the hostages yesterday. According to the late reports, between 39 and 54 hostages, mostly Israeli nationals, are still in terrorist hands.

Appeals were issued by Terence Cardinal Cooke, prelate of the Archdiocese of New York; Dr. Robert Moss, head of the United Church of Christ in New York; A. Dale Fiers, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Mrs. Cynthia Wedel, president of the National Council of Churches; Msgr. John Oesterreicher of the Institute of Judeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University; the Rev. Dr. Clyde Taylor of the National Association of Evangelicals; Rev. Dr. Carl Bates, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. Joseph R. Estes, of the Home Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Council, and others.

Most of the appeals were made in the form of letters and telegrams to President Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Msgr. Oesterreicher joined with Abbot Rudolf and Father Morley of Seton Hall in a telegram to Pope Paul, urgently asking him to demand that the "terrorists" desist from carrying out "their murderous threat." (The Vatican announced yesterday that Pope Paul had made a personal intervention "with responsible authorities" for the quick release of the hostages. It was understood that the Pope had conveyed a personal plea to the Arab guerrilla leaders.)

Leaders of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, the Washington Board of Rabbis and the Washington Jewish Community Council joined Friday in expressing their "moral revulsion" against the aerial hijacking and demanded the immediate release of all hostages "regardless of their religion, race, color or nationality."

Some 1,500 persons gathered in Dag Hammarskjold Square facing UN headquarters Friday for a public interfaith prayer meeting for the hijack victims. Mayor John V. Lindsay, of New York spoke briefly. Among the clergymen participating were Bishop Horace B. Donegan, presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York; Rev. Francis X. Murphy, associate of the Papal Office for the UN; Msgr. Timothy J. Flynn, of the New York Catholic Archdiocese; Mrs. Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairman of the New York City Commission on Human Rights and Rabbi Solomon Sharfman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, who presided.

The International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations sent a telegram to Pope Paul appealing to him to "speak out against the threatened murder of innocent persons being victimized by this wanton act of anarchy, blackmail and lawlessness." The telegram was signed by Dr. Gerhardt Riegner, of the World Jewish Congress, Rabbi Henry Siegmán, of the Synagogue Council of America and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee's interreligious affairs department.

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, urged the Nixon Administration last week to "take the initiative for international action to stop piracy and banditry in the air." Mr. Meany's appeal was contained in a message to the Jewish Labor Committee. The Labor Zionist Organization of America called last week for a boycott of nations that harbor or aid hijackers. B'nai B'rith headquarters in Washington reported that it had received the largest number of telephone calls since the 1967 Six-Day War from persons deploring the aerial hijackings. In Toronto last week 800 persons attended a prayer meeting for the hostages at the B'nai Israel Beth David Synagogue.

### Anglican Bishop Proposes Sacrifice Of Jewish Hostages For Other Nationals

LONDON, Sept. 13 (JTA)--An Anglican Bishop's suggestion that the governments concerned sacrifice Jewish hostages in order to free their own nationals held by Arab terrorists in the Jordanian desert was denounced by former Labor Cabinet Minister Richard H.S. Crossman Friday. Mr. Crossman, appearing on a BBC panel discussion with former Conservative Minister Duncan Sandys, referred to a suggestion advanced by Bishop Trevor Huddleston whose Stepney diocese includes the predominantly Jewish district of Whitechapel. Mr. Crossman said it was incredible that a Bishop of the Church of England should advocate such a proposition. Both he and Mr. Sandys agreed that Israel would be justified in entering Jordan if the chaos there continued and the Hussein government was unable to control the country.

### Armed Federal Guards Carrying Out Nixon Plan; Ride Flights From N.Y.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13 (JTA)--Armed Federal plainclothesmen began riding international flights from Kennedy Airport yesterday in accordance with the policy announced by President Nixon to combat "the menace of air piracy." The first planes with the guards to leave yesterday for Paris belonged to airlines which were victims of guerrilla hijackings last Sunday--Transworld and Pan

American. The President announced Friday that specially-trained guards would police both domestic and overseas flights of American-flag airlines and that he had ordered the Transport Department to expand the use of electronic surveillance devices to "gateway" airports, other domestic airports and to overseas terminals of American airlines. He also urged the international community to accept a proposed treaty to extradite or punish hijackers and "to take joint action to suspend airline services with countries which refuse to punish or extradite hijackers." He said he had asked Secretary of State William P. Rogers to ask the president of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization to call an emergency meeting to consider such "joint action."

Officials of other airlines refused to give details as to which of their flights would carry the federal guards but other sources said the guards would ride flights to Europe, the Middle East and southeastern United States, which is in range of Cuba. There are an estimated 125 trans-Atlantic flights and 14,730 domestic flights daily in the United States. The first guards have been drawn from the Treasury. Washington sources said that plans called for a force of up to 5,000 guards who will serve as long as necessary.

### Canadian Leaders Ask Trudeau Appeal For Soviet Jews During Moscow Visit

OTTAWA, Sept. 13 (JTA)--A delegation representing the leadership of Canadian Jewry asked Premier Pierre Elliot Trudeau to intervene on behalf of the rights of Soviet Jews when he visits Moscow next month. The delegation visited M. Trudeau and Foreign Minister Mitchell Sharp for two hours Friday to discuss Soviet involvement in the Middle East, aerial hijacking and the status of Jews in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The delegation was headed by Monroe Abbey, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress and Saul Hayes, executive vice president. It represented in addition to the CJCongress the Federated Zionist Organization of Canada, B'nai B'rith District 22 and the United Jewish Appeal.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut of Toronto, raised the question of Jews in Eastern Europe who, he said, numbered some three million in the Soviet Union and its satellite states. He said they were not permitted to pursue and enjoy Jewish cultural life or to emigrate to Israel. He urged the Canadian Prime Minister to appeal to Soviet leaders on behalf of Russian Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel to reunite with their families.

Mr. Hayes told the Canadian leaders that in the delegation's view "Canada should not be neutral on the Middle East issue and Russia's involvement there because it is one of international proportions." The delegation also asked the Canadian Government to support prompt steps to apprehend hijackers before they seize planes and to seek international treaties that would stamp out hijacking and provide for measures to be taken against countries that harbor hijackers. The delegation asked Premier Trudeau for Canada's support of Israel and "its right to peace and security, including the security of its borders."

### Israel Bond Conclave Sets Goal Of Record \$500 Million In Next 16 Months

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13 (JTA)--A campaign for a record sale of \$500 million in Israel bonds to bolster Israel's economy in the present crisis was launched here today at a national emergency conference of American and Canadian Jewish leaders. Officials said the worldwide drive would seek to obtain \$150 million in sales by the end of 1970, with the remaining \$350 million in sales to be sought next year. Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman, said last year proceeds from Israel bond sales totalled \$160 million.

The extraordinary half-billion dollar goal for the next 16 months was adopted by an international conference of world Jewish leaders in Israel last month. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir told the conference today that Israel's current defense outlays amount to 25 percent of Israel's gross national product, compared with the 9.5 percent of the United States GNP. He outlined a five-year economic expansion plan which anticipated total investments of \$7 billion, of which \$5.5 billion will have to come from outside aid. He said that investment rate was needed to provide for the absorption of 250,000 new immigrants over the next five years and to boost exports from \$1.4 billion to \$2.6 billion by 1975.

Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, urged the "greatest mobilization of financial support" in Israel's history because Israel's problems could be met only "by a completely new approach to our obligations and responsibilities." He pointed out that, to reach the half-billion dollar goal, a doubling would have to be achieved of the record Israel bond sales of \$217 million during the year of the Six-Day War.

Mr. Rothberg said that without Israel Bonds, "the economy of Israel cannot be strong enough to withstand the crushing burdens of defense," or provide homes and jobs for the new immigrants whom Israel must continue to receive for her own sake as well as for the sake of the rebirth of the Jewish people." Leo Bernstein of New York, Israel Bond vice-president, said that non-Jewish purchasers were having an increasing role in Israel Bond sales. He said that during the past seven years sales to banks, pension funds, labor unions and insurance firms had amounted to \$155 million. He emphasized that the primary responsibility was with the Jewish community and that a concerted effort was planned to enroll 1,000 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform congregations in the United States and Canada for an intensive effort during the period of the Jewish High Holy Days. This initial phase, its leaders hope, will produce sales of \$30 million, as compared with about \$17 million in sales last year.