

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Specters Of U.S.-Soviet Collision, Israeli Thrust Into Jordan Fade As Hussein Gains

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (JTA)--The twin specters of an Israeli military thrust into Jordan and a Soviet-United States confrontation in the area faded today as King Hussein appeared to be gaining the upper hand in his week-long war with Arab guerrilla groups. The key to the young king's improving prospects for survival was the fact that tank-led Syrian forces had started a significant retreat after being mauled by the Jordanian army. State Department sources said today the largest share of the credit for the pullback of the invading Syrians from Jordan belonged to the Jordanian Army. They said other factors were--in descending order of importance--Syrian fears of Israeli intervention, United States diplomatic action and Soviet influence with the hard-lining Syrian military regime. While the nature and extent of Soviet influence in this situation was not yet known here, the sources said, the other three factors kept Soviet influence on Syria "marginal." United States officials indicated a belief that Syria invaded Jordan with up to 300 tanks and "several thousand" troops. The Hussein government claimed yesterday that 80 of the Syrian tanks had been disabled or destroyed. U.S. officials indicated they did not know how many of the Syrian military men remained in Jordan.

### Israeli Readiness Held Key Factor In Syrian Pullback

Other sources here contended that fear of an Israeli thrust to protect its vital interests in Jordan, if a strong possibility of chaos developed, was the decisive factor in inducing the Soviet Union to pressure Syria to pull out its tanks. It was reported that the Israelis moved tanks and troops into border areas where they were easily observable, including the occupied Golan Heights, as a warning to the guerrillas and to Syria. The prospects of a United States intervention had at no time during the week of civil war in Jordan taken on any aspect of becoming a reality. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union issued a "solemn warning" to the United States against intervention in Jordan and the Soviets were beginning to take credit for easing the tense situation in the Hashemite kingdom. Experts on the Middle East stressed that even if the most optimistic reports on Hussein's gains proved to be true, his troubles were far from over, and, accordingly, his country would continue to be unstable and under renewed threat from the momentarily beaten guerrilla groups.

(The Soviet Mission to the United Nations said today that the Soviet Embassies in Amman, Damascus and Baghdad had "established contacts" on the question of the crisis with Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi leaders, in addition to the "permanent contact" with Egypt. The Soviet Mission called for "caution" by outside powers that might be considering intervention and urged the U.S. to "use its influence with the government of Israel so that Israel might not try to exploit the Jordanian events for its aggressive aims.") (The New York office of the Palestine Liberation Organization declared that the PLO was "both willing and capable of insuring" the safety of American nationals in Jordan and "securing traveling facilities" for them "in areas under the control of the revolution." The safety of American nationals, the PLO said, "has not been endangered," but their present situation is due to the "turmoil" caused by the U.S. peace initiative. Should the U.S. intervene on behalf of the "Fascist, reactionary" regime of King Hussein, the commando organization continued, "there will be no safety for any lives in the area.")

(Centers of the El Fatah terrorist group on the Jordanian side of the Jordan River were reported today by a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent to be almost completely deserted, apparently because the guerrillas had been ordered into the interior of Jordan to battle the Jordanian army. The JTA correspondent toured a 40-mile stretch of the river bank northwards from Jericho. Villages on the Jordanian side, most of them El Fatah nests, were reported to be almost totally deserted although only three days before, even after King Hussein ordered the Jordanian army to crush the guerrillas, the villages had been teeming. The correspondent said that all he saw was one lone goatherd leading several goats as the only sign of life. He added that the villages along the lower Jordan depression seemed to be in the safest area in Jordan. He said there was no fighting in the area and that even the sound of gunfire, clearly heard elsewhere by Israelis, had not penetrated this valley.)

## Jordanian Army Patrol Turns Back Red Cross Team On Mercy Mission From Israel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA)--The hopes of Israel and the International Red Cross of providing relief for Jordanian war casualties were stymied today when a Jordanian Army patrol turned back an IRC delegation that had crossed the Allenby Bridge seeking wounded or hungry persons, Israeli sources said. The three-man delegation managed to visit only two villages, neither of them short of food or medical supplies. Israel is the only country from which such a relief operation can be mounted overland. If the operation eventually gets under way, it will be the first contact between Israel and Jordan since the outbreak of the Jordanian civil war. Israel offered Wednesday to hospitalize any Jordanian casualties, except males of combat age, who are brought to the bridge by the IRC or the Jordanian Red Crescent. Three medical teams, each composed of a surgeon, a physician and four nurses, have been set up by West Bank Arabs. They are awaiting approval from Jordanian authorities to aid casualties in Amman.

(At the United Nations today, Secretary General U Thant and General Assembly president Edvard I. Hambro issued a joint appeal to UN members and agencies and private organizations and individuals to "provide the needed humanitarian aid" to those victimized by the fighting in Jordan. Declaring they

were "profoundly distressed at the bloodshed and suffering that have afflicted Jordan in the present tragic situation," Mr. Thant and Dr. Hambro called for "all possible assistance that may be needed to prevent further loss of lives and to alleviate the afflictions and anguish that have become the sudden lot of so many thousands of human beings." It was understood that the phrase "all possible assistance" referred strictly to "humanitarian" efforts and did not indicate a request for military action.)

The leftist Mapam party reported today it has decided to open a campaign for funds to buy medicines for Jordanian civilians wounded in the civil war between King Hussein and the Palestinian guerrillas. The medicines will be given to the Red Mogen Dovid for transfer to Jordan through the International Red Cross. The plans for the fund-raising has evoked mixed reactions among Israelis, the critics asking why Mapam did not raise funds for Jewish settlers injured in guerrilla attacks on Beisan Valley and other settlements.

### Report Jordanian Units Searched Wahdet Camp, Found No Evidence Of Hostages

LONDON, Sept. 24 (JTA)--Jordanian special forces made a house-to-house search of the crowded Wahdet refugee camp near Amman for evidence that the 54 hijack hostages had been taken there, as had been widely reported, and found nothing to indicate that any of the hostages had been in the camp, the London Telegraph reported today from Beirut. Meanwhile, according to the Beirut correspondent, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said in Beirut that the hostages were now in the "liberated northern Jordan" area, implying they had been moved from Amman to Irbid, which was captured by the commandos but is now reportedly under siege by the Jordanian army. An officer of the Palestine Liberation army, another guerrilla group, reportedly made a similar statement about the transfer of the hostages to Irbid, the Telegraph reported.

Information from Damascus believed to be reliable received here today indicated that the 54 hijacked hostages have been split into groups of Jews and non-Jews. According to the report, the Jews are in the Safiya refugee camp and the non-Jews were taken to the Nuseibeh refugee camp. Safiya was heavily shelled this week in the fighting between the Jordanian army and the guerrilla groups but there was no information reported about the effect of the fighting on that camp.

(In Washington, Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said yesterday that the committee had been told at a private State Department briefing that the United States had learned indirectly that the hostages were in good health.) (The volunteers who have been manning a special desk in a Manhattan office of Trans World Airlines, which provides whatever information becomes available on the TWA passengers still being held hostage in Jordan, quickly developed "a rapport with relatives to the point that they know us by our first names," Bill Hassell, TWA reservations chief, said today. The around-the-clock TWA "hijack desk" is staffed by personnel, who, in the first days of the crisis, manned the telephones up to 16 hours a day, foregoing sleep, meals and days off. The reservations official said new information is passed on to the families of the hostages as fast as it becomes available and inaccurate or incomplete information in the press or on radio or television is corrected. Another agent said "We've become very close to each of the families involved. We assured them, informed them and, on occasion, cried with them." Franklin J. Parisi, a TWA spokesman, reported today there had been no change in the break-off of contact between TWA headquarters in New York and the two TWA representatives who went to Amman. Forty of the 54 hostages still held by the Popular Front somewhere in Jordan were passengers on the hijacked TWA flight on Sept. 6 from Tel Aviv to New York.)

(The World Council of Churches has written to the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization protesting the hijacking of aircraft and the taking of hostages and urging the committee to "negotiate with the International Red Cross the speedy repatriation of all hostages currently held, without respect to their religion and nationality." The Council also requested the committee to "exercise the utmost care to maintain the health and safety of those now held." The church group continued: "While understanding the frustration of the Palestinian Arabs and your desire to focus world attention on your situation, we must strongly condemn these reckless acts of anarchy and blackmail which disregard the basic human rights for which you are striving. We urge you to take note of the almost universal condemnation of these acts, which are most likely to lead to reprisals that will only cause further deterioration of the situation in the Middle East.")

### Amendment For Arms Purchase Credit For Israel Before Senate Committee

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (JTA)--An amendment to the pending Export-Import Bank bill to permit the bank to extend loans, guarantees, insurance and credit to Israel for the purchase of defense materials and services from the United States has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Charles Percy, Illinois Republican, and Sen. Harrison Williams, New Jersey Democrat. Although adjournment of Congress may take place late in October, a member of Sen. Percy's staff told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he thought the credit measure, which is now in the Senate Banking and Currency committee, will be brought to the floor in October and then be accepted by House members in the joint conference committee to iron out differences in House and Senate versions for passage by both houses.

Under existing regulations, the bank cannot provide such assistance to Israel. The Percy-Williams amendment, Sen. Percy said, will give Israel "the long-term easy credit needed to purchase military equipment vital for its defense." Israel is ineligible because of a classification by the bank as a "less economically developed country." Sen. Percy said the bank now provides such assistance to Italy, Australia and Spain as "more economically developed countries" and considers 18 other nations, including Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, San Marino and Monaco as eligible. He said if such small nations were eligible for such credits and guarantees, "Israel's need must be considered at least as great as theirs."

## Growing Ability Of Newcomers To Establish Selves In Israel Reported

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24 (JTA)--Migration of Jews from Asia and South Africa for settlement in Israel is increasing and the qualifications of the newcomers for establishing themselves in Israel are rising steadily among them, Uzzi Harkiss, general director of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department, told a Haifa press conference today. He said about one-third of the newcomers currently pass through the Agency's reception centers and hostels or live in ulpanim, which have combined capacity to handle about 10,000 newcomers in each six-month period. He said immigration from France was disappointing but that good prospects were anticipated in future immigration of United States Jews whom he described as generally able to establish themselves on their own. He also mentioned the "tour oleh," tourism of groups of potential immigrants which he said was encouraging settlement. He reported also that surveys had shown that the number of Israeli emissaries sent to a country had a positive impact on the number of immigrants from that country because personal contacts were needed to bring about decisions to go to Israel for settlement. He added that efforts would be made to increase the number of such emissaries to the United States.

## Israel Ports Authority Head Quits In Clash With Histadrut Official

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA)--The controversy between the Israel Ports Authority and Histadrut was aggravated tonight by the resignation of Gen. Haim Laskov as director of the authority. The former Air Force commander and former Chief of Staff rejected the pleas of the authority's board members to withdraw his resignation, which had been called for by Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, secretary general of Histadrut and a former Minister of Transport and Communications. Mr. Ben-Aharon has charged that Gen. Laskov was incapable of maintaining relations with Israeli port workers, who have staged frequent and crippling strikes. A cabinet committee headed by Minister of Agriculture Haim Gvati concluded that Mr. Ben-Aharon's charges were unsubstantiated. It distributed the blame for the strained labor relations equally among all involved parties, including Histadrut, the general labor federation. But the committee also recommended restrictions on the Ports Authority's independence and increased control by the Transport Minister, which led to Gen. Laskov's resignation. In a television interview tonight, he explained that the committee report, which he said the board was about to adopt, "would empty my function of all its content." It would also, he said, "make the Ports Authority as such redundant and expose it to the influence of various pressure groups to which it has so far been immune." Mr. Ben-Aharon issued a statement today that declared: "I respect Laskov's decision." Dr. Naftali Wycra, chairman of the Ports Authority board, and eight board members decided today to urge Transport Minister Shimon Peres to dissuade Gen. Laskov from resigning.

## Number of Cholera Cases In Jerusalem, Down Before, On Rise Again

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24 (JTA)--The number of cholera cases in this city, which had been decreasing this past week, is on the rise again, with the Health Ministry reporting last night 12 new cases. In addition, a 63-year-old man of the Arab village of Ein Arik died of the disease yesterday in Ramallah Hospital in the West Bank, bringing the death total to at least three (one woman may have succumbed to pneumonia). The number of cases per day had fallen to five last week, from a high of 17. The number of acute cases has risen to 46, although only 27 are hospitalized. But Jews, thanks to adherence to sanitary measures, are now the minority of new cases. The Health Ministry, which believes the cholera may spread beyond this city and has urged three new sewage-treatment plants as vital to the eradication of the malady, still does not feel mass vaccination is necessary. The Ministry is seeking to dispel fears of cholera, noting that other diseases, like dysentery, while not as infamous as cholera, are far more widespread.

### Newsbriefs

LONDON, Sept. 24 (JTA)--The belief held by some that all Israeli women work is not true--actually, only 30 percent of them are employed, compared with 60 percent in the United States. Those statistics were reported to the women's group of the Friends of the Hebrew University today by Mrs. Zena Harman, Laborite member of the Knesset and former chairman of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Mrs. Harman, who was born here, is the wife of Hebrew University president Avraham Harman. "The role of women in Israel is perhaps greater and more pronounced than in other countries because in Israel women serve in the army and also play a special role in the national effort to bridge the gap between the various communities and to mold them all into one nation," Mrs. Harman said.

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24 (JTA)--The grapefruit-picking season has begun in the Beisan Valley, where the climate is hotter than in other areas of the country. The crop is reported to be of greater quantity and higher quality than last year's. But the grove owners fear that exports may be affected by labor troubles at Israeli ports.

W. BERLIN, Sept. 24 (JTA)--An exhibit depicting Jewish bravery against the legions of Rome at the ancient fortress stronghold of Massada was opened here yesterday by Lord Mayor Klaus Schuetz of West Berlin. It will be on display for four weeks under the sponsorship of the Berlin Senate.

PARIS, Sept. 24 (JTA)--The Alliance Israelite Universelle, of which Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rene Cassin is president, reported that it now sponsors 72 schools worldwide with a total enrolment of 16,805 pupils. There are 28 schools in Morocco, 27 in Iran, 10 in Israel, three in Lebanon, two in France, one in Syria and one in Tunisia.

## Catholic Coed Joins Jews In Protest At Moiseyev Show In Washington

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (JTA)--A New York Catholic coed joined last night with a score of representatives of the Jewish Community Council in a demonstration on behalf of Soviet Jewry at the opening of a two-night stand here by the Soviet Union's Moiseyev dance company. Similar protests have been staged under Jewish sponsorship in other cities where the Moiseyev troupe has appeared and are planned for future appearances in other cities of the current U.S. tour.

The community council members, led by president Seymour Wolf, made their protest in the form of a welcome to the dance troupe coupled with a reminder to audience members that the country represented by the dancers was oppressing an element of its people. The approach was contained in a leaflet which was distributed to audience members and passersby by community council members and by Marilyn Coonelly of Suffern, N.Y., a sociology major at the American University. The leaflet stressed that the patrons were seeing a freedom of cultural expression that was "denied by the Soviet authorities" to the three million Jews in the Soviet Union. The leaflets urged readers to write or telephone the Soviet ambassador here in protest of the Soviet government's violations of "human rights" of its citizens.

Miss Coonelly, asked why she was participating in the protest, replied "I am interested in people and hate to see them oppressed anywhere. The Russians won't let the Jewish people stand up for what they believe in and for what they feel." The community council limited its demonstration to distribution of the leaflets but three women and four men students at local universities briefly disrupted the playing of the Soviet national anthem at the start of the ballet performance. They were identified as members of the Washington Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and said they were protesting the Soviet repression of Jews. They were led from the hall and no arrests were made. Most of the patrons reacted with annoyance to the brief disruption with cries of "throw them out" but there was some scattered applause for the students.

Mr. Wolf was asked, before the incident occurred, whether the council planned any action inside the hall. He said the council's protest would consist entirely of distribution of the leaflets and that a similar distribution would take place at the second Moiseyev performance here. Also signifying opposition to Soviet policies at the hall were three members of the Ukrainian Liberation Front. They distributed copies of a press release declaring that they were acting on behalf of "the thousands of innocent Ukrainian artists, writers, professors, students, journalists and scientists who have been subjected to mass arrests, secret trials, illegal and harsh sentences and incarcerations by the Russian Communist government." One of the trio identified himself as Volodymyr Majewsky of Arlington, Va., who said he was an employee of the U.S. Patent Office. He said his group had joined in protest actions with Jewish organizations previously, mentioning a protest two years ago at the Washington Monument against persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union.

## Jewish Merchants Group In Mixed Area Fights Crime With Community Projects

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 24 (JTA)--A Jewish merchants group in a racially-mixed high-crime area of South Philadelphia is seeking to combat lawlessness with community projects in cooperation with a like-minded group of black residents in the area, and on its own. The efforts by the South Seventh Street Businessmen's Association include reviving a moribund neighborhood recreation center and introducing innovations such as modeling courses for girls, sewing courses, hockey and baseball teams and tours by youth groups of museums and other sites in the city.

According to Irv Zelnick, a Seventh Street poultry and seafood dealer for the past 20 years, the idea is to get youths "off the street and get them involved in constructive projects." He told the Philadelphia Jewish Times that the association works with the Greenwich Neighbors Action Committee, the black group. He said that crime in the neighborhood includes repeated burglaries, badgering of merchants and customers by beggars and molestation of storekeepers and individuals by gangs. He contended that it was "obvious" that getting a restoration or order in the area "is going to involve more than just a show of force. The police seem powerless to prevent the incidents and although enforcement plays a role in the overall program, our direction must be along other fronts."

Not all of the Jewish merchants agree with that approach. At a meeting of the association held at the Shari-Eli Synagogue, the main emphasis was on "law and order." Voices were raised against "new-fangled trends" of using "sociological tools," the Jewish weekly reported. However, a majority is supporting the project which is getting municipal backing in the form of recreational equipment. A recent meeting of the two merchants associations was attended by Murray Friedman, executive director of the American Jewish Committee in Philadelphia, who said his organization would support the proposed programs.

## First Jewish Canadian Cabinet Minister Named National Revenue Minister

MONTREAL, Sept. 24 (JTA)--Herb Gray, the first Jewish Minister in Canadian history, was designated Minister of National Revenue today by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Mr. Gray, 39, has been serving as Minister-Without-Portfolio. He represents Windsor, Ont., in Parliament and is a leader of the Canadian Jewish community. Last Nov. 8 he introduced Prime Minister Trudeau at an Anti-Defamation League meeting.

## Five Chagall Vitrages Affixed To Windows Of Zurich Cathedral

ZURICH, Sept. 24 (JTA)--Five Chagall vitrages were affixed to windows of Frauenmuenster Cathedral here during ceremonies at which Marc Chagall was present. These were the last of a series of painted glass works executed by the artist. Earlier vitrages had been executed for the Jerusalem Hadassah Synagogue, the Hammerskjold Memorial in New York, the Rockefeller Chapel in Washington and the Metz Cathedral.