

# 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

Friday, November 20, 1970

No. 224

## Israel's First Commercial Transport Plane Crashes; Three Pilots Killed

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Israel's first commercial transport plane crashed in the Samaria district today while on a test flight, killing three pilots and injuring a fourth. It was the second crash involving a prototype plane designed and built in Israel. A committee has been established to investigate the accident. The chief test pilot was Avraham Hachon, father of three, who had survived a crash earlier this year of the second of the two Israeli-made planes, the Jet Commander. In that test flight the Kibbutz Beit Alpha-born flyer received only minor injuries. The two other victims today were Amnon Azouri, an engineer who graduated from the Technion, and Eitan Spigel, an electrical technician. The plane that crashed today, known as the Arava, is of the STOL (Short Take-Off-and-Landing) type, designed for feeder services. It has a capacity of 22 passengers and 4400 pounds of cargo. The air frame is the product of the Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. Its two Pratt & Whitney 6-A-27 turbo-prop engines were built abroad. They provided a maximum cruising speed of 209 m.p.h. at 10,000 feet and a cruising range of about 600 miles. The Arava was dedicated last April by Premier Golda Meir in a festive ceremony. It passed its first test flight last January and was due to make its first commercial flight next April.

## Eban: Israel Government To Discuss Formula For Return To Peace Talks

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban indicated here last night that the next two or three weeks will be a period of intensive deliberation within the Israeli government to come up with a formula that will permit Israel to return to the Jarring peace talks. Mr. Eban said these deliberations would be paralleled by continuing discussions between Israel and the United States on the subject. The Israeli Foreign Minister spoke to newsmen after a 45 minute meeting with Secretary of State William P. Rogers, his second in ten days. The meeting was also attended by Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Joseph J. Sisco and Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Eban later took off for London where he will stop over briefly. He is expected to be back in Israel in time for Sunday's cabinet meeting. Mr. Eban made it clear that his government has not yet decided on the conditions necessary for reactivation of the Jarring talks and could not say "how or when" they will be created. He said the U.S. and Israel were in complete agreement that Egypt had indeed violated the standstill cease-fire but noted that "nothing has been done so far to correct" the violations. He said Israel was prepared to continue the cease-fire beyond its expiration date.

The Foreign Minister admitted that Israel sought more definite assurances from the U.S. on the form final boundaries would take. He referred to President Nixon's 1969 remarks on Israel's need for "defensible borders." Informed sources here said the U.S. has not abandoned Secretary Rogers' 1969 boundary proposals which would have Israel withdraw to virtually the same lines that existed before the June, 1967 war--lines that Israel does not consider "defensible." The same sources said however that the U.S. was not reiterating these proposals, not pressing them on Israel and would not impose them. Mr. Eban told newsmen, "We don't want those proposals to hover over negotiations. We want the negotiations to be free and we have legitimate proposals." State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today that last night's consultation between Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban "neither advances nor sets back the prospects for political talks." He added that "We understand that the government of Israel will be considering its over-all position when Eban returns," and that meanwhile U.S.-Israeli "contact" on the peace-talk deadlock continues. Asked to elaborate on the American position on defensible borders and related matters, Mr. McCloskey reiterated that "We want to avoid public discussions of these matters." He said he had "no information" on additional Egyptian missile violations or on the continuation of American reconnaissance over the Suez Canal standstill cease-fire zone.

Sources here said an Israeli decision on the Jarring talks would take into consideration the fact that Egyptian truce violations have not been rectified, that the Soviet Union has assured Egypt of its support for territorial claims and military development and what the U.S. is prepared to do with regard to Israel's insistence on a "very precise" formula for peace. The sources said Israel has been assured that the U.S. would not permit the Mideast military balance to be altered to Israel's detriment. But there was not much hope that Egyptian truce violations will be corrected. Informed sources said the U.S. has received "with great lack of enthusiasm" a plan attributed to Israel's Defense Minister, Moshe Dayan, calling for the mutual withdrawal of Egyptian and Israeli forces 10-20 miles from the banks of the Suez Canal. Such a move could lead to the re-opening of the waterway, a development the U.S. does not particularly favor at this time because it would give the Soviet Navy easy access to the Indian Ocean.

## Supreme Court Rejects Petition To Halt Auto Race; Protests Sent From London

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Israel's first international automobile race will be held Saturday in Ashkelon despite efforts by Orthodox elements to have it banned because it violates the Sabbath. The Supreme Court today rejected a petition by two Orthodox residents of Ashkelon to forbid the race on grounds that it would cause them "mental anguish." The court held that it could not entertain petitions on ideological grounds but only on actual damage which the petitioners had not proved. The sponsors of the race promised that religious Jews going to and from the synagogue would be able to cross the race course in safety. Orthodox groups nevertheless have called for a mass protest demonstration and prayers in Ashkelon on Saturday. But the demonstrations will be held away from the race course thereby reducing the chance of violence which some Orthodox spokesmen were threatening earlier in the week.

Both the Cabinet and the Knesset rejected demands by the Orthodox political parties to ban the race. Their stand was taken on the grounds that the contest was a private event with which the government could not legally interfere. Meanwhile, in London, the Mizrahi Federation sent a telegram today to Rehavia Adivi, the mayor of Ashkelon, asking him to stop the race. Similar telegrams were also sent by the Mizrahi Federation to Israeli Premier Golda Meir and to Dr. Joseph Burg, Minister of the Interior. At the same time, responding to requests from various quarters, the Chief Rabbinate in Commission - Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits is in Australia - also sent a telegram to the Mayor of Ashkelon expressing "the profoundest distress of Anglo-Jewry at the prospect of public desecration of the Sabbath in Ashkelon."

### 15 Gaza Strip Residents Registered As Cholera Suspects; Fear Cholera Might Spread

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA)--The number of cases registered as cholera suspects in the Gaza Strip has risen to 15 it was reported here today. Health authorities have expressed anxiety that the cholera outbreak might spread further in view of the rather poor health conditions existing in the refugee camps where sewage water is used for irrigation of vegetable plots. For the time being however, authorities have expressed no intention of closing up the area or vaccinating the population but are urging the population to drink only boiled water and to wash fruits and vegetables prior to use.

### Jewish Leaders in Rome, Amsterdam Call For Halt To Trial Of Soviet Jews

ROME, Nov. 19 (JTA)--An appeal was made here today by Elio Toaff, the Chief Rabbi of Rome, and Judge Sergio Piperno, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities, to Pope Paul VI and Foreign Minister Aldo Moro, asking them to intercede with the Soviet authorities and prevent the show trial of Jews in Leningrad, which is now being prepared. At the same time in Amsterdam, the Dutch Committee for Solidarity with Russian Jews sent a cable to Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin also in connection with the impending Leningrad trial. The cable, recalling Kosygin's promise in Paris in 1966 to allow Soviet Jews to join their families in Israel, protested violation of this promise.

### Protest Lodged Against West German Radio Station Member's Anti-Semitic Remarks

BONN, Nov. 19 (JTA)--The Israel Embassy has protested to the West German Foreign Office over anti-Semitic statements made recently by the head of the Middle East desk of the semi-official radio station, "Deutsche Welle" (German Wave). The Foreign Office promised to investigate. The radio station is financed by the Bonn Ministry of Interior. Its Mideast chief, Dr. Herbert Reichard, was quoted by a Saudi Arabian newspaper as having indicated his approval of Hitler's method of dealing with Jews. The newspaper, Al Medina Al Munwara, prominently featured an interview with Dr. Reichard made during his recent visit to Arab countries and carried a photograph of the German official. According to the paper, Reichard declared, "As a German speaking to an Arab, let me tell you that the German people were the first to recognize the impudent acts of the Jews and finished them." He added, according to the published interview, "It is enough to know that the founder of Communism, Karl Marx, was a Jew. I am glad to be the guest of a country (Saudi Arabia) in which there is not a single Jew." Dr. Reichard is also reported to have made anti-Semitic statements in an interview on the Saarbruecken radio station.

### Palestinian Politicians, Deported After September Hijackings, Applying For Return

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Israel is now accepting applications for return by some 100 Palestinian politicians deported since the Six-Day War. Already returned are half a dozen political celebrities from Nablus and Gaza, who had been deported in September in the wake of the plane hijackings by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Israeli authorities believe the evicted Palestinians are more eager to leave strife-torn Jordan than they are to live in the Jewish State. The Israeli decision comes concurrently with a series of New Left demonstrations at the Hebrew University here, with students demanding Palestinian "rights."

### High School Teachers To Meet On New Offer From Allon To End Two-Week Strike

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)--The High School Teachers Union was scheduled to meet today to consider a new offer from Education Minister Yigal Allon to end their two week-old strike that has halted classes for tens of thousands of Israeli pupils. The union leaders met yesterday with Mr. Allon after the Knesset voted 39-17 to call the teachers back to work. They were reportedly offered a new set of proposals for salary increments and new machinery to adjudicate teachers' claims within a set time limit. The educational television network is preparing to expand its daily lesson programs to prepare students for the matriculation examinations they will have to set for early next year.

### Israeli Official Warns Jews Must Be Alert To Lurking Dangers

LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA)--An Israeli official has warned here that "Jewish history is full of missed opportunities because Jews woke up too late to the possibilities and even to lurking dangers." Aviad Yaffe, chairman of the Israel Foreign Minister's Consultative Committee on Information has been addressing various groups here in connection with the World Zionist Organization's membership campaign. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the campaign was turning out more successfully than he had anticipated. He said that at meetings he addressed, some 50 percent of the unaffiliated persons joined the World Zionist Organization "on the spot" through the British bodies. Mr. Yaffe recalled that when the Balfour Declaration was issued in 1916, "Dr. Chaim Weizmann exclaimed in anguish, 'where are the Jewish people?'" He also recalled that the Six-Day War demonstrated that volunteers and material support from diaspora Jewry arrived when the fighting was over. Fortunately, he said, Israel managed on her own and the material support was vital, whenever it came. "But we must not take such risks again. If the diaspora Jews are to be partners they must be there in good time," he said.

## Catholic-Jewish Ecumenism Reported At All-Time High; Anti-Semitism Still Widespread

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 19 (JTA)--The Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops reported yesterday that Catholic-Jewish ecumenism in the United States was at an all-time high. In the past five years, the unit said, the two religions have reached a point "which has never been witnessed before in Christian history." Of the at least 35 dioceses with apparatus for handling Catholic-Jewish relations, the Secretariat said, noteworthy progress has been made by those in Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Galveston-Houston, Brooklyn, N.Y., Albany, N.Y., and Rockville Centre, N.Y. "For the first time in our history," the Secretariat stated, "relations between Jews and Christians, the church and synagogue approach the normal, with Christians and Jews approaching each other in full respect and brotherly love and in dialogue." The church in America "has performed with distinction" in this area, the report noted, but it listed such "serious obstacles in our path" as "low-toned and unconscious" anti-Semitism, the slighting of Judaism in Catholics' concept of Christianity, and Christian apathy regarding the fate of Israel. The Secretariat report was praised as "impressive" by Dr. Joseph Lichten, national director of intercultural affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who attended the National Conference's meeting here. He said the report was most valuable for its recognition of "widespread" anti-Semitism and for its ecumenical approach to Zionism.

## Three Jewish Students Arrested As They Protest Treatment Of Soviet Jews

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Three Jewish students were arrested today as they and other Jewish students and members of the Committee for Solidarity With Russian Jews distributed leaflets during a ceremony at which a Soviet admiral and other Soviet naval personnel laid a wreath at the national memorial. The leaflets protested the treatment of Soviet Jews. The police dispersed all the demonstrators except for the three held.

## Jarring's Impending Return To Moscow Not Seen As Setback To Peace Mission

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 19 (JTA)--Diplomatic sources here agreed today that mediator Gunnar V. Jarring's impending return to Moscow, where he is the Swedish ambassador, does not constitute a setback to his peace mission, as he has made himself available for return here "within a matter of hours." Secretary General U Thant said yesterday it was "not unreasonable to expect" a resumption of the peace talks--not, as reported in the JTA Daily News Bulletin today, that it was "not reasonable to expect" a resumption.

## Catholic Primate Affected Return Of Catholics To Council Of Christians And Jews

LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA)--John Cardinal Heenan, Primate of the Roman Catholics in England, revealed today that he had personally effected the recent resumption of British Catholic representation on the Council of Christians and Jews after a hiatus of 20 years. Cardinal Heenan, speaking at a luncheon of the Foreign Press Association, made the disclosure in response to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent. The 65-year-old Archbishop of Westminster said that he was "from the very beginning dissatisfied" with the Holy See's ordering Catholics off the interfaith council. "My investigations showed at the time that Rome had assumed that the Council was against church schools," he recalled. On acceding to his current post, "this issue was uppermost in my mind," and he informed the Vatican that Catholic absence from the Council "is being interpreted as anti-Semitism, which is not only untrue but actually harmful." "As you know," the Primate told the press group, "the Vatican does not like to change things in a hurry. But I told them that I was returning to the Council of Christians and Jews and that 'the next time I come to Rome I will have added the joint presidency of the Council to my offices.' And so I did." Cardinal Heenan noted that "There was never any objection on the part of the Holy See when my return became an accomplished fact."

## Father Nunez To Receive Human Rights Award From Latin American Jewish Congress

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 19 (JTA)--The Latin American Jewish Congress has announced that its 1970 "Human Rights Award" will go to Father Benjamin Nunez, the Costa Rican Ambassador to Israel, in acknowledgment of his "sensitivity to Jewish problems, particularly those concerning Soviet Jewry." Father Nunez said recently that Soviet Jews "are not killed but are condemned not to live, which is more cruel than death itself."

## Jewish Group In Warsaw Says Folkstimmé Will Not Cease Publication At End Of Year

LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Rumors that Folkstimmé, Poland's only officially sanctioned Jewish periodical, would cease publication at the end of this year has been denied by the Jewish Social and Cultural Association in Warsaw which publishes the paper. Folkstimmé, once a daily, is now a weekly published half in Polish and half in Yiddish. The publishers have invited subscribers to renew their subscriptions for 1971. According to reports from Warsaw, the director of the Yiddish State Theater, actor Hevel Buzgan, has just celebrated his 50 years on the Yiddish stage. The anniversary will be marked by a special performance of "Tevye the Milkman." The repertoire of the Yiddish theater in Poland is now confined to classics, including such old standbys as "The Dybbuk" by Ansky and "Green Fields" by Peretz Hirshbein.

## Berlin Medal Awarded To Jew For Participation In Battle Of Berlin During World War II

LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Dolf Elsner, a 67-year-old Polish Jewish engineer from Bielsk, has been awarded the Berlin Medal given to Poles who participated in the battle for Berlin at the end of World War II. He is the only Jew to appear on the honors list. Mr. Elsner was born in 1903 and was imprisoned in Russia in 1939 following the collapse of Poland. He was released from jail in 1944 and was permitted to join the Polish emigre army under Gen. Anders. He is presently chairman of his local branch of the Jewish Social and Cultural Association and holds several other war decorations.

## U.S., Belgium Jewish Groups Charge Soviet Jews Falsely Accused; Write To Podgorny

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)--The heads of 27 major American Jewish organizations have written to Soviet President Nikolai V. Podgorny decrying the upcoming trials of Jewish prisoners as "based on false accusations designed to repress Jewish consciousness." They urged him to release the more than 30 prisoners, who have been held incommunicado since an alleged Jewish hijacking of an Israel-bound plane at the Leningrad airport June 15, and to "halt growing acts of anti-Semitism." Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, spoke for the 27 organizations in stating that the arrests and the beating of 16-year-old Monus Mafpzer of Riga, brother of an arrestee, "buttress our fears regarding the imminent show trials." The appeal to President Podgorny, sent last night, said anti-Jewish discrimination in the Soviet Union was a "violation of the declaration of the rights of peoples of the USSR and the United Nations Charter." It added that "Jews who wish to leave the USSR for Israel to live as Jews request a basic human right recognized by your government." (In Brussels, a similar telegram was sent to President Podgorny by the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations. It protested the arrests and what it called intimidation and persecution of those who have expressed a desire to go to Israel. It compared the Soviet charges against the prisoners with those of two decades ago against Jewish doctors who allegedly had plotted to kill Stalin.)

## Catholic Writer Scores Passion Play As 'Uncured Anti-Semitic Bias'

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)--A Catholic writer asserted this week that "You don't have to be Jewish to dislike Oberammergau's wry Passion Play," adding: "You don't even have to go to Bavaria to view it, as I did, in order to recognize its published script's inconsistencies with Scripture and its uncured anti-Semitic bias." John E. Fitzgerald, who covered "this well-known and internationally disputed folk pageant" for the national Catholic weekly "Our Sunday Visitor," elaborated on his reactions in a front-page report in the Nov. 18 issue of Variety, the show business weekly. Mr. Fitzgerald added: "This latest production, the 36th in a 366-year history, is not just a bad production of a good play, nor a good production of a bad one, but a bad play done badly. Although dealing with a highly dramatic series of incidents, 'Das Passionspiel' turns out to be a dull bit of drama, banal as well as bigoted." He stated further that "The play, for most of us, like the mumps, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience; you've had it and that's that. Like castor oil, it's something you've been told will be good for you; so quiet down, hold your nose, and swallow. You'll surely be a better person tomorrow."

But, the writer added, "Someone must like Oberammergau's Passion Play, for repeatedly they have had sellout audiences and a tremendous turnover of thousands of ticket requests... This season's 98 performances have been seen by some 500,000 or so tourists--actually somewhat less than that since the anti-Semitic publicity caused many ticket cancellations. Still, the production will probably bring in more than \$10,000,000 to this alpine hamlet whose principal industry in other years is woodcarving." It seems ironic, the Catholic writer declared, "that Christians can miss the anti-Semitic tone of the 1970 production... The irony of Christians failing to perceive such a tone is compounded by that of Germans perpetrating, perhaps unwittingly, such a concept... Nevertheless no German can afford to possibly further that which he or she especially should fight... Thus in what I'd humbly call my professional opinion, I'd apathetically suggest that the present text should be either thoroughly rewritten or scrapped. However, personally and ethically, as well as professionally and aesthetically, I must angrily add that I feel that it must be rewritten or scrapped." Mr. Fitzgerald recalled that Adolf Hitler, who saw the Passion Play in 1934, wrote in 1942 that "never has the menace of Jewry been so convincingly portrayed and that Pontius Pilate 'stands out like a firm clean rock in the middle of the whole muck and mire of Jewry.'"

## Israeli Pacifist To Tour U.S.; JPF Cancels Co-Sponsorship Of Tour

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)--The Jewish Peace Fellowship decided to cancel its co-sponsorship of a United States tour by a young Sabra pacifist who did not fight in Israel's Six-Day War after a poll of members of its board, the pacifist and draft-counseling agency has reported. However, the JPF newsletter reported, Uri Davis, the Israeli pacifist, will make a tour of the United States this month and next. He will speak first in New York at Saint Peters Lutheran Church on Sunday under co-sponsorship of Rabbi Everett Gendler, a JPF board member, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The newsletter reported that several members of the JPF executive committee proposed that the 27-year-old Israeli pacifist be invited to speak in the United States under JPF auspices. Several board members disagreed arguing that they did not believe that the JPF, as a Jewish organization could "assume the responsibility of sponsoring a lecture tour by an individual some of whose points of view may be considered deeply harmful to the Jewish people by many JPF members." They cited "these critical days for the State of Israel" as a factor in their views. Rabbi Michael Solomon, chairman of the JPF, was quoted in the newsletter as contending that "no question so vividly confronts the young Jew as that of the Middle East. No problem so plagues the consciences of young Jews facing the draft and possible status of conscientious objector and no person can so clearly set before young men the questions and the agony in confronting such a decision as a young Jewish Israeli pacifist." The newsletter said that the results of the mail poll were inconclusive and for that reason the JPF decided not to be a co-sponsor for the tour.

## Wiesenthal Denies Press Reports He Will Close Down Nazi Hunting Center

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)--Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal says that American press reports from Vienna that he is considering closing down the Austrian section of his Documentation Center are "only part of the truth." In a recent letter to Harry Evans, a New York sympathizer, Mr. Wiesenthal said he had "thought about terminating" his Austrian section, which has been attacked in some quarters of the Kreisky government for being a "secret-agent" operation. But, he said, "we changed our minds because of the many pleas to continue from our friends." He added, without elaboration: "We try the last chance which is possible in this matter."