

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Peres Asks Finance Ministry For \$5,250 Million To Improve Safety At Lydda Airport

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7 (JTA)--Transport Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset today that he has asked the Finance Ministry for a supplemental budget of \$5,250 million to improve safety at Lydda Airport. Mr. Peres announced the request after he gave Knesset members a summary of the findings of a special panel that investigated a fatal accident at the airport two weeks ago. He said the findings could not be published in full because of military aspects. The Israel Air Force shares Lydda Airport with commercial aviation. The accident involved a collision on the main runway between a TWA cargo plane and an Air Force transport. Mr. Peres said the extra budget would be used to install additional radar systems in the control tower with a range of 80 miles, new distance measuring equipment, and other modern electronic devices now lacking. Mr. Peres said the Air Force has promised to comply with all recommendations of the investigating panel that apply to it. The panel held three traffic control officers on duty in the Lydda tower at the time of the accident directly responsible for the collision that took three lives and they have been suspended pending further investigation.

In addition, Mr. Peres announced today that he has dismissed the chief air traffic control officer at Lydda. That action renewed the threat of a strike by flight control officials which could paralyze all of Israel's airfields. They charged a "bungle" and claimed that they were being made scapegoats for the accident. A demonstration strike scheduled for yesterday was called off at the last minute. The panel's report commended the TWA pilot for taking swift action to try to avoid hitting the military transport which was being towed across the main runway in his take-off path. The panel said the American captain "displayed intelligence and presence of mind" when he tried to hasten his take off. As a result a head-on collision was avoided thus reducing casualties. But two Israeli military-civilian employes were killed instantly and a third died yesterday of his injuries. Both planes were demolished.

Apart from the panel's report, Israeli civil aviation suffered two other blows in the last two days. Four persons were killed in a plane crash at Hebron yesterday and three other persons have been missing since Saturday night when a plane on a cloud-seeding assignment disappeared over northern Israel. The four victims of yesterday's crash of a private air taxi were identified today. The pilot was Yisrah Ben Aryeh, 36 a former combat pilot of the Israel Air Force who was invalided out of the service recently owing to injuries received when he had to ditch his plane on the Suez front. The passengers were Rafael Cohen, an industrialist, and two of his employes, a secretary and a technician, whose names were not announced. The plane was on a flight from Jerusalem to Eilat when it crashed. A committee is investigating the accident. An air and sea search continued today for a missing Cessna plane which was seeding clouds with silver iodide in an effort to stimulate rainfall. No trace of the aircraft or the three men aboard has been found. The search in the coastal waters and overland between Acre and the Lebanese border has been hampered by bad weather.

## Sen. Jackson Says Israel Needs Arms; Does Not Foresee U.S. Troops In Mideast

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson said yesterday afternoon that he did not foresee the need for American troops in the Middle East. What Israel needs, he reiterated on NBC-TV's "Meet The Press," is sufficient arms. "The Israelis can do the job," he explained. "They shot down four Soviet pilots with the greatest of ease." (This was reported recently by Israeli officials to have occurred shortly before the Aug. cease-fire.) The Washington State Democrat, a member of the Armed Services Committee, predicted that the administration's \$500 million aid-to-Israel measure would pass the Senate as easily as his amendment to the Military Procurement Act providing for such aid. That amendment was approved by 87 to 7. "I would guess there's no problem on that," he said of the \$500 million proposal. Sen. Jackson, who recently visited Israel, said of the Middle East situation, "The central point that we have to realize is that the Soviet Union wants to obtain hegemony over this area." Even if Israel did not exist, he said, the USSR would be seeking easier access to the Indian Ocean through the Suez Canal and "control" over Mideast oil. "Russia has had a historical interest in the Middle East for centuries," he said.

## Sapir Says Report That He Was Designated Mrs. Meir's Political Heir Is Invention

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir said today that a Time magazine report that he has been designated the political heir of Premier Golda Meir was "one big invention." But Mr. Sapir's denial of the accuracy of the report was less than categorical. According to Time, the selection of Sapir was made at a secret Labor Party caucus at the home of Tel Aviv's Mayor Yehoshua Rabinowitz. Time regarded as significant the fact that the meeting was not attended by Mrs. Meir or Mr. Sapir, who was out of the country, and that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan was not invited. Gen. Dayan has been widely regarded as the popular choice to succeed Mrs. Meir. Questioned by newsmen today, Mr. Sapir said, "We have a strong Prime Minister. What is the point of talking about the end of her Premiership or about the possibility of an early retirement?" The Time story observed that Mrs. Meir's term ends in 1973 "or when and if Mrs. Meir, now 72, decides on an early retirement."

Mr. Sapir, 61, who was born in Poland and emigrated to Palestine in 1929, is one of the most powerful figures of the "Old Guard" Labor Party leadership and has the reputation of a "king-maker." It was he who proposed Mrs. Meir for the Premiership following the death of Premier Levi Eshkol two years ago. According to Time, Mrs. Meir was "gratified" when she learned that her Party leadership

had chosen Mr. Sipur to succeed her. Relations between Mrs. Meir and her outspoken Defense Minister are reportedly strained. But most public opinion polls here have put Gen. Dayan ahead of Mrs. Meir and other political leaders as the popular choice for the Premiership. Gen. Dayan enjoys an advantage, especially among younger elements, in that he is a native-born Israeli and is under 60. Mrs. Meir and her three predecessors were all of Eastern European origin and past 60 when they took office.

### AJCongress Official Says 34 Soviet Jews Face Possible Death Penalty

NEW YORK, Dec. 7 (JTA)--A Moscow announcement that the death penalty and a 26-year prison term had been imposed more than a year ago for the attempted hijacking of a Soviet airliner was described by an American Jewish Congress spokesman as "part of a Soviet propaganda campaign to prepare the world for the Lumumba show trial and punishment of 34 Jews whose only crime is their desire to make their home in Israel." Richard Cohen, associate executive director of the Congress, said that the delay in the show trials, originally scheduled to take place in November and now set for Dec. 15, "may well have been caused by the Soviet regime's desire to launch a more extensive effort to whip up public opinion on the hijacking issue." He said that the year-old hijacking sentence, reported several days ago by UPI Moscow's correspondent, Henry Shapiro, apparently did not involve Jews but rather a family headed by one Galina Slovenchik. But he warned that the 34 Russian Jews charged with air piracy would face the same penalty as that imposed on the Slovenchik family.

### Two Terrorists, Charged With Plotting To Sabotage Haifa Refineries, Sentenced

TEL AVIV, Dec. 7 (JTA)--Two EI Fatah terrorists and their Israeli Arab collaborator received stiff sentences from a military court today for plotting sabotage against the Haifa oil refineries and Haifa port. The two EI Fatah men, one of them trained as a diver in Red China and the other as a seaman in India, each received 20 years' imprisonment for smuggling arms and explosives into Israel by sea. A 25 year sentence was imposed on their companion, a former resident of Acra, who served as their guide. He was charged with arms smuggling and plotting to shell Haifa port with Katyusha rockets mounted on a boat. The other two were planning to detonate explosives at the oil refineries north of Haifa. All three were captured last month when their craft, bound from Latakia, Syria with arms and explosives, was intercepted by an Israeli Navy patrol boat in Israeli territorial waters off Ras el Nakira. The court refused their request for prisoner-of-war status. An Israeli-owned citrus packing house in Gaza was damaged last night when an explosive charge detonated near a packing machine but it continued to operate today. The plant was damaged by saboteurs on two previous occasions.

### Two Arab-Inspired Resolutions Not Much For Israel To Worry About, Israeli Sources Say

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 7 (JTA)--Israeli sources today described two Arab-inspired resolutions passed Friday evening as anti-Israel but not much for her to worry about. One of the drafts--sponsored by Afghanistan, Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan and Somalia--stated that "the people of Palestine" deserve "equal rights and self-determination" and that "full respect for (their) inalienable rights...is an indispensable element in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." It was approved in Special Political Committee by a vote of 46-19 with 37 abstentions. Israel and the United States were among the opponents; Britain and France abstained. The other draft--sponsored by Afghanistan, India, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan and Somalia--"calls once more" on Israel to repatriate the refugees immediately. It passed by a vote of 83-7 with 12 abstentions. Israel voted against the draft and the U.S., Britain and France voted for it. The Soviet Union and the Arab bloc voted for both measures.

Israeli sources said that the eight-nation draft was "bad from our point of view" and that their government opposed the six-nation draft "for obvious reasons--we cannot admit large numbers of refugees for very vital, valid security reasons." But the sources added that the measures will likely have little effect and be quickly forgotten, as they "do not introduce any new political facts." The resolutions now go to the General Assembly. The Special Political Committee also approved, by a vote of 31-0-2, a U.S. draft stressing the "critical" financial plight of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Israel abstained. The committee approved, by 37-0-3, a 17-nation draft calling for continued "humanitarian assistance" to the 1967 refugees and issuing a "strong appeal" for funds for UNRWA. Israel voted in favor.

### High School Teachers Continue Strike; Reject Latest Government Offer

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7 (JTA)--Israel's striking high school teachers have rejected the latest government offer to end their month old walk-out and have stopped tutoring 12th grade pupils who must take their matriculation examinations early next year. The teachers had agreed two weeks ago to continue to hold classes for the 18-year-olds in the hope that the strike would be settled. But yesterday's offer by the Cabinet was termed unsatisfactory by spokesmen for the 5000 teachers although it was said to contain several concessions. The Cabinet agreed that any wage increase granted the teachers would be retroactive to April 1, 1970. Union leaders will meet with Premier Golda Meir tomorrow in what they described as a final attempt to reach a settlement. Shalom Levin, chairman of the elementary school teachers union warned yesterday that its members would strike if the high school teachers' demands are not met.

### Jewish South African Sociologist Recipient Of Award For Work Among African People

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 7 (JTA)--Dr. Ellen Hellmann, well-known South African sociologist and a leading figure in the Jewish community, has been named recipient of the Royal African Society Medal in recognition of her work among the African people. The award was presented to her by Sir Arthur Smellie, the British Ambassador to South Africa. A former president of the South African Institute of Race Relations, Dr. Hellmann also has played an active part for many years in the work of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and in South African Zionism.

### Israel Trying To Persuade U.S. To Use Veto Power In Security Council

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7 (JTA)—Israel is trying to persuade the United States to agree to use its veto in the Security Council against future anti-Israel resolutions that might be adopted by that body, official circles said here today. They confirmed that this is one of the issues on which Israel is seeking further clarification from the U.S. Ever since the inception of the United Nations, the U.S. has been reluctant to employ its veto and it has been used only rarely. The U.S. on the other hand, has frequently criticized the Soviet Union for resorting repeatedly to the veto to kill resolutions it considers opposed to its interests. President Nixon stressed in his most recent letter to Premier Golda Meir, delivered last Friday, that the U.S. is opposed to any changes in the Security Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967 from which Ambassador Gennar V. Jarring's peace mission derives its mandate. Other points contained in the Nixon letter, according to reliable sources, were a promise that the U.S. will continue its policy of strengthening Israel with the clear knowledge that a large inflow of Soviet arms into Egypt is in progress and that in the U.S. government's view, Israel does not have to withdraw from any territories as long as there is no peace agreement. Mr. Nixon also reportedly promised Mrs. Meir that the U.S. would not interfere in the Jarring talks. Replying to her query about U.S. policy on the Arab refugee problem, he reportedly wrote that in the American view the "Jewish character of the State of Israel" must be maintained.

An official source said Israel was anxious to get a specific American commitment of firmer support in the Security Council because "we are quite aware that we can never win there. The Soviet veto is always available to squash anything that can be of use to us—quite apart from the fact that the Council, by its composition, is usually weighted in our disfavor." He said Israel felt handicapped by America's extreme reluctance to use the veto. Premier Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban conferred today with U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour, reportedly on Israel's request for a clarification of policy from Washington. Mrs. Meir had asked for the meeting. The Cabinet decided yesterday to withhold its decision on reactivating the Jarring talks pending further clarification from the U.S. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is scheduled to hold his talks with top Nixon administration officials in Washington next Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11-12. According to unofficial reports he will also meet with President Nixon. Gen. Dayan is scheduled to address a United Jewish Appeal meeting in New York next week-end. His visit to the U.S. at this time is officially on behalf of the UJA and he will reportedly address UJA meetings before and after his political talks in Washington. The newspaper Yediot Aharonot reported today that some circles in Egypt are showing interest in Gen. Dayan's ideas for a mutual disengagement of military forces along the Suez Canal.

### 300 Youths Protest Soviet Oppression Of Jews, Aid To Arab States

MANCHESTER, Dec. 7 (JTA)—Three hundred members of the Jewish Society at Manchester University gathered yesterday outside the Town Hall here to protest Soviet suppression of Jewish culture and religion, and its aid to the Arab states. While a Soviet diplomat, A. Vavilov, of the Soviet Embassy here addressed a meeting of the Manchester Central Branch of the United Nations Association inside the hall, students outside distributed leaflets decrying the plight of Soviet Jewry. Questioned about the charges, Vavilov emphatically denied "any discrimination against Soviet Jews either as an ethnic group or a religious group." He also defended the "right of the Egyptians to close the Suez Canal to Israeli shipping," on the grounds that "it was surrounded on all sides by Arab territory."

### Knesset Delegation, Visiting Ethiopians, To Be Received By Emperor Haile Selassie

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7 (JTA)—A three-man delegation of the Knesset currently visiting Ethiopia will be received tomorrow by Emperor Haile Selassie, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned here today. The delegation has thus far been received by the Ethiopian Senate and the Lower House. The Lower House was scheduled to meet today in a special session in honor of the Israeli delegation which is headed by Mordecai Bibi of the Labor Alignment.

### France, Egypt Sign Cultural Pact; Both Countries Hail Agreement As Strengthening Ties

PARIS, Dec. 7 (JTA)—France and Egypt have signed a cultural agreement under which French teachers and technicians will be dispatched to the Arab country, especially instructors for the French departments of Egyptian colleges. The pact was disclosed here today by Education Minister Olivier Guichard, who returned from the signing in Cairo. Spokesmen for both countries hailed the agreement as "further strengthening" their ties.

### Mayor Designates December As 'Human Rights For Jews Of The Soviet Union Month'

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 7 (JTA)—Mayor Hans G. Tanzler Jr. has designated December as "Human Rights for Jews of the Soviet Union Month." In a proclamation, he said that "It is fitting that we give thought to the situation of three million Jews in the Soviet Union, the largest Jewish community in the world outside the United States, who are denied the fullest means of religious and cultural self-expression based on the rights guaranteed them by Soviet law." Mayor Tanzler declared that "Together with millions of our fellow Americans of all faiths, we appeal to the government of the Soviet Union to restore to Soviet Jews their full rights and to grant to those who wish to leave the right to be reunited with their war-torn families and to join their brethren, whether in Israel or in other countries." He also criticized the "wave of arrests of young Russian Jews, beginning June 15, 1970," which he said "has now reached alarming proportions, with a rationally publicized 'show trial'... scheduled... to make an example of Jews wishing to exercise their legal right to migrate to Israel." Mayor Tanzler noted that Dec. 10 is Human Rights Day and that the Dec. 22-30 Hanukkah celebration marks "an ancient victory over oppression." Of this city's estimated 490,000 population, 4,500 are Jews. Attending the signing of the proclamation were Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins of the Jacksonville Jewish Center, Rabbi Sidney M. Lefkowitz of the Jewish Temple, and two officials of the Jacksonville Jewish Community Council—Leon Irgang, president, and Ben Friedman, vice president.

## Black Jew Elected For First Time To Serve As Executive With National Jewish Agency

NEW YORK, Dec. 7 (JTA)—The appointment of Robert Coleman, a Black Jew, to the staff of the Synagogue Council of America was announced last night by Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman, president of the Council. Rabbi Sharfman said that he is the first Black Jew to serve as an executive with a national Jewish agency in the United States. The announcement was made at the Council's annual Awards Dinner. A highlight of the dinner was the presentation of the "Judaism and World Peace Award" to Earl Warren, Chief Justice Retired, Supreme Court of the United States. Rabbi Sharfman said that Mr. Coleman, who served as an area organizer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the 1960's, will head the Council's Division of Social Justice. One of his major responsibilities will be the development of relations with the Black Jewish community in the United States. He will also seek to deal with the tensions between Blacks and Jews in urban areas.

Mr. Coleman, who converted to Judaism five years ago after being "a leader in the Baptist church" for most of his life, is president of Taharas Israel (Purity of Israel), a multi-racial organization in New York to aid Black Jews. Commenting on Mr. Coleman's appointment, Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice president of the Council observed that the relations of the Jewish community to Black Jews had heretofore been "ambiguous and painful." "Most such efforts have been half-hearted, inadequate and quickly aborted. At the same time, there has been evident a patronization which expresses itself in the uncritical acceptance of some patently false claims to Jewishness advanced by some Blacks." Rabbi Siegman said that the Synagogue Council of America would seek to develop confidence among Black Jews in the seriousness of the Jewish community's determination to integrate them into the Jewish community.

## AJ Committee Calls For Improving Jewish Education, Some Aid To Parochial Schools

HOUSTON, Dec. 7 (JTA)—The American Jewish Committee called today for the improvement and strengthening of Jewish education which "with all its family and communal implications, is indisputably basic to Jewish continuity in the United States." The resolution on education, adopted at the closing session of the AJ Committee's national executive council's annual meeting here, followed an earlier proposal by the organization's executive vice president, Bertram A. Gold, that it soften somewhat its stand against state aid to parochial schools. Mr. Gold said the AJ Committee, long opposed to the weakening of barriers between church and state, might consider backing "public support of at least the non-religious portions of parochial day school education." He said that such compromises, like support for open enrollment, might have to be made by American Jews to keep them from "turning away from society" and taking a "simplistic world view."

The education resolution stated that the AJ Committee "has long recognized responsibility to provide services helpful in furthering Jewish identity and continuity and strengthening Jewish communal life." It said that objective "is becoming increasingly urgent in the light of the challenges that today confront the established ideologies and programs of the Jewish community." Other resolutions adopted by the executive council condemned Jewish youth within the New Left "who allow their non-Zionist or anti-Zionist views to be exploited as a vehicle for anti-Semitism and hostility toward Israel" and praised the Nixon administration for its efforts to prevent an upset of the Mideast military balance by Soviet-Egyptian truce violations. AJ Committee activities in pursuit of the goal of improved Jewish education were enumerated by Maynard I. Wisnauer, chairman of its Jewish communal affairs committee. Among them were its colloquium for Jewish education sponsored jointly with Brandeis University; participation in special studies, workshops and experiments relating to Jewish education; cooperation with the American Association for Jewish Education and other like groups and the dissemination of new findings, ideas and materials to help Jewish organizations, lay leaders and professionals to understand Jewish educational programs.

Statistics circulated at the executive council meeting showed that about 350,000 children in America receive some form of Jewish education in 2,727 known Jewish schools of all types but this figure represents only one-third of Jewish school-age children. The largest percentage of children, 69.8 percent, receiving Jewish education are in the eight-12 age group; no more than seven percent pursue Jewish education after bar or bat mitzvah age. The statistics noted a decline in supplementary Jewish religious schools and a sharp increase in Jewish all-day schools in which more than 50,000 Jewish children are enrolled in the New York area alone. The AJ Committee reported that most competent observers believe that "Jewish education has been handicapped by functioning within tightly defined denominational settings, preventing broader and experimental approaches, at a time when ideological differences along denominational lines have diminished in meaning, especially among the youth."

## Washington's Oldest Synagogue To Be Restored Under HUD \$100,000 Matching Grant

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (JTA)—Mayor Walter Washington has announced the approval by the Department of Housing and Urban Development of a \$100,000 matching grant for the renovation of the district's oldest synagogue, Adas Israel. "The restoration of this building," he said, "will be the final step in a lengthy effort by the members of the Jewish Historical Society (of Greater Washington) and their friends to rescue the synagogue from destruction." The building was dedicated in 1876 in the presence of President Grant. It became a Greek Orthodox Church in 1908 when the Jewish congregation moved to larger quarters. More recently it housed a carry-out food shop. With the advent of construction of the district's subway system, the Transit Authority bought the building for the system's headquarters. In March 1969, the structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places; but since the Metro owned the site, the synagogue was mounted on wheels and moved three blocks, saving it, Mayor Washington noted, "from the wrecker's ball." Under an agreement signed Nov. 19, 1969, the Transit Authority sold the building to Washington, D.C., for \$10. Washington then agreed to lease the synagogue to the historical society for 99 years at \$1 a year.