

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Friday, December 11, 1970

No. 238

Rogers: Prospects For Jarring Talks Very Good; U.S.-Israeli Relations Excellent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA)—Secretary of State William P. Rogers advised the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today that the prospects for resumption of the Jarring peace talks were "very good" and that there was "a glimmer of hope" for a settlement. But the committee chairman, Sen. J.W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, disagreed, observing that the prospects "don't appear to be as good as a year ago." Secretary Rogers testified as the committee opened hearings on the administration's military assistance recommendations, which include \$500 million for Israel, \$30 million for Jordan and \$5 million for Lebanon. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird will testify tomorrow. Mr. Rogers said today that current American-Israeli relations were "excellent" and that American-Arab relations were "much better than before the cease-fire."

Asked by Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, whether the U.S. was taking sufficient action against "Russian cheating" in the Middle East and whether it was keeping its "deal" with Israel, Mr. Rogers replied that the U.S. was pursuing a "wise" policy in the Mideast. He said Washington has "worked very closely with Israel" on the matter of her defenses, and that "the thrust of our effort" is to resume peace negotiations and seek a "reasonable settlement." Regarding an eventual peace treaty, Mr. Rogers said that "We are going to play a large role in this settlement—not in imposing a settlement but in getting one." He said it was regrettable that there has been so much emphasis on the Arab-Israeli disagreements of the past, while "very little attention has been given to the solution which for 20 years has escaped mankind." Secretary Rogers said he favored the administration's aid recommendations for Israel, Jordan and Lebanon in order to help "friendly governments in the Middle East preserve their independence and integrity."

In addition, he said, the U.S. wants to help relieve Israel's "impossible financial burden," and is thus providing her with material, "some at concessionary rates." In the course of today's almost four hour hearing, Secretary Rogers emphasized that Israel has "made clear" that it does not need and does not want American troops to aid her. "They will be able to meet their threats with their own troops," he said, adding: "On the other hand, they do need our (non-troop) support." Sen. Javits, noting a Soviet-Egyptian "complicity" in the Egyptian violations of the standstill cease-fire terms, stated that "Like the Russians' having put a lot of stuff in Egypt, the Soviet Union can't let Egypt down even if it has to put all its army and navy in there." That, he said, is because "its prestige is involved." Sen. Frank Church, Idaho Democrat, said he would seek strictures on American aid to Cambodia because "we're involved in Cambodia as much as the Russians are with the Egyptians."

Impending Trial Of Soviet Jews Compared To Basques; Support For Soviet Jews Urged

PARIS, Dec. 10 (JTA)—A French Senator last night compared the impending trial of nine Jews in Leningrad to the current political trial of Basques in Burgos, Spain by the Franco regime and deplored the fact that Frenchmen were demonstrating for the Basques but not for "the innocent victims of the Leningrad case." According to Sen. Louis Boutflin, both trials are examples of "dire discrimination by totalitarian regimes." The Basques are on trial for allegedly arranging the murder of the political police inspector in Burgos in Aug., 1968. The Leningrad Jews are charged with plotting to hijack a Soviet airliner last June. In all, more than 30 Russian Jews have been arrested and held incommunicado on this and other charges. The Leningrad trial is expected to begin Dec. 15. Sen. Boutflin called on the French public to include the Leningrad case in their activities on behalf of "human freedom and democracy." He spoke at a mass meeting for Soviet Jews. (A protest meeting against the treatment of Soviet Jews drew about 500 people in London last night. It was organized by the Universities Committee for Soviet Jewry and was addressed by Monsgr. Francis Bartlett, representing John Cardinal Heenan, the Roman Catholic Primate of England. The organizers released documents relating to the arrests of Russian Jews which purported to show that the attempted hijack charges were unsubstantiated.)

Mrs. Meir Worried If Israel Can Stand Up To Political Pressures

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir told a Labor Party youth assembly last night that she was worried if Israel had the fortitude to stand up to political pressures and not "lose in the political arena what was won on the battlefield." Mrs. Meir did not elaborate on the causes of her concern although she appeared to be referring to recent developments. She said she never feared that Israel's soldiers would abandon the battlefield "but of late I have begun to worry whether we have the same strength to insist on matters which are essential to our security." Mrs. Meir added that "The question is whether there is indeed a readiness to stand firm in full knowledge of the factors at play, whether in our neighborhood or in far-off places." She said that the Labor Party was sufficiently strong "not to go out and seek the unattainable." On the other hand, she continued, "We must not allow ourselves to be trapped by the notion, accepted in a number of countries, that it was immaterial in this age of planes and missiles whether a border was five or ten kilometers away."

Italy's Chief Rabbi Warns Italian Jewry Threatened By Assimilation

ROME, Dec. 10 (JTA)—Chief Rabbi Elie Toaff of Italy told today a conference of European rabbis at Ostia near here that Italian Jewry was threatened by assimilation, and joined his colleagues in urging an improvement and expansion of Jewish education. Rabbi Toaff said: "We have no young rabbis. Our youth is being attracted by secular ideologies, non-Jewish as a rule." He added however that, "despite

all of our difficulties we have 2,400 pupils in Jewish day schools in Rome and Milan alone." The conference was addressed by rabbis from several countries and by Italian Jewish lay leaders. Dr. Jacob Kaplan, Chief Rabbi of France, said the Vatican Council's Conciliar Statement on the Jews five years ago has had a positive influence. But he maintained that ultimately, the fight against anti-Semitism depended on the spread of Jewish knowledge and attachment to Israel. Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania said Rumanian Jewry was strongly attached to the Holy Land as an article of faith. He said the way to preserve Jewish values was through sound Jewish education. A group of the rabbis conducted a service in the remains of a first-century synagogue, the first Jewish service conducted in Ostia in 1,700 years.

Hussein Urges U.S. To Keep Rogers' 1969 Plan; Rejects Separate Talks With Israel

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--King Hussein of Jordan told reporters yesterday that he was "satisfied with the results" of a meeting with Secretary of State William P. Rogers at which he reportedly urged the United States to pressure Israel into a prompt return to the stalled Jarring peace talks. The meeting, described by officials as a "working luncheon," reportedly covered such topics as Jordan's needs for U.S. military and economic assistance and the prospects of peace negotiations in the Mideast. King Hussein met with President Nixon on Tuesday. Jordanian sources here said the King had found a basic understanding on the framework of a political settlement among American officials. King Hussein is said to have urged the U.S. government to stand fast on Secretary Rogers' territorial proposals of Dec. 9, 1969 which called for an Israeli withdrawal to its pre-June, 1967 boundaries with only minor adjustments. American officials were said to have found the Jordanian ruler to be "forward looking" about negotiations, indicating that he did not dwell on past grievances but was interested in a solution for the future.

Speaking to newsmen after yesterday's luncheon, Hussein adamantly rejected the possibility of seeking separate negotiations with Israel. "The government of Jordan believes the Arab side as a whole must be one side and the Israelis must contribute their share under the auspices of the United Nations," he said. He added, "It is a pity that no progress has been made until now. We really hope that some substantial progress could be made in the near future, thus eliminating any chances of deterioration." King Hussein is reportedly asking the U.S. for \$125 million in military aid over the next five years in addition to the \$30 million being sought by the Nixon administration for Jordan in the supplemental foreign aid package now before Congress. According to informed sources, the \$125 million request was broached by King Hussein Tuesday in talks with Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird. A Defense Department spokesman said American and Jordanian military experts are reviewing the request. The \$30 million grant is intended for both economic assistance and to replace military equipment destroyed or damaged in the Jordanian civil war last September.

Weizman Elected Chairman Of Herut Executive; Nominated For Post By Beigin

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Former Transport Minister Ezer Weizman was unanimously elected to the number two post in the Herut Party here last night. He will be chairman of the party's executive, the first senior Herut official who did not come up through the ranks of the militant nationalist movement founded by the late Vladimir Jabotinsky. Gen. Weizman, a former commander of the Israel Air Force, was nominated for the post by Herut leader Menachem Beigin. His deputy will be Eytan Livni, who has been serving as acting chairman of the Herut executive. Mr. Livni was chief of operations of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the movement that conducted underground warfare against the British before 1948 under the leadership of Mr. Beigin. Gen. Weizman, a career military officer, had no known political affiliations until he joined the Herut Party last year when Herut was part of Premier Golda Meir's national coalition government. He was named to the Cabinet by the Herut leadership but served only briefly as Minister of Transport. He quit his post when the Gahal faction (Herut-Liberal) bolted the government last summer in protest against Israel's acceptance of the American Mideast peace initiative. Gen. Weizman is a nephew of the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first President, and a brother-in-law of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

Two-Year-Old Baby Dies Of Cholera; First Fatality Since Cholera Outbreak In Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)--A two-year-old baby girl died of cholera on the way to the hospital in Gaza today. It was the first fatality attributed to the disease since cholera broke out in the Gaza Strip last month. The previous death of an infant suspected of having cholera was said to have been caused by pneumonia. Health authorities reported four more cholera cases in Gaza today. Five persons treated for the disease were released from the hospital fully recovered.

Despite Predictions Yiddish Press Refuses To Die, Still Going Strong, Shazar Says

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar declared last night that "in spite of many predictions of its death, the Yiddish press refuses to die." Mr. Shazar addressed a gathering of writers and journalists at his home marking the 100th anniversary of the Yiddish press in America. He recalled that 85 years ago Baruch Vladeck, the then editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, New York's largest Yiddish daily, predicted that within 12 years there would be no more Yiddish press in the United States. He said he made Vladeck put his prediction in writing and it was witnessed by another Yiddish writer, Abraham Leshin. "Since then, many times a dozen years have passed and the Yiddish press is still going strong," President Shazar observed. The anniversary was marked by the World Association of Jewish Journalists with a special issue of its periodical, "The Jewish Journalist" containing messages for good will from President Richard M. Nixon and Premier Golda Meir.

No Signs Of Cesna Aircraft With Three Men Aboard; Disappeared Six Days Ago

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)--The Lebanese government has advised Israel through the International Red Cross that it has found no signs of a Cesna aircraft with three men aboard that disappeared six days ago while on a cloud-seeding flight over northern Israel. The plane was spraying clouds with silver iodide in an attempt to stimulate rainfall. A sea and air search by Israeli forces failed to turn up any clues.

Yugoslav Jewish Community Culturally Active; Youth Attuned To Traditions, Israel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA)--The Jewish community of Yugoslavia, which does not number more than 4500 out of a population of 20 million, is culturally alive with a multitude of community activities and institutions and maintains close ties with Israel and with Jewish communities of the West and Eastern Europe, according to an article in the Jewish Journalist's Information Bulletin published here. The Bulletin, published by the World Federation of Jewish Journalists, noted that the word "Zionism" is no disgrace in Yugoslavia despite the fact that the Tito regime severed diplomatic relations with Israel during the Six-Day War and has been consistently pro-Arab in its foreign policy. The Jubilee Book published recently to mark the 50th anniversary of the Yugoslav Jewish community, contained a survey of Jewish pioneer groups (kibbutzim) who went to Israel and viewed the establishment of the Jewish State as "the fulfillment of a national dream of many generations," the Bulletin reported. "Clearly, the Jewish community of Yugoslavia does not define itself as Zionist," the article said, but it is deeply interested in the subject. While the community refrains from political interference connected with Yugoslav policy in the Middle East, "it is very alert and voices its opinion whenever any anti-Jewish remark is made in the Yugoslavian papers on the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The community's bi-monthly magazine, "Yivriaki Pergled," re-publishes articles appearing in general Yugoslavian papers which reject anti-Israel themes and at least try to paint an objective picture of the Middle East, the Bulletin said. Hebrew language teaching has increased and new courses have been added in Yugoslavia, the bulletin reported. "One interesting and rather surprising fact is that children of mixed marriages, regardless of which parent is Jewish, consider themselves Jews despite the fact that the activities of the community are entirely secular," the Bulletin remarked, noting that one influential factor is "undoubtedly the organized activities planned and centered around the 1500 youngsters of the community." The Jubilee book noted that "the connection of the youth with Judaism is based mainly on feelings which find their expression through the great heritage of the past--the cultural tradition and future of the Jewish nation." With this in mind, the Bulletin said, "many Jewish youth clubs were opened throughout the country. Here holidays are celebrated and summer camps are conducted...Last summer over 400 Jewish youth participated, while scores of Yugoslavian youngsters came in organized groups to spend their summer on Israeli kibbutzim."

Finger Obstruction Cause For Shelving Of UN High Commissioner On Human Rights

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 10 (JTA)--"Filibuster, obstruction and procedural maneuvers" by "a most peculiar combination of states" were blamed today by a key figure in the United States Mission to the United Nations for the shelving of a proposal to establish a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Speaking at the second annual luncheon of the President's Club of the B'nai B'rith Youth Services, Ambassador Seymour Maxwell Finger noted the appropriateness of the passage of the proposal, during the 25th anniversary session of the General Assembly, which would have provided an office "to be headed by an eminent and respected statesman to which individual complaints and violations of human rights might be addressed and on which a responsible inquiry might be made--procedures which have been notably lacking in the United Nations." The move to create the High Commission which has been pending for several years, was shelved Monday to next year "without priority" in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the General Assembly.

The vote, 54 to shelve, 38 against, and 15 abstentions, is expected to weaken the possibility of action at the next session since it removed the priority previously assigned to the proposal. The heated debate, prior to Ceylon's motion to shelve, was highlighted by a physical attack last week by Ambassador Jamel M. Baroudy of Saudi Arabia on Jean-Dominique Paollet of France. The French delegate had accused Baroudy of filibustering. Among the nations who voted for the shelving were the Soviet and Arab blocs with the support of certain African and Asian states. The United States, Israel and the Western nations opposed the motion. Ambassador Finger, a ranking Jewish career diplomat, is the Senior Advisor to Ambassador Charles W. Yost, and also represents the U.S. on the UN Trusteeship Council, the Committee on Colonialism and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The President's Club, which cited Ambassador Finger "in profound appreciation of his unstinting efforts and total dedication to the preservation and enunciation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations" is an honor group of annual major supporters of the B'nai B'rith Youth Services.

Government Urged To Consider Israel-Arab Arms Balance In Sale Of Chieftain Tanks

LONDON, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Three members of the House of Lords urged the government today to take into consideration the interests of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the military balance between Israel and the Arab states in its current negotiations for the sale of 50 Chieftain tanks to Libya. The matter of the tanks was brought up by the Earl of Cork, Lord Janner and Lord Shinwell. Replying for the government, Lord Loftian said the points raised were uppermost in the minds of the government during the present negotiations. He said he could not go into the matter further at this time because discussions with the Libyans were in progress. Lord Cork observed that there was anxiety in many quarters about this issue and that the interests of NATO and the Egyptian-Israeli military balance had to be considered. Lord Janner said the government must bear in mind that Libya is entering into a federation with Egypt, the Sudan and Syria and has declared that she would use any tanks supplied to her against Israel. Lord Shinwell asked for assurances from the government that if Chieftains are supplied to Libya, Israel will also be provided with comparable equipment, inasmuch as tanks sold to Libya could well be transferred to Egypt.

Cooperation On Scientific Research Slated Between Israeli, Iranian Institutions

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA)-- The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot will cooperate on scientific research with institutions of higher learning in Iran, its president, Prof. Albert Sabin, reported today on his return from a visit to that country.

Rigerman Afraid To Visit U.S. Embassy In Moscow Without Escort

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Leonid Rigerman, a Russian Jew seeking to establish a claim to American citizenship, is afraid to visit the United States Embassy in Moscow unless the Embassy provides him with an escort, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from Mr. Rigerman's American attorney. Mr. Rigerman was arrested by Soviet police two weeks ago when he last attempted to enter the Embassy and spent seven days in jail on charges of resisting an officer. According to Daniel Greer, Deputy Commissioner of Ports and Terminals, Soviet guards barred Rigerman from the Embassy on three previous occasions--once on Sept. 8 and twice on Nov. 10. The New York City official, who met Rigerman in Moscow last summer, volunteered his services to help him press his citizenship claim.

Mr. Greer told the JTA that he was in telephone communication with his client Tuesday night. He said Rigerman informed him that he had been asked to come to the Embassy with his 40-year-old mother on Thursday to complete certain forms. Mr. Greer said that Rigerman intended to keep the appointment but changed his mind after considering the safety of his mother in light of his past experiences. Rigerman said he would ask the Embassy to assign an official to escort him to the building. Mr. Greer said he informed the State Department which now is considering whether to instruct the Moscow Embassy to provide an escort for Rigerman. Rigerman's citizenship claim is based on the fact that his mother is American-born and his father is a naturalized U.S. citizen. He has lived in Russia all of his life. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said earlier this week that Rigerman had an appointment at the Embassy Thursday. He said his claim was still under study and that U.S. authorities required additional information before reaching a decision.

Charge NBC Biased For Not Reviewing Yiddish Play; NBC Theater Critic Says 'Nonsense'

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Charges of "unfairness and discrimination" against Edwin Newman and NBC News for not reviewing "Light, Lively and Yiddish" have been filed by Ben Bonus and Max Elsen, producer-star and press agent for the Broadway show, with the City Commission on Human Rights. The radio and television theater critic called the charges "nonsense." The complaint charged that "the present attitude of NBC News and Mr. Newman is unfair, discriminatory and a disservice to theater-goers and the community." The two Broadway figures also charged that Mr. Newman, NBC News' chief theater critic, "has refused" to cover the show and "has effectively convinced" his superiors not to let any other staff members do so or broadcast "features" on the show. They added that Mr. Newman and his associate, Leonard Probst, "have reviewed every show that has opened in a Broadway theater this season, and for many seasons in the past, and have just about reviewed every off-Broadway show that has opened this season."

After noting that the Yiddish theater has been a "cultural asset" in New York for more than 75 years and that Mr. Bonus had been a "leading performer here for the past six years," the complainants added that "it is hoped that this action will bring NBC News and its critic, Edwin Newman, to recognize the great cultural diversity of this city and the metropolitan area, and to review, recognize and report the many cultural and theatrical events initiated by these many groups when it is done on a professional level." They criticized Mr. Newman's contention that he could not and should not review a show that is almost all in Yiddish, and noted that he did not review "To Be Or Not To Be...What Kind Of A Question Is That?" an off-Broadway revue in English that recently had a limited run of five weeks.

Mr. Newman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that in his nearly five years as NBC theater critic, he had covered foreign-language productions only "occasionally," including a Bonus show "a few years ago." Concerning "Light, Lively and Yiddish," he asserted that "it can't possibly be of interest to people who can't understand Yiddish," which he said included himself. "There is no service I can perform" for those who can, he contended. He said that he decided with his producer Thomas Furey, that "these shows would not be reviewed." He said that "I hope the show runs forever; I hope all shows run forever," but that as far as the charges of "discrimination" were concerned, "I really hate to dignify this nonsense." Joseph R. Burstin, manager of another current mainly-Yiddish Broadway show, "The President's Daughter," which Mr. Newman did not cover, said the complainants were seeking publicity. He asserted that NBC had "a right to review whatever they want to review."

Hodassah Names Delegates To 1970 White House Conference On Children

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Hodassah, the Jewish women's organization, will participate in the 1970 White House Conference on Children, Dec. 13-18, its national president, Mrs. Max Schenk announced. "For sixty years Hodassah has provided in Palestine and now in Israel health, educational, rehabilitative and vocational training services," Mrs. Schenk said. "So much of this Israeli experience is relevant to us in the United States today as we are confronted with problems of day care and of bringing the culture gap between the disadvantaged and those of us in the mainstream of society." Mrs. High Salpeter, Hodassah national chairman of Youth Aliyah, will head the delegation, which includes: Mrs. D. Leonard Cohen, American Affairs; Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, Hodassah Medical Organization; and Mrs. Raphael Towner, Washington representative.

Funeral Services Held For Prof. Naor, Killed With 26 In Air Crash

HAIFA, Dec. 10 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here today for Prof. Pirhas Naor, dean of industrial engineering at the Haifa Technion, who was killed in the crash of a Rumanian airliner near Constanta Monday. Several other Israelis and Jews of other nationalities were among the 27 victims. The plane was on a flight from Tel Aviv to Bucharest. In addition to Prof. Naor, Jews who perished were identified as Nissan Bechar, a recent immigrant from Rumania who was returning there for a brief visit; Samuel and Aharon Deutch; Esther Fisch; Malka Goldis; P. Preiss and Haim Leizar. Two Israelis among the eight survivors of the crash were identified as Adrian Bruck and Nathan Bernard. Prof. Naor's remains were placed in the main hall of the Technion today where students and faculty members paid tribute to their late teacher and colleague.