

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vcl. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Monday, January 4, 1971

No. 1

Terrorists Kill Two Children, Injure Mother; Upsurge Of Terrorist Activity Reported

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Israeli military authorities have sealed off a 20-square-mile area of the northern Gaza Strip and placed it under a 24-hour curfew as a search went on for the terrorists who threw a hand grenade into a motor car yesterday, killing two Israeli children and seriously injuring their mother. The incident occurred on the main Gaza road. The victims were Marc Aroyo, 7, and his sister, Avigail, 4. Their father, Robert Aroyo, a Tel Aviv advertising executive, was unhurt, but is in a state of shock. The death of the two children were the first ones in the new year. The grenade attack is believed to have come from one of the refugee camps that dot the countryside along the Gaza-Tel Aviv highway. The Aroyos were driving home after a weekend motor trip when the grenade exploded in their car. The incident is believed to have been discussed at today's Cabinet meeting. According to police, Aroyo managed to drive to a nearby police station where a helicopter lifted the victims to the nearest hospital in Beersheba. Mrs. Aroyo was reported in serious condition. Aroyo was born in Malta and his wife came from London where they lived before settling in Israel last year.

An upsurge of terrorist activity was reported along the northern frontier over the weekend. An Israeli soldier was wounded yesterday in a clash with guerrillas. Katyusha shells were fired last night at Kiryat Shmona near the Lebanese border. No casualties were reported but several buildings were damaged. Bazooka shells were fired at Israeli positions and patrols in the Golan Heights. Mortar shells were fired at Metullah village and Kibbutz Yiftah. There were no reports of casualties or damage. Israeli military circles attributed the Golan attacks to terrorist gangs based in Syria, operating with the consent of the Syrian Army. According to a military spokesman, the wave of terrorist activity around the Lebanese border was an attempt to retaliate for an Israeli commando strike at a terrorist base at Yaater village inside Lebanon last week. The spokesman said that in earlier "police actions" at least 20 terrorists were killed. Official figures published here today disclosed that 237 Israelis were killed and 782 were wounded as a result of hostilities during 1970. The dead included 181 soldiers and 56 civilians. A total of 8,078 incidents occurred last year on all borders. More than half of them involved clashes with Egyptian forces along the Suez Canal before the cease-fire went into effect last Aug. 7.

Israeli Government Waiting Word From Jarring As To When, Where Talks Will Begin

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The Israeli Government waited today for word from United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring as to where and when the peace talks under his auspices will be resumed. According to reliable sources, Israel's chief representative to the UN, Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, will fly to New York tomorrow to "make contact" with Jarring. Government circles denied press reports that Israel was exerting pressure on Jarring to visit the Middle East before the talks are resumed. The reports were prompted by Tekoah's extended stay in Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported to the Cabinet today that he had suggested to Jarring in a recent exchange of notes that it would be desirable if he prefaced the resumed talks with a visit to the Middle East where he has not been for 18 months. But this was in no way an Israeli demand or a condition for its return to the peace talks, government circles said. They indicated that Tekoah was given no new terms of reference. He will go to New York under the terms of last week's Cabinet decision authorizing Israel's return to the Jarring talks. (Jarring arrived in New York from Copenhagen last night but refused to comment on the status of the talks or when he plans to revive them. Before leaving Copenhagen however, he told newsmen that "all avenues to resolve the Israeli-Arab peace talk stalemate will be explored.")

(A General Assembly resolution in November which endorsed the extension of the cease-fire also called for UN Secretary General U Thant to report to the Security Council by Jan. 5 on the results of the Jarring mission. Observers at the UN noted that the talks are now unlikely to start by Tuesday but that Israel's announcement of her return to the talks will permit Thant to submit a "positive" report.) According to reports reaching here, Israel's decision to return to the Jarring talks deepened a rift within Egypt between extremists, mainly Army officers, and moderate politicians who are interested in a political solution. According to the reports, extremists in the Cairo government expected Israel to continue its boycott of the Jarring talks whereupon Egypt would have complained to the Security Council and would have tried to place the onus for resumed warfare on Israel. Israel's move back to the talks upset their plans and they are now exerting heavy pressure on President Anwar Sadat to follow an unyielding line toward Israel. The extremists reportedly feel strengthened by the successful results of recent Egyptian war games and the delivery of new Soviet war materiel, including highly sophisticated electronic equipment. They are also said to believe that if war breaks out anew, the Russians would intervene on the Egyptian side. President Sadat reportedly conferred today with Mohammed el-Zayyat, Egypt's chief representative to the UN who will be Egypt's representative at the Jarring talks. Cairo newspapers said Zayyat was pessimistic over the outcome of the talks.

UAR Seen Retreating From Withdrawal Timetable Demand; USSR Adamant On Withdrawal

Jarring is expected to conduct the renewed talks at UN headquarters in New York where they began last August. Israel boycotted the talks almost as soon as they started because of Egyptian violations of the standstill aspects of the Suez cease-fire agreement. Israel is known to have preferred a site closer to the Middle East for the Jarring talks and to have them take place on the foreign ministerial level. Eban was named to represent Israel when the talks started last August but the Egyptians and Jordanian representatives were on the ambassadorial level only. Tekoah is expected to represent Israel at the renewed talks, at least during their initial stages. Eban's call for a "de-escalation of rhetoric" in the Middle East last week, has gone unheeded. Sadat claimed yesterday that his country was fully prepared for a resumption of warfare with Israel and militarily in better shape than ever. But political circles

here saw signs of a retreat by Egypt from its demand for an Israeli time-table for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as a pre-condition for extending the current cease-fire beyond its Feb. 5 deadline. They noted that Vice President Aly Sabry's report to Sadat on his recent visit to Moscow, as published in the semi-official Cairo daily Al Ahram, referred to an understanding reached with the Russians on the "practical steps" Israel must take to implement Security Council Resolution 242.

This, the circles told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, is considerably less than an Egyptian-Soviet demand for an advance time-table for withdrawal. Israeli circles are nevertheless concerned over new arms shipments promised Egypt by the Russians. Measure to counter this move will be the subject of a dialogue that Israel will carry on with the United States while the Jarring talks are in progress, it was reported today. According to reports reaching here from Moscow, Premier Alexei N. Kosygin said yesterday the lack of progress toward a political settlement in the Mideast is due to the "obstructionist position of Israel and the United States which supports it." He stated that without U.S. money and arms deliveries, "the aggressor would long ago have had to restrain its belligerent ardor." Kosygin reaffirmed the Kremlin's line that there could be no peace in the Mideast without total Israeli withdrawal. These comments on the Mideast and on a number of other issues was published by Izvestia, the Soviet government newspaper. Eban delivered a broadcast Friday night in Arabic to the Middle East stressing that Israel "is seeking a full, honorable and just peace" that will settle all problems, not one that will sow the seeds for future hostilities." He said that "Egyptian mothers do not deserve to continue to pay with the lives of tens of thousands of their sons to keep a conflict aflame."

Egypt's Air Force Aiding Sudan Government In Battle To Crush Southern Sudan Revolt

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Two Sudanese rebel leaders charged today that the Egyptian Air Force was aiding the Khartoum government in its battle against the revolt in the southern Sudan. They said Egyptian aircraft were bombing and strafing African guerrilla camps to soften them for Sudanese ground attacks. The rebel leaders were interviewed by an Israeli military networks correspondent in London. Their account was broadcast by the Israeli Military Broadcasting System, "Galat Zabal." They said the Egyptians maintained an Air Force academy in Khartoum and an Air Force base outside of the city. The academy was turned over to Egypt by the Sudanese Government to protect it from expected Israeli air attacks and is now serving as Egyptian headquarters against the rebels. The rebel leaders said the Egyptian air activity in the Sudan was a rehearsal for future combat against Israel. Observers here noted that this is not the first time Egypt embarked on military adventures abroad. They recalled that five years ago a 50,000-man Egyptian army and Egyptian Air Force units were fighting in Yemen on the site of republican forces against the royalist government.

Jews In Israel Number 2,559,500; Birth Rate Climbing But Still Lower Than Arab's

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The population of Israel fell only 2,000 short of the three million mark at the end of 1970. Of the total, Jews numbered, 2,559,500, according to statistics released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The Bureau reported that the Jewish birth rate was rising and that two-thirds of the Jewish population growth last year was due to natural increase. The Jewish birthrate climbed to 24 per 1,000 in 1970 compared to 23.4 in 1969 and 22.8 in 1968. But the Jewish birthrate is still only half as high as the birth rate of Arabs in Israel. The Ministry of Tourism reported today that a record 436,700 tourists visited Israel last year compared to 409,000 the year before. Eighty-seven percent of the tourists came by air.

Report Reveals Japanese General Personally Saved 20,000 Jewish Refugees In 1938

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The recent death of 82-year-old former Japanese Imperial Army Lieutenant General Kichiro Higuchi in Tokyo was an event of little world attention, except in the Jewish press. Parade Magazine reported yesterday in its copyrighted Intelligence Report. In one of the strangest quirks in modern history and a military secret for decades, it was revealed that the Japanese General personally saved the lives of 20,000 Jews fleeing the Nazi persecutions of Hitler Germany. The event took place in February, 1938 when 20,000 Jewish refugees gathered in Otpor on the Siberian-Manchurian border seeking entry into Siberia, or Manchuria, then under Japanese control. Refused by Stalin, the refugees were turned down by Japan who did not want to offend Nazi Germany. The Jewish Club of Harbin, Manchuria, then appealed to Lieut. Gen. Higuchi of the Kwantung army. The General, who had served as a military attache in Poland, was fully aware of what would happen to the 20,000 refugees if they were returned to Germany. He dispatched a fleet of 12 trains to Otpor, had the refugees transported to Harbin where he provided them with food and temporary housing in the Harbin military barracks. About 5,000 of the Jews remained in Harbin, the others going on to Shanghai and elsewhere. General Higuchi, before his death, was appointed a trustee of Japan's Israel Association, a fitting honor for this unheralded hero in the Jewish peoples' fight for survival. Parade reported.

\$285,000 Donated By Tel Aviv U. President And Wife For School Of Jewish Studies

JERUSALEM, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Tel Aviv University President Dr. George S. Wise and his wife have donated \$285,000 toward the construction of a building which will house the School of Jewish Studies on the college campus. The building is to be named in honor of Mrs. Wise's late father, Chaim Rosenberg, a noted educator. The School of Jewish Studies will train specialists and scholars in Jewish studies.

Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. Ranks First In Giving Jobs To New Immigrants

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. ranks first among Israeli firms giving employment to new immigrants. It has provided jobs for some 400 newcomers during the last four years. The firm has over 11,000 employees, many of them trained technicians and engineers from abroad. According to Al Schwimmer, the firm's president, several dozen prospective immigrants have signed contracts and many others are negotiating for employment when they come to Israel. He said his company was in constant need of well trained and qualified workers. The Israel Aircraft Industries has been hailed by government officials as one of the country's most important in the field of defense and technological development.

Trial For Nine Jews On Wednesday; Court Martial For Zalmanson; Riga-Kishinev Trials Due

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Even as Jewish and non-Jewish political and community leaders throughout the world expressed gratification at the commutation of death sentences given two Jews in the Leningrad 11 trial and hailed the reduction of the sentences of three other defendants as a voice of conscience, the Soviet Union was preparing the trial of nine more Jews scheduled to begin Jan. 6 in Leningrad. In addition, Wolf Zalmanson, who was arrested together with the other 11 persons on June 15 at Smolny Airport in Leningrad for allegedly plotting to hijack a Soviet airliner, is scheduled this week to face a court martial. Zalmanson is a lieutenant on active army duty. A third group of 11 or 12 Jews also face trial in Kishinev and Riga. While the exact date of their trial is still not known, it is believed it will begin within the next two weeks. According to information released this weekend by the American Jewish Committee in the form of an extract from an interview conducted by Steven Windmueller with a 25-year-old Russian Jew whose identity was not revealed because his family and friends still reside in the Soviet Union, the Leningrad nine have been charged with knowing about the alleged hijacking and not reporting it. The Kishinev-Riga defendants have been charged with anti-Soviet activities, namely, spreading Zionist propaganda.

Jewish travelers arriving in Israel from the Soviet Union during the past few days said it was likely that the nine Jews facing trial this week will "confess" in court to anti-Soviet activities. Unlike the secret trial of the Leningrad 11, this trial is expected to be open to the public and press. The travelers also reported that some 40 Jewish youths have been arrested recently in Leningrad by secret police. According to informed sources, the Leningrad Nine were charged under articles 70 and 72 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code. These cover anti-Soviet propaganda and agitation and "organizational activity directed to commission of especially dangerous crimes against the state and also participation in anti-Soviet organizations." Under article 73, the maximum sentence is death or 15 years imprisonment if the sentence is connected with treason or flight abroad. Eight of the nine accused are reported to be engineers. The death sentences handed down against Mark Dymshits, 43, and Edward Kuznetsov, 31, was commuted to 15 years confinement in special camps. This means both will not be permitted to receive as many visitors or food packages as is permitted to other prisoners and will be restricted to subsistence diets.

Similar restrictions have been imposed on Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, 26, wife of Edward Kuznetsov, who received 10 years; Leib G. Khanokh, 26, who received 10 years; Boris Pestner, 33, 10 years; Isak Zalmanson, 26, brother of Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov and Wolf Zalmanson, eight years; Anatoly Altman, 38, 10 years; Mendel Bodnia, 33, whose parents are in Israel, four years; Alexsei Murzhenko, 14 years; Yosif M. Mendelevich, 23, 14 years; Yuri Fyodorov, 15 years. Murzhenko and Fyodorov are non-Jewish, the other nine are Jewish. The reduced sentences were for Altman, from 12 years; Khanokh, from 13 years; and Mendelevich, from 15 years. Tass, the Soviet news agency, said the Russian Republic's Supreme Court, which heard the appeals last Wednesday and handed down the reduced sentences on Thursday, "proceeded from the fact that the hijacking attempt was averted in time and that under Soviet law, the death penalty is an exceptional measure of punishment." The commutation of the death sentences was attributed by world leaders to the widespread concern and denunciations expressed by government leaders and hundreds of thousands of persons throughout the world who appealed to the Kremlin to commute the death penalties and reduce the prison terms. Observers noted that the Soviet government was apparently also surprised by the severe criticism of the French, British and Italian Communist Parties, and the strong statements issued by French government leaders who have been extremely critical of Israel. Many also attributed the appeals court decision to Spain's decision on Wednesday to commute the death sentences of six Basque nationalists.

2000-Car Motorcade With 6000 Persons, 250-Car Motorcade With 600 Rally For Soviet Jews

GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--With the theme "Freedom Now for All Jews" reverberating today through Roosevelt Field here, and facing a 20-foot float on which 11 young men dressed in black and white prison garb depicted the convicted Leningrad 11, more than 6,000 Jews and Christians participated in a mass interfaith protest rally against the recent Leningrad trial and the new trials of Soviet Jews scheduled to begin this week. Philip Kates, chairman pro-tem of the sponsoring Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, reported that as prominent religious, civic and political leaders addressed the crowd, a chartered plane circled the rally overhead carrying an 80-foot sign reading "Let Our People Go!" Following the speeches and prayers, the throng reassembled into a 2,000 vehicle motorcade which proceeded on a 10-mile drive to the Glen Cove estate used by the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. Nassau County police officers, accompanying the motorcade, said it was the largest and longest in Long Island history. At the same time, the Rockland County Committee for Soviet Jewry sponsored a 250-car motorcade from Spring Valley, N.Y., to New York City past the Soviet Mission to the UN and from there to the Isaiah Wall opposite the UN where a 45 minute rally was held.

Rabbi Abraham Weiss, spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun of Monsey, N.Y. and an instructor at the Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University, told the 600 protestors that although the Soviet Union commuted the death sentences, Soviet Jews are still condemned to a slow death. A delegation then drove to the Soviet Mission where they attempted to present petitions to Mission officials demanding the release of Soviet Jews. The petitions were refused. When the Long Island motorcade reached the Glen Cove village line, escort duty was turned over to the local village police department whose 85-man police force were all on duty for the day. The motorcade proceeded to the gates of the Russian Compound where there were further prayers and supplications, and addresses by religious leaders and Glen Cove's mayor, following which 1000 red and white balloons bearing the legend "Let Our People Go" were released. Irving I. Silverman, co-ordinator of the LICJS said "We hope all our Russian brethren will see and sense our solidarity with them. We will not rest until every Russian Jew is allowed to live with decency and honor or is permitted to emigrate." American Jewish leaders expressed gratification over the commutation of the death sentences and the reduction of prison terms but also expressed the view that it would be a grave error to halt protests now and that the struggle must continue against the inhumanity persisting in the Soviet Union.

Labor Department Issues Sabbath-Observer Regulation At Request Of Jewish Law Group

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) announced today that the Department of Labor has issued proposed regulations protecting the rights of Sabbath-observers employed or applying for jobs with firms which contract with the federal government. The published regulations will go into effect after a 30-day period in which public comment is invited. They require government contractors "to make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of employees and applicants for employment" who "regularly observe Friday evening and Saturday, or some other day of the week, as the Sabbath." Nathan Lewin, chairman of COLPA's Washington, D.C. Chapter, which had requested the issuance of the regulation several months ago and had negotiated with Labor Department officials on its wording, hailed the new regulations as "added protection for the observant Jew and for adherents to other faiths who are now denied employment or promotion simply because an employer who would be able, with slight inconvenience, to hire them is not sympathetic to their religious needs."

Lewin noted that the proposed Labor Department regulations direct contractors to give written "reasons in detail" whenever they feel that a particular job cannot be filled by a Sabbath-observer. They also require employers to provide, "for general distribution," signed notices stating that they will accommodate Sabbath-observers. "COLPA will continue to press government agencies to issue regulations protecting the religious rights of Sabbath-observing employees," Lewin said. He noted that there have been many instances of such religious discrimination in federal employment, particularly in the Post Office Department. "As matters stand now," he said, "the federal government has not provided for its own employees the same religious guarantees it directs for employees of private concerns." In April 1969, he reported, COLPA requested the Civil Service Commission to issue a guideline for federal employment similar to that previously issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Negotiations over language have been completed and the recommendation is on the desk of the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Lewin said. However, "it has not been dislodged by Senatorial and Congressional requests," he noted that COLPA will feel obliged to take the question to court if there is more delay by the Commission.

Over \$203 Million In Israel Bonds Sold In U.S., Canada, South America, Europe In 1970

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--A capacity audience of 20,000 persons filled Madison Square Garden Thursday night for the third and final performance of the 1970 Chanukah Festival for Israel Bonds and heard a report from Edward S. Silver, general chairman of the New York drive, that \$45 million in Israel Bonds had been sold in the city in 1970. Sam Rothberg, national campaign chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, declared that Israel Bond sales in 1970 in the United States, Canada, South America and Europe will exceed \$203 million. "The final sales figure will not be known for several days," Rothberg said, "but we are confident that we shall provide a record cash total of more than \$203 million or close to thirty percent more than last year for the economic development of Israel." Rothberg pointed out that "only once before in the twenty-year history of the Israel Bond Organization did we provide more than \$200 million. That was in 1967 -- in the year of the June War. This fact clearly shows that the Jews of America understand Israel's problems and are prepared to meet them, no matter what the cost." Rothberg stressed that "the real test will come in 1971, when Israel expects us to sell \$400 million in Bonds or twice as much as we sold in the year just ended, or even in 1967." Silver said that "our sale of \$45 million in Israel Bonds in New York in 1970 is the greatest total in the history of the metropolitan campaign, except for 1967. Because of Israel's tremendous economic needs in 1971, the New York community is charged with the responsibility of providing Israel with \$100 million in Israel Bond investment capital. We are prepared to face this challenge."

PEARL To Launch Statewide Campaign To Oppose State Aid For Parochial Schools

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) has announced that it would launch an "intensive, state-wide campaign" to oppose efforts in the state legislature to provide state aid for parochial school tuition. The committee, a coalition of 26 civic, educational and religious groups, issued its statement in response to reports that proponents of state aid to religious schools would seek enactment of legislation to give \$250 per child to parochial school students at the elementary and secondary level. The statement of PEARL, whose members include the American Jewish Congress, Citizens Union, Council of Churches of the City of New York, New York Civil Liberties Union, Public Education Association, United Federation of Teachers, United Parents Associations and other groups, declared:

"The reported decision of the backers of aid to parochial schools to abandon their efforts aimed at repealing the so-called Blaine Amendment is hardly surprising. Wherever the people have had an opportunity to vote directly on the issue, they have rejected the spending of public funds for sectarian schools." PEARL noted that it is "deplorable" that a drive should be launched to give some \$50 million to private schools at a time "when Governor Rockefeller has asserted that the state cannot afford another dollar to help New York City meet its crushing welfare burden and at a time when the public schools stand in desperate need of funds to provide a decent education for more than a million children."

Hebrew University Honors Sam Rothberg On His 60th Birthday

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA)--The Executive Council of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem established a new prize to be known as the Rothberg Prize honoring Samuel Rothberg on the occasion of his 60th birthday. The prize will be given in 1971, for an accomplishment in the area of advancement of the Jewish education in the diaspora. Rothberg, a Midwest business executive, serves as the university's Chairman of the Board of Governors, President of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, National Campaign Chairman for the State of Israel Bond Organization, and is a member of the United Jewish Appeal's National Campaign Cabinet and Executive Committee. In March, 1966, the Hebrew University conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and at the end of June, 1969, the amphitheatre on Mount Scopus was officially dedicated as the Jean and Sam Rothberg Amphitheatre.

Brandeis U.-Technion Fellowship Exchange Program Announced

HAIFA, Jan. 3 (JTA)--Dr. James Howard Higbie, 26, of Washington, D.C., has been selected as the first recipient of the Fischbach-Brandeis Fellowship inaugurating a fellowship exchange program between graduates of Brandeis University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Dr. Higbie's specialty is general relativity. Next year a Technion graduate will study at Brandeis.