

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel To Continue With Peace Talks Despite Egypt's 'Polemical Tone'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The Cabinet decided today that Israel will stick with the process of peace talks with the Arabs through United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring despite the "polemical tone" of Egypt's reply to Israel's first proposals. Israel is still irritated by what it regards as an attempt by Cairo to undermine the Jarring talks through leaking Israeli diplomatic notes to the press. That matter was discussed with Dr. Jarring by Israel's UN Ambassador, Yosef Tekoah last Friday. Tekoah pointed out that Israel specifically stipulated the need for "quiet diplomacy" as one of its conditions for returning to the Jarring talks last month. Jarring was said to have told Tekoah that he agreed entirely with Israel's position and would insist that there should be no leaks in the future. Israel's anger was aroused by publication in the Tunis-based French language weekly *Jeune Afrique* of what was purportedly the text of Israel's latest proposals which were conveyed to Egypt by Jarring. The Egyptians followed that up by publishing the text of their reply and accused Israel of leaking its own diplomatic note.

At today's Cabinet meeting, Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported on the latest developments in the Jarring talks. Eban's reply was not considered satisfactory. The Israelis said that Cairo avoided replying to the principal clauses in the Israeli note. But the general feeling was that Israel will continue to pursue a peace settlement through the Jarring machinery, informed sources said. The Cabinet authorized the Premier and Foreign Minister to draft a new Israeli note for Dr. Jarring to convey to Cairo. An Israeli official told the JTA today, "We want to carry on with quiet diplomacy but quite frankly, I don't know how long we can keep it up." The JTA learned today that the Government is veering away from its earlier conditional willingness to accept a multinational force to police new Arab-Israeli borders that may be drawn up as part of an eventual peace agreement. Israel is firmly opposed to any force that would include troops of the Big Four powers and, especially, U.S. and Soviet contingents which it feels would turn the borders into a powder keg with a "potential nuclear charge." The Israelis have agreed in principle to Big Power guarantees of a future peace pact but only as a supplement to a peace treaty, not a substitute for one.

## ORT Adopts Record \$21 Million Budget; New Program To Train Arab Youths

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A record budget of \$21.840 million was adopted today by the American ORT Federation at its 49th annual national conference here in support of stepped-up program of economic aid and educational and vocational services in Israel and in Jewish communities in 20 other countries. Dr. William Haber, who was re-elected ORT president, declared that this was the "needs budget" to provide essential services to more than 60,000 persons during 1971. The sum approved by more than 600 conference delegates, he stated, was \$2 million more than last year and added that this increase would be used primarily for expansion in Israel and for ORT facilities in Iran, France, India and Latin America. Gen. Haim Herzog, president of ORT Israel, announced that the country's network of more than 75 ORT technical high schools had agreed with the Ministry of Education to enlarge enrollment by at least 7000 more students in the next few years. "This is a major step in the right direction," Gen. Herzog said, "but there are still tens of thousands of youth who are not yet assured the kind of education that is essential for the nation's economic survival no less than for its defense." A completely new program to provide skill training for Arab youth in the West Bank areas and in Gaza will be established by ORT shortly, at the request of the Ministry of Labor and funded by the Israeli government, it was announced. Skill training for Arab youth in East Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Abu Ghosh, now conducted by ORT and a new project for Bedouins in the Negev desert, will be enlarged.

In a declaration that could have far reaching implications for the next generation of youth who are served by ORT, the delegates adopted plans that would "redefine ORT's mission from schools that are fit only for the destitute to an educational system that aims to link Jewish youth to the technological world and to the new opportunities based on comprehensive, science-based skills." To help implement this goal, the delegates approved plans to establish, jointly with the Hebrew University, a two-year technical college in Jerusalem and projected creation of at least four other technical colleges in Israel, as well as a new school for girls of the Jewish community in Bombay, India, a computer institute for the Jewish youth of Buenos Aires and higher level studies at the ORT schools in Morocco and France. President Nixon singled out technical assistance projects for developing nations conducted by ORT, saying in a message to the conference, "I particularly commend your excellent cooperation with the Agency for International Development in African countries." There are now such projects in seven African countries, reported Matthew Schoenwald, chairman of American ORT's Government Contracts Committee, and all such projects are government funded. The Conference designated Dr. Harry H. Epstein of Atlanta, Georgia, its 1971 ORT Man-of-the-Year, and presented Achievement Awards to Dr. Bernard Horn of Chicago, and Nathan Sedley of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

## Commercial Advertising On TV May Be Detrimental To Economy; Issue To Be Studied

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The Israel Broadcasting Authority has strong reservations about introducing commercial advertising on television. As an independent, quasi-public agency, it has the power to do so without consulting any higher authorities. But it is expected to put the matter before the government, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. A spokesman for the Broadcasting Authority told the JTA that the question of commercial TV would be submitted to the government be-

cause of the far-reaching importance of the issue and its potential effects on consumer habits in the country. One of the effects would be to increase private consumption, a development that would run counter to the government's anti-inflation policies which try to keep prices down. A second detrimental effect would be to syphon advertising income away from already financially ailing newspapers. The government has set no date to consider the matter and is not likely to reach a decision without prolonged discussion, the Broadcast Authority spokesman said. He thought the Cabinet would set up a special committee to hear expert opinion. Israel's nationally owned radio service has been carrying commercials for the past seven years. Its annual income from advertising is expected to amount to \$2.4 million in the coming fiscal year. The Broadcasting Authority estimates that television advertising would yield about \$2.1 million in the first year and would double that figure within the first three years. Income from license fees which every Israeli must pay to own a radio or tv set, is expected to reach \$9.8 million in the coming fiscal year.

The question that will face the government is whether television can support itself on license fees which now amount to about \$29.75 per set but may have to be raised. Commercial tv would enable the Broadcasting Authority to hold the license fee at its present level. The strongest opposition to commercial tv so far has come from newspapers. Pinhas Leibowitz, director general of the Israel Newspaper Publishers' Association, told the JTA that in a modest economy like Israel's, the high cost of producing tv commercials would divert the bulk of the advertising budgets away from printed media. He said such a development would force a number of dailies to close. Several Israeli dailies have shut down because of financial difficulties in recent years. He said the growth of radio advertising had prevented newspapers from enjoying the additional advertising revenues promised by the expanding Israeli economy. The annual growth of newspaper advertising was offset by the diversion of budgets to radio. Leibowitz argued against television on which many Israelis agree with Leibowitz is that commercialization will degrade program content. Critics of Israeli television say the present level is not very high and point to world-wide experience as proof that content suffers as commercialization increases.

### Lavy Predicts Arms Race To Introduce New Weapons System Into Mideast Conflict

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The director general of Israel's Defense Ministry predicts an arms race to introduce new weapons systems into the arena of conflict between Israel and Egypt. Yeshayahu Lavy said on a radio interview that Soviet weapons systems now deployed in Egypt confronted Israel with a new challenge. He said the other side was escalating the arms race. According to Lavy, Israel's ability to keep pace with modern developments in weaponry depended on the development of its own arms industry. During his interview on Friday, he said that as long as it continues, Israel grows less vulnerable to threats of arms embargos from abroad. Lavy said the government has drawn "appropriate conclusions" about the danger of depending on foreign arms sources. He warned, however, that the application of these lessons depended on the pace of industrialization in Israel which was fairly rapid. Nevertheless, he said, it would take Israel some time to become self-sufficient in armaments. Lavy said that Israel faced a potential shortage of engineers and scientists. "Those available to us must meet the challenges," he said.

### Lebanese Villagers Present Israeli Patrol With Cake For Keeping Terrorists Away

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (JTA)--An Israeli patrol on the Lebanese border received a large cake and thanks from Lebanese villagers yesterday "for keeping the terrorists away from our homes." The cake was brought to the soldiers by a Lebanese woman who told them, in Hebrew, "This is a token of the villagers to the Israeli Army that keeps the terrorists away." She said the villagers had armed themselves against the marauders. She explained that she spoke Hebrew because she was born in Acre and worked on Israeli farms. Since the 1948 war she has lived in Lebanon with her family.

### Soviet Jewish Emigre Applauds Peaceful Demonstrations Against Soviet Repression

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A 21-year-old Soviet Jewish emigre said here that peaceful American demonstrations against Soviet repression were "wonderful," but that violent tactics "make publicity for Rabbi (Meir) Kahane but not for Soviet Jewry." Mrs. Alla Milkina Rusinek, an Israeli citizen in the United States for a campus speaking tour arranged by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, said of peaceful demonstrations: "Of course they help...Everytime we heard something it was a holiday." But, she added, "bombing is something else." Mrs. Rusinek made her comments in an informal discussion with correspondents of three publications, including the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin. She recalled that she had been forced to join the Komsomol, the Soviet Communist youth organization, at age 14 and was very active in it, but was expelled six years later and harassed at work for allegedly "anti-Soviet statements" that she denied being involved in. "The atmosphere (at work) was very tense and everyone was afraid to speak with me," she said, noting that she had been accused of "organizing a Zionist conspiracy" within her department at the Research Institute for Information on Standardization, where she worked as a clerk.

Mrs. Rusinek noted that she was not fired from her job because Soviet law prohibits the firing of orphans, but that the pressures on her within the Institute were intense--"I think you call it blackmail." She managed to smuggle out protest letters to the Israeli government, and when one of them was read over the Israeli Radio she felt she was safe from Soviet harassment because of the public knowledge of her case. She met her future husband, a chemical-plant laborer, in Riga and they were married last Oct. 1. Both she and his family had applied often and unsuccessfully for exit visas for Israel. When Mrs. Rusinek's application was finally approved--to remove a thorn in the Kremlin's side, she believed--it was on condition that her husband remain. They decided that if she left it might make it easier for him to leave eventually too. "I hope it was the right thing (to do)," she said today. Her older sister "doesn't have the desire to leave now," but as far as young Soviet Jewry is concerned: "They're not afraid. They're tired of waiting. How many years can they wait?"

## New Religious Teaching In South African Schools Pose Problems For Jews

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 24 (JTA)--Jewish parents in Cape Province have been advised by community leaders to invoke their right to request that their children be excused from Scripture lessons in the State schools which have just been revised by official edict so as to implant Christian doctrinal teachings. Scripture lessons have always been part of the State school curriculum but in the past have covered the Old and New Testaments in a broad and general way. A new regulation gazetted in Cape Province provides that the lessons shall henceforth be "Christo-centric" in order to "prepare the pupil...to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour." A deputation of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, headed by Sydney Walt, brought the matter to the attention of S. Theron, Director of Education of the Cape Province.

They pointed out that the new approach to religious instruction "presents a serious problem in regard to Jewish children being exposed to such instruction." They noted that "teaching of this nature, however satisfactory from a Christian point of view, could not be acceptable to an adherent of Judaism." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that the deputation was received sympathetically. The Board said it felt it was its duty to inform Jewish parents of the new syllabus and advise them to invoke their legal right to request that their children be excused. Theron said he saw no objection to the Board acting accordingly. The South African Jewish Times, a Jewish community newspaper, applauded the Board's initiative. The paper said editorially, "It follows that no Jew who respects his history and faith can allow his children to be placed in the new situation"... (which)... "at best must confuse their young minds and at worst erode their Judaism."

## Five New Letters From Russian Jews Appeal For Aid To Emigrate; Riga Trials Not On

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--Jewish sources here reported receiving five new letters from Russian Jews appealing to public opinion for support of their demand for emigration rights. The sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that three of the letters were petitions signed by scores of persons. The letters were smuggled out of Russia by tourists. According to the sources, several of the new letters came from Riga where four Jews are awaiting trial for alleged anti-Soviet activities. Contrary to reports received last week by the Israel Broadcasting Service from a Jewish family in Moscow, the trial in Riga has not started, according to Jewish sources here. There was no indication today when the trial may begin.

## Druze Residents Demand Revenge For Mutilation Murder Of Young Man By Terrorists

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The Druze residents of Dalyat el Karmel village are demanding revenge for the mutilation murder of one of their number, 27-year-old Hassan Abou Hammed, whose decapitated body was found near his tractor on a remote slope of Mt. Hermon in the Golan Heights ten days ago. The murder was attributed to terrorists from Lebanon. The cries for revenge came at a town meeting last night which was attended by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon. The victim's head was taken away by his killers. According to Druze custom, a decapitated corpse cannot be buried. Allon said, "The blood of every man who falls on the borders--soldiers, border policemen, settlers or workers--is dear to us. Our enemies will pay heavily for its shedding." He said that "only barbarians who have lost their human image were capable of such a brutal murder and mutilation of a dead man's body." Allon called on Lebanese authorities to "perform a last act of grace to the dead man" by seeing to it that the head is returned for burial with the body. Turning to young Druze soldiers who wanted to cross the border to bring "ten heads for the head of Abou Hammed," Allon said, "This is not our way. It must not be your way. We shall not permit killing for the sake of killing of even our greatest enemies."

## Apathy May Erode All Jewish Cultural Activities In U.S. By Year 2000

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA)--A Jewish secular educator warned today that "from the earmarks of apathy prevalent at this moment, Jewish cultural activities in the United States may cease to flourish and even exist by the year 2000." Joseph Mlotek, Educational Director of the Workmen's Circle told his organization's Jewish Schools luncheon that "those who protest, as they should, against the padlocking of Soviet Jewish cultural centers, should recognize that their own apathy is molding the padlocks on Jewish secular educational institutions in the United States." Mlotek said that a pattern is emerging that could, at the pace it is going, erode all vestiges of present Jewish cultural institutions by the end of this century. "At the very moment Blacks and Spanish-speaking citizens are taking increased pride in their history and heritage, Jewish communities are showing increased signs of apathy toward their own contributions in literature, the arts, the sciences and social advancement both in this country and abroad," he declared. "Too many Jews have substituted a pride in Israel as sufficient participation in Jewish secular affairs." This, however, is not sufficient to maintain and nourish a distinctive culture which has contributed vastly to other cultures and is now fighting for its own survival, Mlotek stated. But, concurrently with "earmarks of apathy," there is also a wide curiosity on the part of young people which is spurring an appreciation of Jewish secular values, he noted, adding: "The key issue is whether adult apathy will surrender to youthful appreciation."

## Jordanian Government Transfers Annually \$15 Million In Funds To Westbank Arabs

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA)--The Jordanian Government is continuing to transfer funds to the Israel-occupied West Bank in the amount of about \$15 million a year, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources today. The transfers are illegal but Israeli authorities tolerate them. Part of the money is sent legally to West Bank Arabs by their sons who work in Kuwait and other Persian Gulf oil states. But the bulk of the money is paid by the Jordanian Government to about 6000 former civil servants of the pre-1967 Jordanian administration to retain their loyalty and deter them from accepting employment from Israeli sources. Nevertheless, most of the former Jordanian civil servants now work for the Israeli military government and receive salaries from both sides. About 2000 West Bankers employed by Israel after the Six-Day War get no funds from Jordan.

