

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.

Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Tuesday, February 2, 1971

No. 22

Bar Lev Says Soviet Presence Won't Deter Israel If Egypt Starts Shooting

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Israel's Chief of Staff, Gen. Haim Bar Lev said today that the intervention of Soviet forces on the side of Egypt if fighting breaks out when the Suez cease-fire expires next Friday, will not deter Israeli forces from carrying out their objectives. He said those objectives were to prove to the Egyptians "that they can gain nothing by force and to hold on to Israel's positions on the Suez Canal's east bank. Gen. Bar Lev was interviewed on the BBC television program "Panorama." "We may have to combat the forces that might interfere with our objectives," he said. When the interviewer mentioned the Russians specifically, he replied, "If they will be there, it might be. If they are not, it will not be. Our aim is not to fight the Soviet Union."

Gen. Bar Lev conceded that the cease-fire, which has lasted since Aug. 6, 1970, enabled Egypt to greatly improve its military position in the canal zone. "They have anti-aircraft missile and gun systems close to the canal and along almost its entire length which they would not have had without the cease-fire," Bar Lev said. On the other hand, he said, Israel's position was not relatively weaker. He replied "Oh, yes," when asked if any supplies had reached Israel from the United States. Bar Lev said that Soviet control of Egypt's armed forces was "very substantial today." As far as Israel knows, the SAM-3 missiles are manned by Soviet military personnel and Soviet control exists over Egypt's anti-aircraft defense system, composed of missiles and guns. Bar Lev said. He added, however, that Moscow's political control over Egypt was not so tight as to preclude the latter from embarking on military adventures without Russian approval. Bar Lev said Egyptian manpower was no better than in 1967 but their planning was better "because it is Soviet planning," he said.

Lebanon Rejects Israeli Offer To Talk Peace; Wants Action On Refugees

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Lebanese Government has turned down an Israeli offer to negotiate a permanent peace treaty on the basis of the present boundaries between the two countries. The Lebanese reply to the Israeli note was conveyed to the Government here by United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring in the form of a "verbal note," two days ago. The Lebanese reportedly said that they had no territorial claims against Israel but would not negotiate as long as the Palestinian refugee problem remains unresolved. Sources here said Israel planned no further notes to Lebanon and as far as it is concerned the talks with Lebanon through Ambassador Jarring remain "frozen." Israel's 50-mile border with Lebanon is identical to the international boundary drawn during the Mandate period before World War II. Lebanon insists that its 1949 armistice agreement with Israel is still in force. Israel has rejected that claim on grounds that Lebanon declared itself at war with Israel in June, 1967. There was no fighting between Israel and Lebanon during the Six-Day War.

Israelis Make Two-Pronged Strike Against Guerrilla Bases In Lebanon

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--An Israeli officer was killed and three soldiers were wounded in a bloody assault on a terrorist base at El Khyam village about six miles inside Lebanon last night. The assault was part of a two-pronged Israeli commando attack on terrorist strongholds north of Metullah. The second target was the Lebanese village of Kfar Kila. A military spokesman said at least ten terrorists were killed in the double action and their bases blown up. The dead soldier was Lt. Dov Addar, 21, of Tel Aviv. Funeral services were held here today. The spokesman said Lt. Addar was killed as he led his men against the terrorist base located on a hilltop. The three wounded soldiers were evacuated to hospitals by helicopter. At Kfar Kila, Israeli forces evacuated civilians before proceeding to blow up the guerrilla bases. A communique released after the commando raids listed ten serious incidents during the past three weeks involving terrorists based at El Khyam and Kfar Kila.

Sadat Summons Egyptian Security Council To Plan For Cease-Fire Situation

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--President Sadat of Egypt has ordered his National Security Council to meet tomorrow to discuss military and political moves for the period after Feb. 5 when the current United States-sponsored cease-fire on the Suez Canal runs out, it was learned here. Despite growing world attention as the date nears, officials here said, there appears no special tension on the Egyptian side of the truce line. Egyptian soldiers have been seen walking along the canal without helmets or weapons although concentrations of artillery and armor have been reported from Cairo. The Egyptians also were said to have assembled canal crossing equipment on the east bank. There also have been reports from Beirut that Egypt has called up a number of reserve units.

Officials here said that it appeared that the Egyptian military command was making all possible preparations as the critical date approached, ready for military action if that decision was made by the Sadat regime. The officials said there were no special alertness signs on the Israeli side but that plans had been made to introduce again the measures ordered when the initial cease-fire period ended last November. These included instructions to troops to keep below the skyline, wear anti-splinter helmets and follow transportation orders in the canal zone.

President Sadat's political advisor, Hussein Sabry, charged during a visit to Lima yesterday that the weaponry Israel is receiving from the United States "can destroy my country easily." He added that he hoped "a third world war can be avoided," but said he was "seriously preoccupied" with the possibilities of such a war. At a press conference, he called for complete Israeli evacuation from occupied Arab territories, but also mentioned the right to existence of all nations in the area. Egyptian agreement to an extension of the Middle East cease-fire after Feb. 5 without progress in the peace talks "would mean that we abandon our territories," Sabry insisted, adding that Israel's "intransigence" has been bolstered by American arms that have converted Israel into a "branch of the Pentagon" that threatens Egyptian security with an overpowering arsenal.

Israel Reports Terrorists Killed 106 Arabs, 16 Jews in Gaza Strip in 1970

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Gen. Menahem Aviram, commanding officer in the Gaza Strip, described Palestinian terrorists today as callous men who have no regard for even the lives of their fellow Arabs. In 1970, he said, terrorists in the Strip killed 106 Arabs in addition to 16 Jews, and wounded 642 Arabs in addition to 109 Jews. Gen. Aviram announced those figures shortly after an explosion in the Postal Bank office in Gaza this morning killed three Arabs and injured 61 others and severely damaged the structure as well. The officer charged that the bombing was meant to intimidate the 12,000 Strip residents who commute daily to Israel proper for work. He said the bomb had apparently been carefully planned for the early-morning hours on the first day of a new month, when the number of workers in the building is at a maximum because of pay day. Gen. Aviram said the terrorist who had rolled a dynamite-filled tire into the bank had apparently posed as a worker waiting for his check. In the three weeks since the Israeli border force stepped up its crackdown on terrorists, Gen. Aviram said, widespread searches have rooted out only a few dozen terrorists and a limited supply of weapons--less than are believed to be in the area. The Gaza prison, he noted, is filled to capacity with 700 guerrillas, most of them already convicted of terrorism, with another 150 being held in a Sinai jail. The nighttime curfew remains in force throughout the Strip, the area is heavily patrolled, and the two main exit roads have been sealed off.

Harriman Says Soviets 'Strongly Desire' Real Peace in Middle East

PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 1 (JTA)--W. Averell Harriman, a former United States Ambassador to Moscow, believes that the Soviet Union "strongly desires a real peace in the Middle East" and is "concerned over the possibility of a United States-Soviet confrontation. The veteran diplomat and former governor of New York expressed those views at a meeting of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America over the week-end which conferred its Executive Council with him and on Nathan Aschman, of New York, chairman of the board of trustees of the American Jewish Committee. Ambassador Harriman's remarks were his first in public since he and Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, talked two weeks ago with Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin in Moscow. Harriman expressed the belief that Kosygin was as much for peace today in the Middle East as he was for an end to the fighting in Vietnam in 1965 because in both instances Russia wants to avoid a confrontation with the U.S. "This time it is the Middle East that is giving the Soviets their major concern," Harriman said. Despite the Kremlin's criticism of the U.S., "for giving full support to Israel" and its "tough stand" in support of Egypt, Harriman said, "substantial progress has been made" in recent months in backing away from "earlier positions." Ambassador Harriman said "One gains the impression that the Soviets have used their influence to induce Egypt to move toward a peaceful solution. No longer does Egypt talk of pushing Israel into the sea, and she appears ready to accept freedom of navigation in the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba," Harriman said.

Thant Reported Under French, Egyptian Pressure To Delay Jarring Report

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Informed sources here indicated today a belief that United Nations Secretary General U Thant is under pressure from Egypt and France to delay publication of a report to the Security Council which is believed to state that some progress has been achieved so far in the Jarring talks. The circles said Egypt wants to suppress the report because any sign that the Jarring talks are progressing would deprive it of the grounds for asking for a special Security Council meeting on the Middle East. Cairo is said to be supported by France in its attempt to convene the Security Council in order to pressure Israel to make further concessions on withdrawal from the occupied territories. Egypt wants Thant to withhold the report or to delete parts of it, the circles here said.

Sources at the United Nations said today that an announcement was expected shortly on the nature of a proposed report to the Security Council by Thant recommending another extension of the current cease-fire which runs out Friday. The Secretary-General was reported to be consulting on the matter with Dr. Jarring. The sources said their problem was how to indicate in their conclusions that there has been recent progress in the indirect talks toward a Middle East settlement. Although President Anwar Sadat has insisted he would not agree to a second cease-fire extension without evident progress in the Jarring talks, it was believed at the UN that Egypt would welcome an extension and therefore would agree to one if Thant and Dr. Jarring said publicly that progress had been made. Israel's position is that it has been observing the indefinite cease-fire proclaimed by the Security Council in June, 1967 after the Six-Day War. Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah was scheduled to confer with Dr. Jarring late this afternoon. In its continuing effort to avoid public comment on progress, the Israeli Consulate again said in advance that Tekoah would say nothing to the press.

Goldmann Complains About Press 'Leaks' On Confidential Reports To Mrs. Meir

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann left Israel today angered by what he said were leaks to the press of confidential reports he made to Premier Golda Meir. Goldmann denied a report that appeared in the newspaper Maariv yesterday that he had intimated to Israeli government leaders that Russia would permit large scale Jewish emigration if Israel withdrew from the occupied Arab territories. Dr. Goldmann said that he no longer bothers to deny reports that present his views and activities in a "distorted manner" but that he felt it was necessary to deny this one. "Whatever I said was my own assumption and I did not cite any Russian source or authority," he declared. "What I said was a personal evaluation. I have had hints that if there was peace in the Middle East there will be increased immigration from Russia. I never linked the question of immigration from Russia with withdrawal from the occupied territories and I have always stressed that the slogan 'territories for immigrants' is absurd." Dr. Goldmann said he has requested Foreign Minister Abba Eban to cancel the diplomatic passport he holds. "I do not wish to impose another problem on Mr. Eban who even without this is under a heavy burden of problems."

CORRECTION

Because of a transmission error, the report in the JTA Bulletin of Feb. 1 from Paris on France's UJA campaign listed the current target of the campaign as "over \$160 million." The figure should have read "over \$16 million."

Report Russ Jews Denied Exit Permits Now Asking Them For Their Children

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Russian Jews denied permission to emigrate to Israel are appealing to Soviet authorities for exit permits for their children, according to Boris Tsukerman, a Soviet Jewish scientist who arrived here last week with his wife and two children. The Tsukermans received exit visas for their entire family but this is rarely the case for most applicants, they said in an interview published in the newspaper Yediot Achronot. The new motto of Soviet Jews, therefore, is, "If you don't let us go, then at least let our children go," Tsukerman said. He told of a young couple, Wolf and Svetlana Zettlin, who were denied exit permits because the man held an essential job at a Moscow scientific institute. "They have decided now to open their struggle in the name of their four-year-old daughter, to let her grow up in Israel," Tsukerman said. "Their struggle is an open one and many are following them," he added.

Israel Building Merchant Fleet With Stress On Tankers

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Israel Government has chartered three oil tankers aggregating 180,000 deadweight tons to carry oil to the Eilat terminal of the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline, it was announced here. The vessels will be operated by Israel's three largest shipping companies, Zim, Cargo Ships El Yam and Maritime Fruit Carriers, Ltd. The Zim Lines plans to place a 230,000 deadweight ton tanker into service next April to be followed by another supertanker four months later. Together with existing tonnage, these vessels will increase the carrying capacity of Israel's tanker fleet serving Eilat to 25 million tons a year. Construction will start soon on six new oil storage tanks at Eilat and Ashkelon. The capacity of the pipeline itself will be increased to 30 million tons a year by the construction of new pumping stations at both terminals. Israel's merchant fleet will double its tonnage within five years through an investment of some \$600 million, the General Director of the Transport Ministry, Ramon Harel, announced at the Haifa Shipping Research Institute. The fleet's deadweight tonnage now totals 3 million tons. Most of the increase will be in tankers and container ships, Harel said.

Government Decides To Ban Commercial Advertising On Israel TV Temporarily

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Government decided yesterday to withhold approval for commercial advertising on television for the time being. The Government acted in accordance with a recommendation by the plenary council of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. The Authority has the power to authorize tv commercials but decided not to exercise it in view of the far-reaching effects such a move was likely to have on the national economy. The principal objection to commercial tv stems from the fear that it would stimulate private consumption at a time when the Government is battling inflation. The Israel Newspaper Publishers Association has voiced opposition because tv advertising would divert revenues from newspapers.

Five East Jerusalem Arabs Seeking Posts In Histadrut Unit Election

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--For the first time in the annals of Israeli trade union history, five East Jerusalem Arabs are running as candidates for the National Congress of the Metalworkers Trade Union, a division of Histadrut. In the general elections for the Histadrut Convention which took place last year, a number of East Jerusalem Arabs had announced their candidacy, but withdrew from the elections after receiving several threatening letters. The Metalworkers' Trade Union released the names of the present candidates only today in order to avoid repetition of such threats.

NEWSBRIEFS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Army chaplainship is initiating a special course in Jewish studies for Israeli soldiers about to convert to Judaism. Rabbis and professors will provide intensive instruction for the candidates for conversion. The soldiers prefer to be converted while in the service, because the civilian procedure is much lengthier.

- o -

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The four Knesset members representing the State List Party were rebuffed today in their attempt to refuse the salary increase voted by the Knesset last Wednesday. The four men, former Rafi Party members loyal to their resigned colleague, former Premier David Ben-Gurion, were literally forced to accept the increase in a ruling that they could not reject it. The \$371 monthly salary was raised to nearly \$429, plus expenses, representing 70 percent of a Cabinet minister's pay.

- o -

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar hosted a ceremonial reception today for the leaders of Israel's Moslem community. He expressed the hope that the Arab governments might one day match Israel's regard for the rights of man. In reply the president of the Moslem court of appeal in Nazareth, Kadi Hussein el-Zuabi, said the Moslem community of Israel considered itself part of Israel and was granted equal rights with other Israelis. He voiced a plea for the success of the Jarring peace talks.

- o -

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The United Zionist-Revisionists of America has accused many Jewish organizations of diverting attention from the plight of Soviet Jewry by their "hysterical responses to the activities of the Jewish Defense League." A statement issued by the militant Zionist group claimed that "the need of the moment is for a determined effort by all Jewish organizations to concentrate their efforts on securing freedom for all Jews, throughout the world." According to the Zionist-Revisionists, the JDL's activities "are the proper concern of the United States Government" which should protect foreign diplomats in this country "just as it is the task of the Soviet Government to protect American diplomats" in the Soviet Union.

AZYF Says Summer Science Programs In Israel For Teenagers Expanded

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA)--A series of summer science seminars, originally offered only at the Weizmann Institute in Israel for science-minded American high school seniors, have been extended to be available this summer also at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Israel Institute of Technology-Technion in Haifa, it was announced here by William Levine, executive director of the American Zionist Youth Foundation. The science programs will offer experimentation and study in various scientific disciplines combined with a general overall introduction to the land and people in Israel, according to Mr. Levine. An important component of the program, he noted, will be the close contact American youngsters will maintain with Israeli students of the same age.

Deputy Director of the Jewish Agency Youth and Hechalutz Department, Yehuda Goodman, who supervises the Israeli programs and recently arrived in New York, announced plans for a new project co-sponsored by the Agency and the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture, to promote closer relationships with Israeli peer groups during the course of the American student visits to Israel. According to Mr. Goodman, the Ministry and the Youth Department will offer both Americans and Israelis an integrated course to spend most of the summer together as a unit. American students will be offered a "mini-ulpan" in the Hebrew language, while Israelis will brush up on their English in a similar English "mini-ulpan." The course will take place at an Israeli youth village, and the study will be followed by joint touring, so that both groups will establish meaningful relationships, Mr. Goodman stated.

More than 7,000 college and high school students, 4,000 coming from the United States and Canada, are expected to participate this summer in various Israeli summer programs, Mr. Goodman said. These summer programs according to the Deputy Director, cover such diverse areas as kibbutz work, university study, technology, theater workshops, and folk-dance. The programs were initiated in 1948 by the American Zionist Youth Foundation.

Lord Janner Says He Found American Jews Unslackening In Aid To Israel

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Lord Janner, former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said on his return here after an American speaking tour that American Jews have not slackened their aid to Israel despite their own economic and social problems. The reason, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, is that they have come to appreciate more keenly than ever the responsibility of diaspora Jewry to Israel. Lord Janner noted also that in his appearances in the United States for the Jewish National Fund, "I was able to point out to my audiences--large and enthusiastic, as it happened--that the Jewish National Fund was doing pioneering work on the improvement of environment for the last 70 years." He said "the world can learn a good deal and Israel and the Jewish people can be justly proud" of the JNF's achievements in draining malarial swamps, eradicating soil erosion, watering arid land and improving the countryside of the new Jewish state.

Lipchitz Gets Hadassah Commission For 'Tree Of Life' Sculpture

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Jacques Lipchitz, the famous Jewish sculptor, has accepted a commission from Hadassah to create a giant bronze "Tree of Life" to stand on the grounds of the rebuilt Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem. Lipchitz, who is in his eighties, told newsmen that the work will take approximately three or four years to complete. Discussing his plans for the statue, Lipchitz told newsmen that it will be abstract as "all art is abstract." He declared that the "Tree of Life" would be the "crown of my work." "I have a few things to finish," said the octogenarian sculptor, "but the 'Tree of Life' will dominate my whole existence for the next three or four years."

AAJE, Jewish Agency Sponsor Jerusalem Workshop For Educators

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA)--A workshop for directors of bureaus of Jewish education will be held Aug. 2-15 in Jerusalem under the sponsorship of the American Association for Jewish Education and the Department of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency-American Section. About 30 such directors are expected to participate. The workshop will be conducted by Hayim Finkelstein, a member of the Jewish Agency Executive and global head of its Education and Culture Department.

Israel Government Sets Feb. 3 As Memorial Day For Jews Hanged In Iraq

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Government decided yesterday to designate Wednesday, Feb. 3, as a memorial day to mark the second anniversary of the hanging of nine Jews in Iraq. Foreign Minister Abba Eban will deliver a report to the Knesset on Wednesday on the condition of Jews in the Arab countries.

1971-72 Hebrew University Awards For Jewish Studies Announced

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA)--The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the New York-based American Friends of the Hebrew University are accepting applications, through Feb. 28, for the 1971-72 Moritz and Charlotte Warburg Research Prizes in Jewish Studies. The awards are given to students up to 30 years old in Jewish Studies courses who hold Ph.D. degrees, although in exceptional cases those with master's degrees in the Humanities will be chosen. Winners of the award receive \$5,000 a year for two years, and in special cases for a third year. Those who receive it for three years are eligible for another two-year grant if their achievements correspond to those of a research fellow at the Hebrew University.

Polish Engineer, Author, Warsaw Survivor, Dies In Israel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)--Joseph Zemian, an engineer and author of "The Cigarette Sellers," a book about Jewish children in Warsaw under the Nazis, died Saturday at the age of 48. Zemian, who was born in Warsaw and lived there during the ghetto period, was a member of the underground and saved many Jews. Among the mourners of his death were now-grown-up Poles who survived the era in which as children they peddled cigarettes in Warsaw.