

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israel May Have To Conduct Parallel Talks With Arabs On Boundaries, Peace

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Opinion was expressed in political circles today that Israel may have no alternative but to agree to parallel talks with the Arabs on boundary questions and on the basic question of peace. Hitherto Israel has insisted that a firm commitment to peace by the Arabs must precede any substantive negotiations on territorial matters. The situation is believed to have been altered by the recent letters submitted by United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring to Israel and Egypt. Officially Israel has been silent on the latest Jarring move. News media have reported however that the Government view is that Jarring exceeded the scope of his Security Council mandate to promote a peace settlement and that the "proposals" he advanced were unacceptable to Israel. (According to reports from Cairo today, the Egyptian Government has sent a "positive" reply to the latest Jarring note. Jarring was said to have questioned Egypt and Israel about their terms for a settlement and to have raised the prospect of Israel's withdrawal to its pre-June, 1967 borders.) Differences of opinion were reported among Cabinet ministers as to how Israel should react to the Jarring move. Some Ministers, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan among them, allegedly believe the Government should tell Egypt flatly that Israel will never return to the boundaries that existed on June 4, 1967, the eve of the Six-Day War.

A majority of the Cabinet however was said to advocate a non-committal stance while Israel awaits Cairo's reply to its latest note, conveyed by Jarring over a week ago. This note demands a specific answer from Egypt as to whether its stated readiness to make peace with and recognize the sovereignty of the "countries of the region" includes Israel. The Dayan forces are said to believe that Egypt should be informed of Israel's uncompromising stand on the border issue before it drafts its reply to the question of its peace intentions. Sources here said today that in view of the strong United States backing of the latest Jarring move, Israel will have no alternative but to discuss the matters raised by Jarring, apparently including territorial matters. But fear was expressed in some circles that Israel would be thereby forced into a position without room for maneuvering and would have to "lay all of its cards on the table" without bargaining. Political circles were awaiting a report from Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yosef Tekoah. He was reportedly summoned by Jarring to receive an Egyptian note allegedly delivered to the mediator during the last few days. It was not known here whether the note is a reply to Israel's queries or whether it was Cairo's response to Jarring's latest moves.

## Czech Authorities Begin Criminal Proceeding Against Czech Jews Living in Israel

LONDON, Feb. 16 (JTA)--A number of Czechoslovakian Jews living in Israel since 1968 have received notification from Czechoslovakian authorities that criminal proceedings have been started against them for "illegal sojourn abroad." The Jews who received these notices fled Czechoslovakia after the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion and occupation of that country in the summer of 1968, according to a spokesman for the Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia here. Similar notices of criminal proceedings have been received previously by Czech refugees in the United States, Canada and several West European countries. They emanate from the "legal chambers" in the refugees' last place of residence in Czechoslovakia. These notices and those served on Czechs in Israel are accompanied by a demand for legal fees for "defense counsel" to be paid in foreign currency. The fee amounts to about \$134. The notices intimate that if the payment is not made, relatives of the refugees in Czechoslovakia might be approached for the money, the spokesman said. Several hundred Czech Jews settled in Israel after the 1968 invasion of their homeland. The number who have received notification of legal proceedings against them is not known. The notifications have been routed to Israel via the Czech Consulate in Nicosia, Cyprus. Israel and Czechoslovakia have had no diplomatic relations since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

## Report Team Headed By 'Senior Security Personality' Drafting Map Of Secure Borders

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA)--The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today that a special team headed by a "senior security personality" is presently drafting a map indicating the secure borders that Israel will insist on in any ultimate peace settlement with the Arabs. According to sources, the map will be at hand should discussions of territorial matters begin under the auspices of United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring.

## Newsweek Editor Believes Egypt Will Continue Cease-Fire, Eventually Sign Peace Treaty

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Arnaud de Borchgrave, the senior editor of Newsweek magazine who interviewed President Anwar Sadat in Cairo last week, said here today that he believed Egypt would continue to observe the cease-fire beyond its 30-day deadline of March 7 and that it may eventually sign a peace treaty with Israel. The American journalist is in Jerusalem for meetings with Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. He was interviewed on the Kol Israel "News-Reel." In the course of his interview with de Borchgrave, Sadat proposed reopening the Suez Canal within six months if Israeli forces withdraw to a line east of El Arish, a coastal town on the Sinai peninsula about 30 miles from the old Israel-Egyptian frontier. According to de Borchgrave that proposal represented a tacit concession by Sadat that the Gaza Strip and Rafah would remain on the Israeli side of the border. The Newsweek editor made much of the fact that Sadat mentioned the words "peace treaty" twice during their interview. He said the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser had always said he would never sign a peace agreement with Israel. De Borchgrave, who interviewed Nasser for his magazine, compared the two Egyptian leaders. He said he got the impression that Sadat was a much wiser, more thoughtful and more cultured man than Nasser and that he was "firmly in the saddle." According to de Borchgrave, Sadat would never have proposed what he did unless he was confident of his position.

The Newsweek editor said he didn't think hostilities would be renewed on March 7. "My guess is that as there is so much movement right now behind the scenes that Mr. (United Nations Secretary General) U Thant will be able to report to the Security Council that there has been progress which, in turn, would

give President Sadat an opening to say that as there has been progress, they would continue to restrain themselves," he said. He added that he did not think the Egyptians would set any new cease-fire deadlines but would continue to observe the truce as long as progress continued to be made. Israeli circles here took issue with de Borchgrave's optimistic outlook. They said they saw no specific change in Sadat's attitude. They said the Egyptian President had rudely dismissed Premier Meir's counterproposals for re-opening the Suez Canal and they thought his remarks to Newsweek were intended primarily to court American public opinion. One source observed that Sadat's proposals on the Suez Canal in his Newsweek interview, were "tougher and more rigid" than his first proposal to reopen the waterway made before the Egyptian National Assembly two weeks ago. In the interim, they said, he learned of American support of Four Power guarantees which he would favor over any peace agreement and therefore he felt more confident in taking a harder line.

### Housing Plan Aimed At Maintaining Jewish Majority; U.S. Slams Plan As Unilateral

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Housing Minister Zeev Shafar defended the controversial Master Plan for rebuilding East Jerusalem and disputed Mayor Teddy Kollek's authority to revise it. Shafar showed newsmen yesterday blueprints and models of the plan which as been sharply criticized by leading architects from Israel and abroad on grounds that it lacks aesthetic appeal and would destroy the unique character of Jerusalem. Shafar indicated that political considerations, not aesthetics, were the major factor behind the plan, which calls for up to 35,000 units for 122,000 persons. He said that in approving it he was guided by two principles -- to maintain a Jewish majority in what was formerly the Arab section of Jerusalem and to keep the city unified. He claimed that not a single step, from requisitioning the plots to drawing the blueprints, was taken without the concurrence of Mayor Kollek and that if the Mayor dissented, he would bring the matter before the Cabinet. Shafar said that if the Government rejected Mayor Kollek's views, he would introduce a bill in parliament to make the plan legal. Mayor Kollek has contended that the Master Plan was illegal because any construction within Jerusalem's boundaries must conform to the municipality's zoning laws.

(In Washington, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey criticized the housing plan as unacceptable "unilateral action" that "would change the status of the city." The project, he said, "could have an effect, and we have made this clear to the Israelis.") One point of contention is a new suburb, Nebi Samwil, where the Master Plan calls for the construction of high rise dwellings to house a large population. Architects employed by the Housing Ministry have resigned, claiming that such buildings were suitable for the flat area around Tel Aviv but not for Jerusalem's hilly landscape. Shafar said he wanted to settle as many Jews as possible in the new development area in the shortest possible time. He said the plan advanced by the Municipality would allow for an annual inflow of 1500 immigrants which he considered too few. He claimed that Jerusalem should be able to absorb between 10-15 percent of the 50,000 immigrants arriving annually and predicted a population of 275,000 Jews and 90,000 Arabs by 1975.

### Kenen: U.S. Mideast Improved in Past Year; Cries Arms Sale, Credit To Israel

ASBURY PARK, N.J., Feb. 16 (JTA)--The head of a pro-Israel group in Washington said yesterday that the past year has "witnessed a positive improvement in U.S. policy" in the Middle East but warned the American government to "firmly resist" the Soviet-Arab formula of an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories with Four Power guarantees but without a peace treaty. I. L. Kenen, executive vice president of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee addressed an "action seminar" held here by the Poale Zion, the United Labor Zionist Organization of America and the English-Speaking Council of Farband, the Labor Zionist Order. Kenen listed on the positive side the U.S. grant of "Israel's request for arms and credits, enabling Israel to be strong enough to deter her foes." He said that "Washington and Israel have come to recognize that their interests converge." But Kenen warned that "experience has shown that the great powers are not in a position to guarantee a settlement because of their own rivalries." He claimed that "no international guarantee or military force will be needed along the borders between Israel and the Arab states if the Arab states sincerely obligate themselves to Israel to preserve the peace and work with her in cooperation and understanding." Kenen said: "The peace can be won if the U.S. insists on direct Arab-Israeli peace talks and a contractual settlement."

### Hadassah Leader Says Youth Dissatisfaction Understandable But Must Be Tempered

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Mrs. Fay Schenk, President of Hadassah, told delegates at the Hadassah Mid-Winter Conference being held here that "dissatisfaction of youth today is understandable but the impatience which accompanies it must be tempered." The Hadassah leader stated that her organization engages in constructive dialogue with its young people in order to "help them to do the job they have to do off and on the campus, while at the same time we enable them to realize their own Jewish and Zionist fulfillment." Mrs. Schenk also touched upon the "change that has all of us in its grip." She observed that many traditions, rituals and accepted patterns are "being repudiated, if not destroyed," and noted that "articulate young spirits strike out against controls to which they are subjected and which they believe have no relevance to the age in which they live."

Analyzing the type of women who constitute the current membership of Hadassah, Mrs. Schenk told her audience that 87 percent of Hadassah women are in the 20-59 age range; nearly 60 percent have some college background; 70 percent of Hadassah families have incomes of \$10,000 and up, and more than 50 percent of Hadassah families have incomes of more than \$15,000. "Although this is substantially above the national average," Mrs. Schenk declared, "it hardly represents affluence and we must therefore be filled with admiration when we consider Hadassah's high fund raising quotas and results. Let it be known that 96 cents of every dollar collected for our Israel projects goes to Israel." At the close of yesterday's session, the annual Henrietta Szold Award, given to an outstanding humanitarian who perpetuates the tradition of Miss Szold (founder of Hadassah), was presented to Israeli President Zalman Shazar. Presenting the award to President Shazar, former Hadassah President Mrs. Judith Epstein declared: "No man exemplifies the ideals of Henrietta Szold more than President Shazar -- a great scholar and at the same time -- a lover of learning who was nevertheless not a recluse."

## Two More Soviet Jewish Families Arrive In Israel; One Reports Riga Trial Suspended

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA)--A Russian-Jewish family that arrived here from Riga last night reported that no Jews were standing trial in that city. They said the trial of Riga Jews, including Ruth Aleksandrovich, a 23-year-old nurse who was part of a Hebrew studies group, has been suspended and no one knows why. The three Jews from Riga comprised one of two Soviet Jewish families arriving in Israel yesterday. They told newsmen that their 24-year-old son was left behind because he was refused an exit visa. They also reported that another Jewish family, consisting of seven members, three of them physicians, is expected to leave Riga for Israel next week. Lev Hatzarnov, a Moscow Jew, also arrived at Lydda Airport with his wife and five children and his mother. He told newsmen that there was a definite Jewish revival in Russia. He said many young Jews were returning to Judaism and are seeking permission to go to Israel. According to Hatzarnov, adult Jews who were not circumcised in infancy are applying to rabbis to arrange the ceremony. Hatzarnov reported that the Soviet press carried derogatory reports of life in Israel, allegedly from Russian Jews who went there and returned. He said most Soviet Jews regarded this as "cheap propaganda" and did not take it seriously. He said his family was aware of the difficulties of adjusting to life in Israel, adding, "We did not come here for an easy life. We have come to contribute what we can to the State."

## Eban: If Egypt Willing To Discuss Peace Door Open To Discussion Of Other Problems

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night that if Egypt replied affirmatively to Israel's latest move regarding its peace intentions, "a door will be open to the discussion of other problems." Israel demanded to know, in a note sent to Cairo through United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring over a week ago, whether Egypt's stated readiness to make peace with "countries of the region" specifically includes Israel. If the reply is negative, Eban said, "at least we shall know (Cairo's) clear position." There has been no reply so far from the Egyptians. Eban said Israel would continue to wait for an answer and "we see no reason to let any other move divert us from this." He was referring indirectly to the latest move by Jarring which the Israeli Government reportedly feels exceeded the Swedish diplomat's authority under his Security Council mandate. Eban said that at this stage Israel excluded from its concept of a Mideast peace settlement the prospect of diplomatic relations and trade agreements with the Arabs.

However, he said, Israel insists on an Arab declaration ending their conflict with Israel and explicit recognition by the Arabs of Israel's sovereignty, independence and right to exist. Eban said Israel also insists on an end to hostile acts by organizations within the boundaries of the parties to a peace settlement, recognized and secure borders and withdrawal of forces after the borders are fixed. He said the Palestinian refugee problem would have to be solved on both regional and international levels. According to Eban, Israel's idea of a peace settlement is one that will be binding on all successive governments. He said Egypt's refusal so far to specifically mention peace with Israel was at the center of the present deadlock. Eban chided Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for putting a 30-day deadline on the latest cease-fire extension. "Whoever thinks that a conflict of a score of years can be solved within 30 days is not serious in his intentions," Eban said.

## JCA 1971 Budget Includes Aid To Jews In Tunisia, Morocco, Other Activities

LONDON, Feb. 16 (JTA)--The administrative council of the Jewish Colonization Association (JCA) approved a 1971 budget this week that continues aid to the Jewish community remnants in Morocco and Tunisia; includes the customary support for such organizations as the World ORT Union, the Alliance Israelite Universelle, and the scholarship fund for agricultural students in Israel; and provides aid to some 50 Israeli settlements. The JCA's 1971 projects include construction and implementation of the Mikveh, the Israeli agricultural school, and three dormitories for 225 students; aid to the Arava agricultural laboratory and the Rehovot computer and floriculture labs, all part of the Hebrew University; the plant-genetics section of the Weizmann Institute; poultry-farming and vegetable-seeding programs in the Galilee hills; the relocation of emigrants in other countries, and housing funds in Canada, Australia, France, Belgium and Brazil. The JCA will extend the agricultural scope and economic consolidation of 13 moshavim and five kibbutzim in the Galilee, as well as ameliorating, levelling, de-stoning, terracing and irrigating of hitherto unproductive land.

## Egyptians Hit Israelis Along Suez Canal With Israeli Pop Songs

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Egyptians are firing "heavy artillery" at Israeli soldiers along the Suez Canal -- Israeli pop songs. In their loudspeaker broadcasts along the Suez Canal yesterday, the Egyptians played Israeli pop songs before starting their usual daily propaganda lectures. Israeli soldiers are reportedly amused by these broadcasts. One Israeli soldier said grinningly: "We'd rather have songs than shells."

## Nazi War Crime Prober Says Many Involved In Atrocities Free In West Germany

LONDON, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Dr. Adalbert Rueckerl, head of the Central Office for Investigation of Nazi War Crimes in Ludwigsburg, has stated that more than 15,000 people suspected of involvement in Nazi atrocities have never been prosecuted and are still living freely in West Germany, according to reports reaching here from Hamburg. Dr. Rueckerl stated that at the present time, 600 cases are being investigated, but very few seem likely to be brought to court.

## Former SS Member On Trial For Role In Murder Of 1000 Jews

FRANKFURT, Feb. 16 (JTA)--A former member of an SS Extermination Unit, Adolf Strohammer, has gone on trial here for war crimes. He is charged with having participated in the murder of 1000 Jews between the years of 1941 and 1942 in Bialystock and Moghilev.

## Eban In Knesset To Reply To Motions Relating To New Jarring Moves

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban will appear in the Knesset tomorrow to reply to three motions related to the reported new moves by United Nations mediator Gunnar Jarring. The motions were introduced by the Gahal and State List factions after the Knesset Presidium rejected their demand for an urgent debate on the matter.

### Reform Congregation Voting On Issue Of Retaining Rabbi; Synagogue Board Split

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA)—Members of the congregation of Shaaray Tefila here, a leading Reform congregation, were scheduled to vote tonight, at a special meeting, on the issue of retaining Rabbi Philip Schechter, who contends he was dismissed because he tried to "modernize" procedures of the 125-year-old synagogue. The dispute has split the board of the synagogue which voted 14-12 January 31 not to extend his verbal contract, according to the rabbi and Frederick Block, president of the board. Rabbi Schechter did not receive a written contract, at his own request, when he was engaged last July. Two principals in the controversy over the 35-year-old rabbi gave differing versions to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today over key issues in the dispute. Sidney Alexander, a member of the board who opposes Rabbi Schechter's retention, insisted that, under the congregation's by-laws, the board has no authority to dismiss a rabbi and that, contrary to press reports, the board did not so act at a Jan. 31 meeting. Alexander, Block and Rabbi Schechter do agree that the rabbi was voted a leave of absence, with pay, for the rest of the congregation's fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Rabbi Schechter, contending that his opponents on the board have made it impossible for him to carry out his rabbinical functions, accepted the leave of absence. Rabbi Bernard Bamberger has been called out of retirement to serve during the interim period. Alexander also told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that what the board did at the January meeting was to adopt a resolution to consider a request by Rabbi Schechter for immediate consideration on renewing his verbal contract at the end of the first year of his tenure. Rabbi Schechter denied this, citing a letter from Block to him saying that the board voted, 14-12, not to extend his contract beyond the end of the current fiscal year. He said he understood this constituted a dismissal. The 14 to 12 vote, the JTA was told, constituted a rejection of the recommendation of a committee of five leading members named by Block to evaluate the dispute, which voted 3-2 in favor of retaining Rabbi Schechter. Alexander told the JTA the appointment of that committee violated the by-laws but he agreed to it in the interests of avoiding a public controversy.

Alexander's insistence that the board did not dismiss Rabbi Schechter apparently is a matter of terminology to some degree. Apart from the Alexander statement that the board did not act on dismissal and Block's notification to Rabbi Schechter that it had voted not to renew, technically Alexander was correct in saying that the board did not fire the rabbi, since he is on paid leave-of-absence status for the rest of his year. But the resolution scheduled for a congregational vote tonight calls on the board to reverse its decision of Jan. 31, which Block notified Rabbi Schechter meant he was not getting a renewal of his verbal contract as rabbi. There was disagreement also as to what would happen tonight if the congregation votes to ask the board to renew Rabbi Schechter's status. Alexander says that under the congregation's by-laws, the board can only recommend and that, in accordance with the New York State Religious Corporation Law, only the congregation can hire and fire. Rabbi Schechter said there is a by-law clause which holds that a rabbi cannot be removed by the congregation without approval from the board. However, a vote of approval for retention of Rabbi Schechter for the next congregational year by the congregation tonight, if rejected by the board at its regular meeting tomorrow night, appeared to raise an issue of conflict with the state law, the JTA was told.

### Rigerman And Mother Due To Arrive In U.S. Saturday; U.S. Claims Diplomatic Victory

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 16 (JTA)—Leonid Rigerman and his elderly mother will arrive in New York on Saturday night, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today. Their departure from the Soviet Union after months of diplomatic infighting represents a victory over Kremlin claims that they are Soviet subjects. (In New York the Rigmans' attorney, Daniel Greer, said they would leave Moscow Saturday and arrive here at Kennedy Airport via Pan American at 10 p.m. He said he had spoken to them by phone yesterday, and that Mrs. Esther Rigerman had been more than overjoyed at the impending journey and her son said he looked forward to "seeing my American friends.")

### JDL Head Arrested On Charges Of Harassment; Moratorium On Harassment Lifted

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (JTA)—Rabbi Meir Kahane, National Chairman of the Jewish Defense League, was arrested last night on charges of harassment and verbal abuse, as the JDL resumed its harassment tactics of Russian diplomats which had been suspended last month. Rabbi Kahane's arrest followed a formal complaint filed with the police by Vladimir Federov, the second secretary of the Soviet Mission, who charged Rabbi Kahane with verbal abuse. Rabbi Kahane was released by police after being issued a summons on the charges and is scheduled to appear in Manhattan Criminal Court on March 2nd to answer charges. JDL Executive Director Lawrence Fine said that all Russian diplomats who emerge from the Soviet Mission will be followed by squads of JDL members in what Fine termed "legal harassment." He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the harassment will continue on a daily basis. The resumption of harassment tactics of Russian officials follows the announcement Sunday night by Rabbi Kahane that the group's moratorium, begun January 19, was ended. Speaking before an audience of 400 persons who gathered at Hunter College to protest Soviet anti-Semitism, Rabbi Kahane declared: "The moratorium is over!" Fine explained that the moratorium had been ended because "We gave the Jewish Establishment a chance to 'do their thing' for Soviet Jewry and saw no response. We feel that the threat to Soviet Jewry is as real as ever and the increasing danger of physical oppression to our Jewish brethren behooves us and obligates us as Jews to respond to their needs," he said.

### \$2000 Fund For Hebrew Language Program Established At University Of Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, Feb. 16 (JTA)—Dr. Louis Zucker, University of Utah professor emeritus of English, has established a \$2,000 fund for the Hebrew Language Program, to be awarded to outstanding students of Hebrew at the University of Utah. Two annual prizes — The Louis Zucker Prize in Hebrew and the Ethel Zucker Prize in Hebrew — will be awarded to students adjudged the outstanding first and second year scholars in Hebrew. The purpose of the prizes, according to Dr. Zucker, is to help promote "the knowledge of the Jewish experience in its historical length and breadth and of the various forms of expression of the Jewish genius." Dr. Zucker taught at the U. of Utah since 1928, becoming professor emeritus of English in 1963. He has continued to teach Judaics since then. Dr. Zucker earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. degree in 1928 at the University of Wisconsin.