

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Belgian Foreign Minister Rejects Soviet Protest Against Brussels Conference

BRUSSELS, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Undercurrents of tension were felt here today on the eve of the opening of the world conference on Soviet Jewry and a counter-meeting here tonight, sponsored by the Belgian-Soviet Friendship Society. Moscow regards the conference as an anti-Soviet provocation and protested formally to the Belgian government. Foreign Minister Pierre Harmel summoned the Soviet Ambassador this morning and handed him his government's reply. According to a communique issued afterwards, Harmel pointed out to the Soviet envoy that the conference was organized by a private body which assured the Belgian government that it would respect its hospitality. He said his government was not interfering and did not expect the event to harm its relations with the USSR. (In Washington today, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey refused to comment when he was asked at a press briefing if the United States supported the Belgian government's rejection of the Soviet protest.) The conference presidium held a press conference here today at which its spokesman denied that the gathering was anti-Soviet or a "cold war" conference as charged by Soviet officials. They said they had not been aware that the opening coincided with Red Army Day in Russia. Col. Gen. David Dragunsky, the highest ranking Jew in the Soviet Army who heads a delegation to the Belgian-Soviet counter-meeting here, had accused the conference organizers of insulting the Russian people by scheduling the event on Red Army Day.

The conference opens tomorrow and will run through Feb. 26. Claude Kelman of Paris, chairman of the conference presidium said "the Soviet attempt at intimidation was doomed to failure." The conference spokesman told newsmen that the purpose of the gathering was to "coordinate efforts on behalf of Russian Jewry, over three million people suffering discrimination and disability." The spokesman criticized Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress for a statement attributed to him in which he allegedly said the plight of Soviet Jews had been over-valued and over-dramatized. (The full text of Dr. Goldmann's alleged statement was not immediately available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York today.) The conference spokesman denied that an invitation to attend had been sent to Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the Jewish Defense League in the U.S. They said Kahane was not expected here and observed that his presence would be irrelevant because his organization is outside the mainstream of American Jewry and is not recognized by official Jewish bodies. A spokesman for the conference said that the members of the Russian delegation headed by Dragunsky had been invited to the conference or would be permitted to attend any of its sessions, even if a request was made. He claimed that the Dragunsky group "by no stretch of the imagination" could be considered representative of Soviet Jewry and that to have any of them at the conference would be a "grave insult" to Soviet Jews.

Gen. Dragunsky was apparently unaware that the conference was organized entirely by Jews and would be attended only by Jews. He told a press conference yesterday that the conference organizers had "not defended the Jews during World War II," (The Israeli delegation left for Brussels today. It included Maj. Grischa Feigin, a former Soviet Air Force officer, who emigrated to Israel a week ago and now carries an Israeli passport. Feigin denounced the Dragunsky group. He said of the General, "He is forced to spit on his kinsmen. I can only have much pity for him.") The Conference reported yesterday that it has received a message from Prof. Vladimir Jankeleitch, of the Sorbonne in Paris who is a veteran member of the Franco-Soviet Friendship League. Although a self-proclaimed friend of the Soviet Union, Jankeleitch reportedly wrote that he hoped the conference would convince the Kremlin that there "were Soviet Jews who did not consider themselves Russians and who would like to live outside the Soviet Union." The message continued, "I find it impossible to understand how the liberators of Auschwitz who played such a powerful part in the destruction of Nazism, can now condemn Jews simply because they want to go to Israel."

## State Department Reserving Comment On Israel's Reply To Egypt's Latest Note

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman said today that the U.S. "for the present" was "reserving comment" on the Israel government's statement of yesterday replying to Egypt's latest note. Robert J. McCloskey told newsmen, "We will not have any comment on the Israel Cabinet's communique. We want to be guided in our judgements by Israel's reply directly to Jarring whenever they do so." McCloskey also refused to say "one way or another" whether the latest Egyptian note offering to make peace with Israel coincided with the American view. A State Department source said later that in the absence of Israel's direct reply to Egypt through Jarring, "We would not want to assert ourselves publicly what our judgement is." The source said, however, that it was likely that Israel's reply would be more detailed than yesterday's Cabinet communique.

## Mrs. Meir: Israel's Relations With U.S. Will Be Paramount In Next Few Weeks

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir told a closed meeting of the Labor Alignment's political committee last night that in the next few weeks the question of Israel's relations with the United States would become paramount. Mrs. Meir was referring to the American position on future borders, embodied in the Rogers Plan which Israel has rejected. The plan called for an Israeli withdrawal to its pre-June, 1967 boundaries with only minor alterations of frontiers. The American position has been the main pre-occupation of Israel's leadership since the U.S. strongly backed United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring's latest peace moves which Israel regards as conforming closely to the Rogers Plan. Mrs. Meir told the members of the Labor Party-Mapam alignment that Washington was well aware of Israel's position and attitude towards various problems. "They know we do not accept the Rogers Plan," she said, adding that the next few weeks would be crucial in her government's relations with the U.S. With the exception of Mapam leader Meir Yaari, the committee members agreed unanimously that there

was no need at this juncture for Israel to draw up maps. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned a week ago and reported at the time that an Israeli "senior security person" was in charge of a special team drawing up a map that would indicate what Israel regards as its minimum security frontiers. The report said the map would be on hand whenever the subject of boundaries should come up during the Jarring talks. (Time magazine claimed today that it had learned from "highly placed sources" that maps indicating proposed future borders are now being drawn up by Israel.) The committee members were briefed on reported plans for an international peace-keeping force at the Sharm el-Sheikh strong-point at the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula. They were told that the Soviet Union favored a force there for five years after which the Security Council would decide whether the international presence should be extended for an additional period. The United States was reported to favor an international force with no time limit and its withdrawal subject to Security Council decision. Some of Mrs. Meir's colleagues reportedly expressed the opinion that Egypt's apparent willingness to make peace was a "tactical trick" but agreed that Israel could not afford to appear to be rigid and uncompromising.

#### AFL-CIO Body Reaffirms Solidarity With Israel; Urges Emigration For Soviet Jews

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 22 (JTA)--The executive council of the AFL-CIO meeting here this week adopted a resolution that stressed the important role of the United States in guaranteeing world peace. The top echelons of American labor warned that Soviet intervention in the Middle East was against the American policy of peace and freedom and that "the AFL-CIO reaffirms its wholehearted solidarity with Israel and its labor federation, Histadrut. We urge our government to give Israel full diplomatic, political and economic support in her efforts to secure a just peace settlement." A second resolution on the right of Jews to leave the Soviet Union demanded that Jews be allowed to exercise their rights to leave for Israel and other lands.

#### Israel Concludes \$52 Million Credit Agreement With U.S. For Surplus Food

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Deputy Finance Minister Zebi Dinstein told the Knesset today that Israel's foreign trade deficit would total \$1.460 billion by the end of this year and that the country's foreign debt would reach the unprecedented amount of \$1125 per capita. He said that due mainly to recent American loans Israel was able to maintain its foreign currency reserves. Dinstein disclosed that in the last few days Israel has concluded a \$52 million credit agreement with the U.S. for the purchase of surplus foods and was expecting approval of a new \$35 million loan from the American Export-Import Bank. These monies are apart from the \$500 million credit extended to Israel by the U.S. last year for military purchases. Dinstein said Treasury experts forecast a slowdown in the growth of Israel's imports this year because of reduced defense needs. He said imports increased by \$340 million last year but are expected to rise by only \$30 million this year. He said the government might consider raising the price of fuel 20 percent in order to reduce consumption and further reduce imports. He said more than a score of millions of gallons were saved by concluding long range contracts for the transportation of oil by sea. Dinstein said the Eilat-Ashkelon oil pipeline was already yielding considerable income in foreign currency and was turning Israel into a "not insignificant factor" in the world's oil business.

#### Moro Going To Israel To Discuss Mideast, Common Market; Nenni To Visit Israel

ROME, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Aldo Moro and Senator Pietro Nenni are scheduled to make separate visits to Israel within the next few weeks. Moro's four-day visit early next month is in response to an invitation extended to him by Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban when he was in Italy last year. Nenni, founder and until recently leader of the Socialist Party, will be in Israel for a short tour. According to sources in the Foreign Ministry, Moro's visit will involve discussions with Israeli officials about the Middle East and talks on problems relating to the European Common Market. Foreign Ministry circles stressed that Italy "has a vital interest in the equilibrium in the Mediterranean." Moro will be the third Foreign Minister from a Common Market country to visit Israel recently, following those of Luxemburg and the Netherlands. Those of Belgium and West Germany are expected subsequently. Only the French Foreign Minister has avoided visiting Israel. Nenni, a Senator for life, has long been a friend of Israel, and has often expressed solidarity with the "second democratic Mediterranean country."

#### Renewal Of Franco-Israel Trade Agreement Begins; May Extend To Industrial Sphere

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--A French economic mission arrived here today to negotiate the renewal of the Franco-Israel trade agreement signed in 1953. The agreement has been renewed automatically every year. But the discussions to open here tomorrow will cover its possible expansion to the industrial sphere. The delegation is headed by C. Colin of the French Ministry of Economics and Finance. The Israeli negotiating team is headed by Ephraim Haran, director of the economic division of the Foreign Ministry.

#### Top Israeli Leaders To Help Raise \$200 Million For Keren Hayesod 1971-72 Campaign

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Israel is sending some of its top leaders abroad to help raise \$200 million in 27 countries for the 1971-72 Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal campaign. Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Keren Hayesod, the World-Zionist movement's fiscal arm, said that 10 Cabinet ministers, six Knesset members, eight senior Army officers and three Israeli Ambassadors will be campaigning for more money for Israel during the next three months. Keren Hayesod raises funds in 71 countries outside of the United States and Canada where the United Jewish Appeal is the major fund-raising agency. According to Dr. Goldstein, the 1971-72 campaign goal is more than double the sum collected last year and is part of a world-wide drive to collect \$1 billion from Jews through voluntary contributions and bond sales to meet Israel's humanitarian needs. He said 50 prominent Israelis will go abroad, among them former Premier David Ben-Gurion who will speak in Brussels this week at the world conference for Soviet Jewry. Dr. Goldstein said that other Israeli emissaries will include three male soldiers and three women soldiers representing all branches and ranks of Israel's armed forces. He said Baron Edmond de Rothschild of Paris will tour Latin America this summer on behalf of the Keren Hayesod campaign.

### Israeli Reply To Egypt Being Drafted; Will Be Conveyed To Cairo Through Jarring

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban are drafting Israel's reply to the latest Egyptian note which will be conveyed to Cairo through United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring, political sources disclosed today. They said the reply would "relate to specific issues contained in the Security Council Resolution 242" of Nov. 22, 1967 and that the drafting is expected to take several days. There was no indication when the Israeli note would be presented to Jarring. Foreign Ministry sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Israel was not seriously concerned by Egypt's prompt rejection of yesterday's Cabinet statement. The sources said the Egyptians still found it necessary "to speak in two different tongues," for home consumption and foreign consumption, but that this "would not be fatal for the future of the Jarring talks." Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported yesterday that an "official" source had labeled the Israeli statement "a clear and categorical rejection." But the Foreign Ministry source told JTA, "We are confident that wiser counsels will prevail (in Cairo) and are optimistic." The source observed that "two serious hurdles to peace have been cleared: Egypt's expression of willingness to make peace and Israel's willingness to pronounce the word 'withdrawal.' We hope the rest will follow," the source said.

According to authoritative circles here, yesterday's Cabinet pronouncement that Israel will not return to its pre-Six-Day War boundaries should not be taken as a juridical pre-condition to peace negotiations. The circles said that if Egypt insisted that Israel abrogate that position, no negotiations could take place but in the course of negotiations, Egypt will be free to raise its own views regarding frontiers. The circles said that what Israel refuses to agree to is that Egypt should draw the peace map in advance of talks. For that reason, the "no return" clause was deliberately inserted into the Cabinet statement which otherwise could have been misinterpreted as meaning that Israel had relinquished one of its basic positions. The circles said that the reply presently being drafted by Israel will be specific, but will not deal with future borders. Most Israeli newspapers commented favorably on yesterday's Cabinet statement. The consensus of opinion was that the statement clearly put the burden on Egypt to proceed toward a peace settlement and convinced world opinion of Israel's desire for peace. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to Washington, declined to answer any questions asked by newsmen on his departure today from Israel to return to Washington. "I came, I reported and I participated in the government meeting yesterday," was all he said as he left.

### Terrorist Activities Increase In Golan Heights, Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Terrorist activities increased this weekend in the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip. In one of these terrorist attacks a Syrian regular soldier was captured by an Israeli patrol. Early this morning a number of bazooka shells were fired from the Syrian line on an Israeli position in the Golan Heights. A United Nations observers position on the Heights was hit last night by mortar shells. During the afternoon, shells were fired at an Israeli patrol at the Boukaata region in the southern area of the Heights and shells exploded near the Ramat settlement in the upper Golan region. There were no Israeli casualties in any of these incidents. A woman officer of the Israeli Army was hospitalized today for wounds she sustained when shots were fired at an Army vehicle from an orange grove on the outskirts of Gaza. A search was carried out for the terrorists. Increasing sabotage in the Gaza Strip was the subject of discussion today between Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar-Lev and officers of the Gaza Strip command. Gen. Bar-Lev was accompanied by Gen. Aric Sharon, commander of the Southern Region.

A three-year-old Arab girl from Lebanon, identified as Tissan, was returned today. The youngster strayed across the border into Israel while picking flowers and was found by Israeli soldiers. She spent the night at Rosh Hanikra kibbutz near the border and was sent home today with new clothes and gifts from soldiers and kibbutz members. She was handed over to Lebanese authorities with "full ceremonies" at the border post, under the supervision of the Red Cross. Early yesterday afternoon a group of terrorists opened fire on an Israeli position in the Golan Heights and Israelis returned the fire. Three terrorists were killed and one was captured. In two incidents on Friday and Saturday, six Arab saboteurs were killed and another injured and captured. The captured Arab turned out to be a soldier of the Syrian Army. The Syrians were notified of his capture through the Red Cross office.

### Soviet Mideast Policy And Anti-Semitism Linked, Says Italian Political Leader

ROME, Feb. 22 (JTA)--A leader of the Italian Republican Party chided Italy's powerful Communist Party for refusing to acknowledge the connection between Moscow's Middle East policy and anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. On one hand the Italian Communists praise Soviet anti-Israel penetration into the Middle East and on the other hand they protest against the Leningrad trial and sentences. Ugo Lamalfa, secretary of the Republican Party, said in an interview published in the Bulletin of the Rome Jewish Community. "There is not much sense in denouncing the Leningrad trial without asking why anti-Semitism is a recurrent phenomenon in the USSR and thus a structural part of the Soviet regime," Lamalfa said. "There is doubtless a connection between the anti-Israel policy of Moscow and the internal anti-Semitism. The battle to encircle Israel and defeat it politically stirs Russian Jews to solidarity with Israel and this is then used as a pretext for further repression by the regime," Lamalfa said. He conceded that his party represents only about three percent of the Italian electorate but said that its friendship toward Israel was shared by the Italian government. According to Lamalfa, Italy views efforts to destroy Israel as not only morally reprehensible but an attempt to alter the balance of power in the Mediterranean.

### Report Russia Supplying Syria With SAM-2, SAM-3 Missiles

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Reports published in Lebanese papers indicate that Russia has begun supplying Syria with Russian-made SAM-2 missiles batteries. Israeli political observers have suggested that this new arrangement may have resulted from Syrian leader General Hafez Assad's recent trip to Moscow. According to the reports, Russia has also supplied the Syrians with SAM-6s, but Israeli political circles expressed doubts as to the veracity of this statement.

