

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. XXXVII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Thursday, March 4, 1971

No. 43

Israel Considering Curtailment Of Its Quiet Diplomacy Policy

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA)--A very authoritative source in the Foreign Ministry said tonight that Israel was considering the curtailment of its policy of "quiet diplomacy" in the Middle East negotiations. "Everybody talks," he complained. "Everybody shows everybody else the contents of the notes exchanged between Israel and Egypt." The source complained further that Israel's Feb. 21 response to Egypt's Feb. 15 note was by no means as negative as some countries have charged. In that response Israel ruled out total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. If that is the point over which there have been objections, the Foreign Ministry source said, it should be recalled that even the United States, in the Dec. 9, 1969, Rogers plan, declared that border changes must be minor. The source also asked why Egypt's statement--agreeing to a peace pact with Israel in return for total withdrawal--should be considered positive.

Chief Rabbi Of France Awarded City Of Paris Medal For Distinguished Service

PARIS, March 3 (JTA)--The Chief Rabbi of France, Dr. Jacob Kaplan, was awarded the City of Paris medal for distinguished services to Paris, its civilization and culture. The presentation was made at City Hall by Didier Delfour, president of the Municipal Council, who traced Dr. Kaplan's career from his wounding in the Battle of Verdun in 1916. The large audience of notables included Baron Alain de Rothschild, president of the French Central Consistory, and Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan.

Soviets Appear To Have Been Thwarted In Effort To Move Up Big Four Meeting

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 3 (JTA)--The Soviet Union appears to have been thwarted in its efforts to persuade the United States to agree to a Big Four ambassadors' meeting before the one formally scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. By late this afternoon there was no indication that a Four Power meeting would be advanced. Observers here noted that unless a Big Four meeting is suddenly called for this evening, the United States has succeeded in "showing" the Soviet Union that it will not be pressured into any untoward move that might jeopardize the talks at this stage. The USSR, supporting Britain and France, has been pressing for such an advance meeting since last Friday. Meanwhile, Secretary General Thant has not decided whether to submit another Mideast report to the Security Council before the cease-fire extension runs out Sunday.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman confirmed that the new American ambassador, George Bush, had met with Mideast negotiator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring since arriving at the UN on Monday. But the spokesman declined to say when they had met. Bush, who conferred with Thant yesterday morning, also saw him last night, telling newsmen afterwards that they had discussed "procedural" matters. Bush had a get-acquainted meeting today with Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, at which the latter outlined Israel's position on a Mideast solution. (In Washington today, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey declined comment on all questions pertaining to the Mideast.)

'Black Panther' Group Emerges In Israel; Stage Rally Protesting Poverty, Arrests

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA)--Israeli authorities are discovering that they have a "Black Panther" problem on their hands. A group adopting the name and style of the militant Negro extremist organization in the United States, has been staging disorderly demonstrations. They claim to fight for the rights of the under-privileged. But their main support comes from Matzpen, a tiny but highly articulate extreme Left group which is bitterly anti-Zionist and anti-Israel. Twelve self-styled "Black Panthers" were arrested here yesterday for unlawful demonstrations. This afternoon, after securing a police permit, about 200 members of Matzpen and "Black Panther" members staged an orderly demonstration in front of City Hall then moved on to the Jerusalem District Police Headquarters. They shouted slogans protesting their poverty and demanded the release of their 12 members. A delegation of demonstrators, including the writers Dan Ben Amotz and Amos Kenan, were received by the District police commander who told them that the 12 were being questioned and would not be held longer than necessary and permitted under the law. The backing by Matzpen of the "Black Panthers," indicates political aims. Matzpen subscribes to the philosophy of Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the most extreme of all Arab terrorist groups, which demands the dismemberment of Israel in favor of a Palestinian state based on Maoist-Marxist principles. Matzpen is believed to have little more than 100 members. Its main support is found among high school and university students.

The "Panther" problem surfaced as charges were made in the Knesset and by Mayor Teddy Kollek yesterday that television teams were paying slum quarter youths to stage "violent demonstrations" for the benefit of tv cameras. Mayor Kollek informed the Police Ministry and Director General Shmuel Almog of the Israel Broadcasting Authority that he had signed statements proving that tv teams making a documentary film on juvenile delinquency had paid youngsters \$2.45 an hour for taking part in staged demonstrations. He said the youths were transported in Broadcast Authority vehicles to the demonstration sites. The Authority has started an investigation. Kollek claimed further that a tv team entered the Remez Youth Club in the Musrara quarter, a Jerusalem slum, to try to get the members to stage disorders that were to be attributed to the "Black Panthers." Similar accusations in the Knesset were made by Rabbi Menachem Porush of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel faction. Police Minister Shlomo Hillel told a Knesset committee that Israel need not fear the emergence of organized crime on Mafia lines, and warned that the dangers of juvenile delinquency could not be solved by police action alone.

Former High Official Contends Israel Stalling On Negotiations Until 1972

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA)--A former high ranking State Department official who had served for many years in the Middle East, said yesterday at a background briefing for foreign newsmen sponsored by the United States Information Agency, that Israel's strategy may be to delay the current negotiations and "wait it out until 1972" because they evidently feel they can do better with Democrats in power in the U.S. The speaker, who under the briefing agreement, can only be identified as a "former American official with substantial experience in Middle East affairs" declared that "a point of great contention" between the U.S. and Israel is Secretary of State Rogers' proposal for "insubstantial changes" in Arab-Israel borders. He said that based on the past "the Israelis feel they can expect more from Democrats than from Republicans" and they may be prepared to wait out the negotiations in order to get away from the "insubstantial" border changes.

When reminded by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent that the passage of the \$500 million line of credit to Israel last December was approved by the Senate by a bi-partisan vote of 87 to 7, with several Democratic leaders opposing the motion, the speaker replied "one should not draw the conclusion that the Democratic Party would take a position one way or another." In what was evidently a "trial balloon" for the government, the former official suggested the possibility of arranging for Turkey and Iran to participate in the Jarring negotiations as nations more sensitive to the needs of the area than the Big Four. He also suggested the demilitarization of the Golan heights, and the presence of United Nations forces in the areas of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Sinai with powers to resist invasion and under Security Council orders. He proposed that Israel control West Jerusalem, that a "Palestinian nation" be set up in the Gaza and West Bank areas with sovereignty over East Jerusalem, and that the Holy Places be placed under international control. Under this plan the residents of Israel and Palestine would be permitted to "intermingle" freely.

It would bring peace and stability to the area, he explained if, for example, a Palestinian businessman could have his business in Israel and live in the West Bank and an Israeli could do business in Palestine and live in Israel. The former official retired from the State Department 18 months ago. But it is known he gave a similar "closed door" briefing at the State Department to members of the American Foreign Service Association four months ago. Observers familiar with the problems of the Middle East and the solutions advanced said that much of the former official's views were "not inconsistent" with the proposals set forth by Secretary Rogers in December, 1969, which President Nixon had reaffirmed in his report to Congress on the nation's foreign policy last week. A State Department spokesman today vigorously denied that the briefing had been cleared in advance with the Department. "We had nothing to do with it," he said. The briefer had, however, been officially invited by Robert Bauer, director of the USIA Foreign Correspondents Center in Washington.

Yugoslav Premier Says His Government Differs With Soviets On Mideast

PARIS, March 3 (JTA)--Premier Mitja Ribicic of Yugoslavia indicated here today that there were differences between the Tito government's views on the Middle East and those of the Soviet government. But he declined to indicate the differences. Ribicic, making an official visit to France, spoke on a television interview. He appealed to the French government to use its influence toward achieving a Mid-east solution.

Israel Begins Diplomatic Contacts With Security Council Members To Forestall Meeting

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry announced today that Israel has begun a round of diplomatic contacts with member nations of the United Nations Security Council. Most observers believe it is an attempt to forestall a Soviet move to convene the Security Council in order to pressure Israel to backtrack from its refusal to return to the pre-June, 1967 borders. The first contact took place yesterday when Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban met with the United States Charge d'Affaires, Owen Zurhellen. Eban received the Belgian Ambassador, today and will meet tomorrow with the Japanese Ambassador and the Argentine Ambassador. The Italian Foreign Minister, Aldo Moro, is due here tomorrow on an official visit. Eban is scheduled to meet with the Italian Ambassador in the next few days. (In Washington, the Nixon administration has imposed silence on official dealing in the Middle East because of the delicate state of the Jarring talks. Some diplomatic sources said that Israel's refusal to withdraw completely from the Sinai was not entirely inflexible. They said the issue could be negotiated provided that Egypt satisfied Israel by making its demand for total withdrawal a "negotiating position" rather than a pre-condition.)

Israel Galili, a member of Premier Golda Meir's "inner circle," disclosed last night that Mrs. Meir recently indicated Israel's willingness to consider an "interim solution"--no peace and no war. He said he would not rule out the possibility that a deadlock in the Jarring talks might cause this subject to emerge again in the future. Galili, a Minister-Without-Portfolio in the Cabinet, told members of the Labor Alignment Knesset faction that Israeli leaders have made it clear in Washington what is the basic elements of Israeli policy on territorial matters. Nevertheless, he said, the U.S. has expressed dissatisfaction with the latest Israeli note sent by Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yosef Tekoah, through UN mediator Gunnar Jarring. He said Israel was presently involved in a "strenuous argument" with the U.S. Egypt, on the other hand, for all of its display of dissatisfaction with the Israeli note has not said that it would quit the Jarring talks, Galili observed. The Knesset house committee last night rejected an appeal by the Gahal opposition faction against a presidium decision not to debate President Nixon's State of the World message.

Australian Government Rejects Commercial Airline Connections With Israel

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA)--The Australian Government has turned down all proposals for the establishment of commercial airline connections with Israel that have been advanced so far but they are still willing to negotiate, according to two Israeli aviation officials who returned from Canberra. Naftali Ben Yehuda, head of Israel's Civil Aviation Department and Yerahmiel Shrem, deputy director general for commercial affairs of El Al, said a second round of negotiations with the Australians would begin in about two months.

Drivers Urged To Keep Lights On During Purim For Soviet Jews Who Live In Darkness

NEW YORK, March 3 (JTA)--In an attempt to "make this lively little holiday come alive," the rabbis of Yonkers, N.Y., are urging Americans, both Jews and non-Jews, to keep their automobile lights on during next Wednesday's Fast of Esther "for those who dwell in darkness"--Soviet Jews--Rabbi Harry Bolensky of Midchester Temple told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The Orthodox rabbi explained: "Purim is the natural vehicle for this type of thing. Purim is not just the story of Haman. The Talmud understood that anti-Semitism would be a continuous phenomenon." Rabbi Bolensky said the idea for the lights-on demonstration had been suggested by a member of his congregation, Dr. Leonard Solon, a nuclear physicist and pioneer in laser development. Also next Wednesday, Yonkers children will solicit money for the relief of Soviet Jews and will participate in a poster contest geared to the issue of Soviet Jews' rights.

No Confirmation That 24-30 Soviet Jews Given Permission To Emigrate

NEW YORK, March 3 (JTA)--There was no confirmation late this afternoon to reports from Moscow yesterday that two dozen or more Soviet Jewish activists had been granted emigration permission to rid the Kremlin of its most persistent gadflies on the issue. The reports put the number of Jews involved at 24 to 30. They reportedly had sat-in at the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet last Wednesday and again on Monday of this week, petitioning for exit visas and demanding to know why they were not more readily available. Reportedly, a delegation of six talked with a high Soviet official and were told by him that permits were waiting for them at the OVIR, the office of visas and registrations. Meanwhile, 17 Soviet Jews have written to the chief of the Interior Ministry, Nikolai V. Shchelokov, charging that "Soviet Jews who have been subjected to insults, beatings...threats of physical reprisal...threatening telephone calls and loud knocks on the door..." The writers demanded "effective measures" against these "provocations," or else "we will be compelled to defend our lives and human dignity ourselves."

The Israeli Consulate made available today the text of the lengthy petition from 1,185 Soviet Jewish families totaling 4,056 persons that Ambassador Yosef Tekoah and a recent Soviet emigre, Mrs. Alla Rusinek, presented to United Nations Secretary General U Thant on Feb. 24. The writers complained that they were "at the mercy of arbitrariness and of lawlessness...groundlessly subjected to oppression and persecution, and not because we have committed any crime." They continued: "The only thing that we are 'guilty' of is of wanting to emigrate to the State of Israel. All of us have relatives and kin in Israel and we wish to reunite with them. We wish to live in our State, in the land of our ancestors, and to be with our own people which, after 2,000 years of wandering, suffering, oppression and homelessness, has at last attained its own homeland in the ancient land of the Jews." The writers are from Georgian SSR, Latvia, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Moldavia, Rumania, Transylvania, Leningrad, Moscow, the Ural Mountains and Siberia. Their petition was also sent to the UN's Commission on Human Rights, the governments of the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Japan, and European newspapers.

Crash Program To Construct Housing In East Jerusalem; New Housing In Tel Aviv Suburb

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA)--Housing Minister Zeev Sharef said last night that Israel would embark on a crash program to construct housing units in East Jerusalem, the sector formally occupied by Jordan. He said on a radio interview that his Ministry would spend \$42 million, 15 percent of its total budget. He said the construction of 2,300 housing units would commence immediately and that rate of construction would be maintained for the next two years, if possible, without dislocating the overstrained building labor market. Sharef said that pre-fabrication would be extensive. Entire kitchen and toilet units will be produced in factories and assembled on the building sites. Asked about esthetics, a sore point among critics of the project, Sharef replied that he was no expert. But he said his Ministry was searching for the best possible architects and was willing to amend its plans in accordance with the recommendations of competent planners. A new residential quarter in the Ramat Gan suburb of Tel Aviv, will be built by the Litur Co., a firm controlled by the Ottawa investor Isaac Levin, it was announced today. It will be called Kiryat Krintzki in honor of the late Mayor of Ramat Gan, Abraham Krintzki. The quarter will contain 350 housing units. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held today.

Need To Close Ranks In Face Of Threats Also Tends To Soften Generation Gap

NEW YORK, March 3 (JTA)--There is no generation gap in Israel primarily because of the need for all Israelis to close ranks in the face of threats to their survival, a review by the American Jewish Committee asserts. The report, issued here today, was compiled by Dr. M. Bernard Resnikoff, director of the Jerusalem office of the American Jewish Committee. The dangers that all Israelis face, because of their security situation, forges a strong bond of national unity, the report declares. "The prevailing feeling is that Israeli society cannot afford the luxury of protest demonstrations, 'dropping out' or 'turning on.'" As long as the country is encircled by hostile neighbors and must marshal all of its available resources, both human and material, in a continuing struggle for existence, it is unlikely that any deep division will develop between the younger and older generations." Contrary to the situation in this country, accusations of lack of idealism are made by oldtimers in Israel against the younger generation, Dr. Resnikoff continues. "The fact that the older generation in Israel is composed of people who were great revolutionaries in their youth and who because of historical circumstances surrounding Israel's existence have clung to their idealism, makes the confrontation between the generations somewhat unique."

Turning to other focusses of youth unrest in some parts of the world, such as the military-industrial complex and resentment of the "establishment," the report declares that much of this terminology "is meaningless in the Israeli context." "This does not mean, however, that the young generation sees eye-to-eye with the oldtimers on everything, and that there are no differences in norms and styles. In virtually all of the political parties, in government offices, in universities, and elsewhere, one can distinguish between the 'old guard' and the 'young Turks,'" Dr. Resnikoff observed. The latter call for re-evaluation of long-accepted doctrines, introduction of new concepts and methods and procedures.

