

JTA daily news bulletin

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JTA Begins Expansion With Announcement Of European And Mideast Bureaus

PARIS, July 5 (JTA)-- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency's current program of reorganization and expansion was officially launched here today by JTA president Robert H. Arnow who announced the opening of the Agency's European and Mideastern bureaus. Arnow made his announcement at an inaugural luncheon which was addressed by the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Senate as well as representatives of the American and Israeli embassies in Paris. The JTA President stressed in his opening remarks the important role which JTA can play as "an objective and balanced news agency" which has a "basic role to fill in the Jewish world today." Arnow stressed that JTA is in no way whatsoever the voice of Israel. He described the JTA as "a free agent that must act according to its own conscience, make its own decisions and bear the responsibility for any blunders which it may commit."

At the luncheon, the JTA president announced that the European bureau in Paris, which will be headed by Edwin Bytan, and the Mideastern bureau in Jerusalem, headed by Amos Ben Vored, will start operating within the next fortnight. He noted that JTA does not intend to compete with other news media on major breaking stories but can usefully serve non-Jewish and Jewish publications and the Jewish people throughout the world by reporting on communal activities and problems of the Jewish people. The JTA president also noted that the JTA news service goes to such diverse elements as the various world governments and even to subscribers in Arab countries. Arnow said that not only is JTA fully independent and autonomous "but sometimes we are even critical of official Israeli positions."

The President of the French Senate's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Andre Montell, stressed objectivity as JTA's first quality. He said that objectivity is not incompatible with sentimental belonging but stressed that JTA has to continue on its present path as "a precise and highly exact information media."

Montell expressed satisfaction at the fact that JTA had chosen Paris as the headquarters for its European Bureau. "This is fitting tribute to both French culture and to the value of its Jewish community," he said. He concluded by paying tribute to Israel's struggle for independence and security and reassured that its needs will best be served by the existence of a "free and fully independent Jewish news agency."

A representative of the American Embassy in Paris, Press Councillor John Trattner, wished the JTA success in its new endeavors. "For us as Americans, it is a pleasure and a privilege to have a new major American information media appear upon the scene," he said. A representative of the Israeli Embassy, Information Councillor Ephraim Tari, conveyed the good wishes of the Israeli Ambassador in Paris Asher Ben-Natan. The luncheon, attended by about 120 representatives of the French and Jewish press, was also addressed by the chairman of the London Committee of the JTA, Michael Sacher, who told the gathering that the JTA adds to the totality of information about the Jewish people and also serves to explain Israel to the world at large. "The role of JTA is to provide the kind of information not available elsewhere," Sacher said.

At a working session of lay and professional JTA leaders, the Deputy Director General of the French Central Community Organization, Adam Loss stressed the need for absolute independence of the JTA. We must give our professional journalists absolute independence and autonomy within the organization to write and report how they see fit, Loss said. "The JTA must report all the news objectively, dispassionately and truthfully without giving in to any pressures or to any *raison d'etat*," he said, adding that the location of the JTA bureau in Paris means that "European Jewry has now come of age. We are not the poor stepsons of the world Jewish communities."

Murray Zuckoff, JTA News Editor, told the working session that the launching of the two bureaus marked the realization of JTA's move from a potential to an actual worldwide news agency. He said that the JTA will embark on a program of reporting news concerning activities within the Jewish communities without being afraid of any "sacred cows." "Everything that occurs within the communities is of vital interest to Jews all over the world," Zuckoff said. "JTA has to provide the kind of news that does not curry favor to any one interest group but that presents all sides."

Jerusalem Violence Threat To Unification, Kollek Warns

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA)-- Rioting in Jerusalem between religious zealots protesting "Sabbath desecration" and non-religious youths was angrily condemned by the Cabinet and Mayor Teddy Kollek last night. The Cabinet unanimously condemned the disturbances after hearing a report from Police Minister Shlomo Hillel, but declined to place blame on any quarter. Mayor Kollek warned that continuation of the violence posed a serious threat for the unification of Jerusalem.

Eight policemen and ten others were injured, none seriously, in Saturday night's melee which resulted in the arrests of an unspecified number of persons. Ten were released yesterday. Others are being held for further questioning. The rioting broke out at the Central Bus Terminal where about 200 Orthodox demonstrators led by Rabbi Amram Blaz of the Neturei Karta hurled rocks at busses and cars entering the city before the close of the Sabbath. The zealots were confronted by youths from the nearby Romema quarter armed with stones and sticks. A Neturei Karta spokesman said one of their followers was badly injured by a flying object. Several yeshiva students were reportedly struck and spat upon. Eye-witnesses said that many of the rock-throwers were English-speaking yeshiva students, not citizens of Israel. Egged busses were pelted with rocks again last night on the main road in the Mea Shearim quarter but no injuries or arrests were reported. A police jeep had

its windshield smashed. About 200 black garbed residents of the quarter, many of them teenagers with side curls and broad-brimmed hats, set up a road block forcing traffic to be rerouted.

Mayor Kollek took a serious view of the situation in the City Council. He told members "We can't limit violence to one part of town anymore than we can cholera," hinting that disturbances confined so far to the Western half of the city could spread to East Jerusalem with dire consequences for Israel's image. "The rest of the world, with the sole exception of the Jewish people, does not accept the unification of the city," Kollek said. When an Orthodox Council member blamed the Egged bus cooperative for provoking the disturbances by operating its vehicles before the Sabbath ends, Kollek replied, "Their travelling on Sabbath doesn't endanger the unification of the city. Demonstrations do."

South Africa To Reconsider Ban on Israel Fund Transfers

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The South African Cabinet will meet in extraordinary session next week to consider rescinding its ban on the transfer of funds raised for Israel, the Israel Broadcasting Service reported today. The ban was imposed last month in reaction to Israel's offer of \$2850 in food and medical supplies to the Organization of African Unity which infuriated the South African Government. It also froze commercial transactions between the two countries. The IBS said it had its information through a telephone conversation with a spokesman for the South African Treasury in Pretoria. The reconsideration was prompted by Israel's apparent withdrawal of its offer to the OAU, the report said. The Government announced last night that it has decided to donate \$2850--the sum ear-marked for the OAU--to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to be used for the education of African refugees. The announcement recalled that last May 18 Israel offered the OAU medicine, blankets and foodstuffs worth \$2850 for humanitarian purposes in Africa but never received a response from the organization. The wording of the announcement implied that the original offer no longer stands.

The OAU is an umbrella organization for several African "freedom fighter" movements opposed to colonialism and apartheid. The South African Government ranks it as a terrorist organization. The South African press denounced the Israeli offer and it was also sharply criticized in a joint statement issued last month by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the S.A. Zionist Federation. Israel claimed that the offer to the OAU was made in response to a humanitarian appeal from the United Nations Secretary General to aid victims of natural disasters. Observers here believe the South African Government will shortly rescind its ban on fund transfers to Israel.

Israelis Take Dim View Of New Sisco Visit Without U.S. Policy Changes

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Political circles here see little chance for success of the projected new visit to Israel by Joseph J. Sisco, the American Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, as long as the United States position on the Middle East problem remains unclear and as long as there is no change in Egypt's position. Sisco's visit is not yet certain, but he has intimated his intention to make the trip. What he has in mind, according to the reported contents of his recent conversation in Washington with Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, is to spend a week in Israel for comprehensive talks aimed at breaking the deadlock over an interim solution involving a reopening of the Suez Canal. Sisco was in Israel in May when he accompanied Secretary of State Rogers on a tour of five Mideastern countries.

Circles here believe Sisco will try to "sell" Israel a new State Department policy advocating a more extensive Israeli withdrawal from the Canal line than was envisioned earlier. There are also indications that the State Department has abandoned one of the major points on which it has been in full agreement with Israel--that no Egyptian troops may cross the canal, even after an Israeli pull-back. These fears were reflected by Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin in a taped radio interview broadcast here last Saturday. Premier Golda Meir and several Cabinet ministers objected to the interview, but not necessarily because they disputed its contents.

Rabin's interview, broadcast over the Israeli radio for home consumption, was sharply critical of U.S. Middle East policies and blasted the United Nations as "an institution for demagoguery" whose "decisions are meaningless unless the U.S. supports them." According to Rabin, the U.S. is above all concerned with assuring its own interests in the Mideast and did not want a situation in which Israel's friendship was America's only asset in the region. He said the U.S. sought a settlement, even if it meant stripping Israel of most of the territories captured in the Six-Day War. The Cabinet discussed Rabin's remarks at its session yesterday and took the unprecedented step of announcing that it had discussed them. This indicated that Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban were less than happy with what their Ambassador in Washington had to say publicly about his host country. Rabin, who holds the rank of Maj. Gen. and was Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces during the 1967 Six-Day War, is an outspoken individual. Sources here say he rarely clears his interviews or statements in advance with Jerusalem.

Israel Awaits Scheel Visit, First By German Foreign Minister

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel is due here Wednesday for a four-day visit--the first German Foreign Minister to come to Israel while in office. His tour of the country will include East Jerusalem, Galilee and the Negev. Foreign Ministry officials denied today that Scheel requested not to be taken to the occupied territories. The official said that the time left for sightseeing by Scheel was so short that the question of visiting the occupied areas had not even arisen. "There is so much to see in Israel proper," the official added.

Scheel's visit will include talks with Premier Golda Meir and two working sessions with Foreign Minister Abba Eban. The principal subjects are expected to be West Germany's Ostpolitik--her policy of accommodation with Moscow--and questions arising from Israel's relations with the European Common Market. Chief among the latter is a document on the Middle East drafted by the six Common Market countries which Israel considers unfavorable. The document has not been adopted as official Common Market policy and Jerusalem is seeking Bonn's assistance in opposing it when it comes up for discussion.

Red China Denies Telephone Link With Israel, Vows No Contacts Ever

LONDON, July 5 (JTA) -- The Legation of Communist China issued a statement here declaring that the Peoples Republic has had "no contact whatever" with Israel, past or present, and intends to have none in the future. The statement was prompted by wire service reports last week that Israel would have direct telephone communications with Peking beginning July 1, via the international communications satellite. The statement accused Israel of spreading rumors to that effect which it called a "groundless and willful fabrication."

Officials in Jerusalem reported Friday that Peking refused to accept calls from Israel although the communications system is in "perfect order." The officials said the international telephone supervisor in London accepted calls for relay from Tel Aviv but on each occasion the Shanghai operator replied, "we cannot accept this call." There was no information as to who in Israel placed calls to Communist China or for whom the calls were intended. Albania and the Arab states are the only other countries refusing to accept Israeli calls.)

The Legation's statement said, "The question of instituting telephone communications with Israel simply does not exist. As is known to all, the Chinese Government and people have consistently given firm support to the just struggle of the Palestinians and other Arab peoples against the U.S. and Israeli aggressors. The Chinese Government and people have no contacts whatever with the Israelis. This has been the case in the past and will remain so in the future. This stand of the Peoples Republic is firm and unshakable."

JDL Opening HQ in Israel, Planning First Demonstration

TEL AVIV, July 4 (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Jewish Defense League told a press conference here yesterday that the militant organization which had its origins in racially tense neighborhoods of New York three years ago, will soon open headquarters in Israel. According to Neil Rothenberg, a 20-year-old New Yorker who presented himself as the "international coordinator of the JDL youth movement," its functions will be entirely educational. Rothenberg denied reports that JDL was shifting its headquarters to Israel to escape harassment by American authorities. He claimed rather that the aim is to form a headquarters in "the international center of the Jewish nation--Israel" to help by educational means to "bridge the gap between various groups." Rothenberg described the JDL's principles as "love of Israel" and "the unity of Israel." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that one of the first activities planned by the JDL in Israel is a demonstration to be held in Jerusalem within the next two weeks to pressure the Israel Government to demand the extradition of Abraham Hershkowitz. Hershkowitz, a JDL member was convicted of passport fraud in New York and sentenced to five years imprisonment.

The JDL has already caused Israeli authorities a headache. U.S. Embassy security men last week seized the American passport of Christina Canziani, a non-Jewish Italian girl who came to Israel eight months ago with her American Jewish boyfriend, a JDL member. The American agents claim her passport was forged which Miss Canziani freely admits. She is believed to be wanted by the American police on suspicion of using explosives and participating in the harassment of Soviet diplomats, a favorite JDL tactic. The legal issue raised here is whether U.S. agents can confiscate a passport on foreign territory. The U.S. Embassy has made no official comment but American sources here observed that the passport was U.S. property and therefore could be confiscated. The Israeli Foreign Ministry may intervene. A National Religious Party MK, Yehuda Ben Meli, demanded to know who permitted U.S. agents to "harass" a woman in Israel because of her connection with the JDL.

Miss Canziani refused to say who gave her a forged passport. She claims she wants to convert to Judaism and is living with an Orthodox group in Hebron. Her boyfriend, who was not identified, is facing charges here of allegedly extorting money from fellow students at Bar Ilan University.

Israelis Offered Bigger Tax Break On Contributions

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The Israeli Government has approved plans to increase income tax exemptions on contributions to secondary schools, universities and hospitals. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir told the Cabinet yesterday that \$700 million would be needed for such educational and medical facilities over the next five years. Sapir said he hoped to raise half the sum in voluntary donations overseas, and the balance in Israel. He said he planned to issue a regulation providing a 30 percent tax deduction on donations to any medical or educational institution that perpetuates the memory of the donor or a member of his family who died in the line of duty. No limit would be made on the amount that could be donated. The Cabinet also agreed to increase income tax exemptions on contributions to the construction funds of such institutions. Anyone donating at least \$35,000 in one year will receive a 50 percent tax rebate, provided his donation does not exceed one quarter of his taxable income.

Border Incidents Down Sharply Last Week

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- A terrorist was wounded and captured by an Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip last night while his gang escaped after ignoring a warning shot. Israeli authorities reported ten border incidents last week, down from 21 the week before. The report said the Jordanian front was the most active with four offenses compared to six the previous week. The Gaza Strip, scene of nine incidents a week earlier, produced only three last week. There were three incidents on the Lebanese frontier compared to two the week before. Only one incident was reported on the Syrian line compared to three a week earlier. There were no incidents to report on the Suez Canal front last week or the week before.

SPECIAL JTA REPORT**THE EYES AND EARS OF THE JEWISH WORLD**

By Murray Zuckoff, JTA News Editor

PARIS, July 5 (JTA) — The Jewish Telegraphic Agency began its 54th year in 1971 of world-wide news coverage of Jewish affairs and community activities with the announcement of the opening of a European Bureau with headquarters in Paris and a Middle East Bureau with headquarters in Jerusalem. Its birthday on Feb. 6 was marked by the launching of the French edition of the JTA Daily News Bulletin. The news agency, with correspondents, stringers, editorial and operative staffs and offices in major cities in Europe, Israel, the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Australia and South Africa, has been described through the years as the "Eyes and Ears" of the Jewish community and as a bridge linking the Jewish people throughout the world.

The various JTA publications with eye-witness, on-the-spot coverage of breaking and developing news, span the diverse activities of the Jewish people and governments of all nations. The overwhelming bulk of its news stories, features, interviews and analysis is exclusive to the JTA, not available to readers of the daily press. Its news dispatches are read daily and frequently quoted by leading Western, Soviet and Arab officials. Throughout the years, the JTA has scored numerous "firsts" with its "special to the JTA" reports.

In November 1917, nine months after the news agency was established in The Hague as the Joodsche Correspondentie Bureau - Jewish Correspondence Bureau -, it brought the Jews in Poland the electrifying news of the issuance by Britain of the Balfour Declaration promising the Jewish people a "national home" in Palestine. Between the two world wars, JTA correspondents were on the scene and the first to report Nazi atrocities against the Jewish people and the first to provide extensive coverage of the repression of Jews in the Soviet Union.

In Rumania, a military tribunal sentenced JTA correspondent Marcel Pohna to 30 years imprisonment. As a representative of JTA, he was charged with "espionage for Western powers." In Poland, the JTA Warsaw correspondent fled the country only a few hours before the arrival of police sent to arrest him for the "crime" of reporting the situation of Polish Jewry. In Czechoslovakia, the authorities forbade the JTA to operate and refused to permit a JTA correspondent to work there. In Bulgaria, the Foreign Ministry ordered the Sofia correspondent to cease transmission of news to JTA. In recent months, the JTA has covered both intensively and extensively the plight and trials of Soviet Jews. JTA "broke" the story on U.S. Government wiretaps of the Jewish Defense League; exposed a fraudulent claim by the Syrian Red Crescent - (Red Cross) - that it had evidence from the World Council of Churches that Israel was mistreating Arabs in the occupied territories; provided in depth coverage of Jews in Arab countries, and followed through on the Mobil Oil Company's ill-fated attempt to institute a boycott against Israel. Recently the JTA launched an international book review section. It plans to expand its scope of activities to deal with new and emerging Jewish life styles and cultural forms. Among its future plans is a bi-weekly roundup and analysis of editorial opinion of major newspapers around the world.

During the war years and before, the JTA also developed technical innovations in the field of news agencies. In 1937 it was the first of the small news agencies to obtain and use multiple broadcast facilities from London. Later, it was one of the first to shift from Morse code to the speedier radio-printer. The JTA was the first client on the split-time cable service opened between New York and London in 1964. It was the first to use facsimile in the daily distribution of news within the U.S. Within the past year, the JTA has also developed a new and far reaching program of training young people to become journalists in the field of Jewish news. It was also the first news agency in the U.S. to begin this year to provide news and features to a network of 40 Jewish student publications in the U.S. and Canada with a total readership of some 350,000.

The JTA is more, however, than an intricate, technical operation of transmissions to and from New York, London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Washington, Buenos Aires and Johannesburg where news is then distributed locally to daily and weekly Jewish newspapers, agencies, organizations and individuals. It was established 54 years ago with three major objectives: To keep Jewish communities informed on world affairs affecting their lives, fate and well-being; to serve as a bridge linking them together; and to provide an avenue, through its press, to world public opinion on such issues as national minority rights and the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in Israel.

The JTA's international headquarters in New York receives some 20,000 words a day from its various bureaus and correspondents in addition to thousands of words from communiques, announcements and press releases from scores of organizations and agencies, Jewish and non-Jewish, communal and governmental. In turn, the New York office transmits some 5000-7000 words daily of news reports from the U.S. to its bureaus and subscribers. The U.S. Daily News Bulletin carries some 3900 words, the Weekly Digest some 2500 words, the Community Reporter some 2400 words. The dispatches have some 3300 and the features some 8000 words. The opening of the JTA's European and Middle East News Bureaus, therefore, is a continuation and intensification by the JTA to provide news objectively, independently and dispassionately when it happens and as it happens to its close to one million readers round the world.

Visa Extension Possible For Lansky

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) — Sources at the Interior Ministry indicated today that Israel will extend the visa of Meir Lansky, reputed American racketeer, which expires this month. A final decision is expected to be announced at a later date. Lansky has been living in Israel on a tourist visa for over a year. He recently told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that whether or not his visa is extended he will not return to the U.S. because, he contends, he wouldn't get a "fair trial" there. The presence of Lansky has been something of an embarrassment to Israel. Officials at Lydda Airport recently refused admittance to a number of Americans suspected of underworld connections who came to Israel purportedly to visit Lansky.