

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Thursday, July 8, 1971

No. 129

Scheel Runs Gauntlet Of Demonstrators To Lay Wreath At Yad Vashem

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Walter Scheel, the first West German Foreign Minister to visit Israel while in office, laid a wreath on behalf of his government today on the marble slab in the Yad Vashem Memorial Hall here which covers an urn of ashes taken symbolically from all the death camps of the Nazi era in Europe. But before performing the solemn act, the German statesman ran a gauntlet of impassioned demonstrators who shouted, "Germans, murderers" and other bitter imprecations as Scheel and his party mounted the steps of the hall. The demonstrators, 20 uniformed members of Betar, a militant youth organization, were barred by police from entering the hall after Scheel's party. They shouted, "The Luftwaffe officer gets in but Jews are kept out." They were referring to the fact that Scheel served as a junior officer in the German armed forces during World War II.

Paul Frank, Secretary of State at the Bonn Foreign Ministry who accompanied Scheel, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency later that he didn't think the demonstration should have been prevented. "Everyone has a right to say what he thinks," Frank remarked. "This is quite understandable. I find it quite normal. I would perhaps do it myself if I were standing on the other side."

The West German Foreign Minister's arrival at a heavily guarded Lydda Airport this morning for a four-day visit to Israel was, by contrast, uneventful. The West German and Israeli flags flew side-by-side over the airport control tower as Scheel and his wife debarked from a special Lufthansa Boeing 707 to be welcomed by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban and the Israeli Ambassador to West Germany, Elyashiv Ben Chorin. Eban observed, in formal remarks greeting his guests, that relations between the two countries were conducted under the shadow of a terrible past and in the light of a new future which both wish to build together. Scheel responded by saying, "I am the first West German Foreign Minister to visit Israel. I cannot compare this visit to any other visit in another country. Not a single German can evade the facts of his nation's history. No one can or wants to forget what the Germans have done to your nation. However, it is our true hope and goal to have a better future and better relations."

In remarks at a dinner given in his honor by Eban at the King David Hotel tonight, Scheel observed that "thirty years after the Hitler era, the relationship between our two countries and nations is still characterized, first of all by the terrible events of the past and therefore has a uniqueness which does not mark the relations between other nations." He continued, "No German can forget this most sinister part of his country's history...I think it is the task of the foreign policy of both our countries to produce, in spite of what has happened, a cooperation between our two states that should do justice to the interests of both." Scheel will meet tomorrow with Premier Golda Meir and Eban. He will visit Haifa, Nazareth and Sdeh Boker where he will meet former Premier David Ben-Gurion.

Sen. McGovern Opposes Open-Ended Military Aid To Israel

WASHINGTON, July 7 (JTA)--Sen. George McGovern (D.S.Dak.), the first announced candidate for the Presidency in 1972, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview today that America should scrutinize all arms requests from Israel. "We don't want to give anyone a blank check on the U.S. Treasury," he said, adding that he did not favor the repeal of the Jackson Amendment to last year's Foreign Military Sales Act allowing the President to authorize as much military sales credit to Israel as he deemed necessary. McGovern said that the U.S. should "make a clear commitment" to the survival of Israel but that that did not include supporting Israel in all its negotiating positions. He said there would be no point in negotiating if the U.S. stood entirely behind Israel in all of her demands.

He faulted Secretary of State William P. Rogers for spelling out the American position too explicitly and "raising panic in Israeli circles." He refused to draw a map he would consider a fair settlement on the grounds that he did not believe in an imposed settlement. He did say, however, that he thought Jerusalem should remain united under Israeli administration if Israel would sign some kind of international agreement guaranteeing people of all faiths access to their holy places. He said that while free access to the Suez Canal and the Straits of Tiran would probably have to be an element in the peace settlement, he did not think that meant continued Israeli occupancy of Sinai or Sharm el-Sheikh. He suggested that the United States and other "interested nations" guard the waterway, perhaps under the auspices of the United Nations but under orders of their own governments as well as not to repeat the hurried withdrawal of UN forces that precipitated the Six-Day War.

McGovern said he supported a role for the Palestinian refugees in direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. He said that the specific grievances of the Palestinians would have to be settled in such talks but that "a small number" should be resettled in Israel and the remainder should be resettled in underpopulated Arab lands like Iraq. McGovern told the JTA that he was "not active" in efforts to persuade the Nixon Administration to answer Israeli arms requests because he was "not aware of any Congressional initiatives." He said that the military supplies should not be used to "blackmail" Israel into accepting an interim settlement on the Suez Canal, especially in light of the recent Cairo-Moscow pact which he characterized as "an upsetting factor." On the U.S. ability to pressure Russia to allow its Jewish citizens to emigrate, McGovern recommended adopting "a firm position" in "general over-all talks" with the Soviet Government and using "moral and diplomatic evasion" to get the U.S. position across. He said that while the U.S. Government should make it clear that the U.S. is "deeply disturbed" over Russian treatment of Jews, specific economic measures like not approving trade deals, might not be effective and "invite retaliation."

Hearings On Jerusalem Not Scheduled, Senate Spokesman Says

WASHINGTON, July 7 (JTA)--The Senate Foreign Relations Committee refused to confirm today that an invitation had been sent to Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg to testify at hearings on the status of Jerus-

alem. The committee, chaired by Sen. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), has nothing to make public on the subject of such hearings, a spokesman told the JTA. The spokesman added that such hearings are "in the offing--in the air" but not even on a tentative schedule. Rabbi Hertzberg, of Englewood, N.J., currently a visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, disclosed there last week that he had been invited to testify at hearings on Jerusalem's status.

State Department spokesman Charles Bray confirmed today that the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, George Bush, met with UN mediator Gunnar V. Jarring at the latter's summer home in Dikken, on his way through Scandinavia. Bray said Bush's dinner session with Jarring was to acquaint the UN envoy with the latest U.S. efforts to achieve an interim settlement on the reopening of the Suez Canal.

Goldman Urges Memorial Foundation To Take Greater Initiative For Jewish Culture

GENEVA, July 7 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, one of the founders of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and chairman of its board of trustees expressed criticism today of the international agency which utilizes German restitution monies for grants to projects related to Jewish culture, education, publications and documentation of the Nazi holocaust era. Addressing the annual board meeting here, Goldmann said, "We have no doubt registered a number of achievements, but when I look back at the Memorial Foundation, I am not 100 percent satisfied."

Goldmann said, "My original idea was that the Memorial Foundation should become a central address for great Jewish cultural and educational problems upon which our survival as a people depends. I see now that we mostly react instead of acting. We mostly wait for applications and then investigate them. We should endeavor to become a more active cultural and educational factor in Jewish life. We should take initiatives and sometimes we may have to look for partners in great projects." Goldmann added that Foundation's sphere of activities must remain with Jewish youth and Jewish intellectuals.

Mark Uviller, executive director of the Foundation who is retiring next year to settle in Israel, reported that the agency has made allocations amounting to \$8 million. In many cases, he said, the Foundation helped other bodies raise funds on their own while its allocations opened the way for others to initiate important projects. "We should not always talk in terms of money," he said. "It is our aim and purpose to stimulate cultural and educational efforts, not merely to make allocations."

Reporting on research of the Holocaust era, Dr. Jacob Robinson noted that the loss of life sustained by world Jewry was second only to that suffered by the Soviet Union. "We lost six million and they lost 20 million," he said, "but in relative figures our losses were 36 percent of Jewry while their losses were 10 percent of the Soviet population." Robinson observed that Russia identifies living Jews by marking the fact on their identity cards. "But as victims of Nazism, Jews only appear as Soviet citizens," he said.

Mideast Weaponry Reaching Level Of Superpowers, Israeli Armaments Chief Says

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--The head of "Rafael"--Israel's armaments development authority--said yesterday that the level of weapons deployed in the Middle East, which lagged for years a generation behind those of the Superpowers, is now approaching their level. According to Dr. Zeev Benon, addressing the fifth conference on mechanical engineering in Haifa, this means that Israel cannot afford to fall behind in research and development of weapons systems. He said Israel was concentrating on the development of weapons systems that the Superpowers--obviously the United States--were not ready to provide her with. Benon said "Rafael" was spending 20 percent of its multi-million dollar budget for research other than specific short-term projects.

No Immigration Slow-Down To Meet Social Needs, Peled Promises

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Immigration Minister Nathan Peled has rejected suggestions that immigration be slowed down in order to give priority to problems of poverty in Israel. Addressing the Public Advisory Council on Aliya here last night, Peled said the vital importance of immigration to the nation's survival was the subject of an educational campaign among Israelis, including soldiers on the front lines and in Army camps. Peled said suggestions had been made in some quarters to slow down or temporarily halt immigration so that greater resources could be diverted to social needs. This idea must be rejected, he said, just as suggestions in the past that Israel stem the large influx of immigration from North Africa and adopt more selective immigration policies.

Naturel Karta Followers Demonstrate Peacefully This Time

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--About 300 residents of the Mea Shearim quarter demonstrated peacefully in the center of town last night to protest alleged "Sabbath desecration" by the Egged Bus Co. They marched from their quarter behind Rabbi Amram Blau, of the Naturel Karta, an ultra-Orthodox sect which regards the establishment of the Jewish State before the advent of the Messiah as heresy. The crowd was addressed by Rabbi Yehezkel Halberstam, the "Stronkova rebbe," who denounced the attitude of the "Zionist State" toward religion. Some speeches were delivered in English. Discipline among the demonstrators maintained order in contrast to the stone-throwing by religious zealots at the Central Bus Terminal here last Saturday and Sunday. The Orthodox groups have been objecting to the operation of busses by Egged before the close of the Sabbath.

Red Cross Reports Israeli POWs Have No Complaints In Cairo

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--Representatives of the International Red Cross have visited 11 Israeli prisoners of war in Egypt and report no complaints from them over their treatment. The report, which reached here from the Geneva headquarters of the IRC said the visit took place 10 days ago. Two of the Israelis visited were still hospitalized. The IRC reported that the others were taken by the Egyptians on a sight-seeing tour of Cairo and its surroundings, including the Pyramids. The Red Cross supervised another population exchange today at Kantara on the Suez Canal. Ninety-eight Egyptians from Gaza were repatriated and 19 people were returned to Gaza under the family re-union program.

AJCongress Charges COLPA Misrepresents Its Position On Day School Aid

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress demanded today that the National Jewish Committee on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) cease what it called a "campaign of misrepresentation" against the AJCongress' position on government aid to religious schools. COLPA president Julius Berman claimed, in a statement published in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Daily News Bulletin yesterday, that the AJCongress' plan to file suits against Federal aid in six states was a "coup de grace to the day school movement." Paul S. Berger, chairman of the AJCongress' Commission on Law and Social Action, called the charge "indefensible and shocking."

In a letter to Berman, released to the JTA today, Berger wrote, "Far from intending a 'coup de grace,' the AJCongress is interested in meaningful cooperation to obtain effective financing. I suggest you consider the fact that the small sums that are the most the day schools could have expected from the government actually reduce the incentive from financing within the Jewish community. The fact that an institution gets government assistance can be, and frequently is, used as an excuse for denying it communal funds."

Berger, a Washington attorney, said the COLPA charge would not deter the AJCongress from its "continuing efforts to secure support for day schools from the Jewish community" but neither would the AJCongress be "bulldozed" into changing its position against government aid. He said that by announcing that it would file suit with the American Civil Liberties Union in six states to halt parochial school aid under the Supreme Court's decision of last week, the AJCongress was not delivering a "coup de grace" to the day schools. "You should know, and COLPA certainly does know," he wrote, "that the AJCongress since 1966 has urged Federation support of the Jewish day school movement, that it has implemented that policy through an active educational program and has been recently deeply involved in meetings with the New York Federation in an effort to overcome its resistance to the financing of day schools."

Customs Walkout Paralyzes Ashdod Again

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--Another strike, the second in two weeks, shut down Ashdod port this morning when customs officers walked off their jobs in protest against the Government's refusal to meet their wage demands. Negotiations were underway for a speedy end to the strike which has tied up Israel's second largest port. Last month's strike lasted little more than a day. This morning customs officers refused to open storages halting the movement of cargo.

Imports, Exports, Wages And Cost Of Loans All On The Rise In Israel

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Demand has risen in the Israel economy this year, pushing up interest rates by one or two percent, according to a report released by the Bank of Israel today. Wages went up 10 percent in 1970, and wage costs per hour rose 14 percent, the report says. Visible imports--excluding direct arms imports--rose by 10 percent in the first quarter, compared with October-December, 1970. The Bank believes dollar expenditures would have been greater but for the taxes of last August, which made imports more expensive. Exports rose rapidly in the second and third quarters of last year, but since November have settled at around \$67 million monthly. There was an improvement in the first quarter of this year compared to the corresponding period last year; but this improvement derives from increased orders in late 1970, the report stressed. Industrial exports continued to increase, but there was a flagging in the agricultural category. "Invisible trade" showed an increase last year in the form of arms purchases and higher outgoing payments because of the swelling foreign debt. The most striking improvement this year has been in tourism, according to the report. Foreign-exchange reserves have been kept stable, rising from \$341.8 million at the end of March, 1970, to \$388.5 million at the end of May, 1971.

Too Many Social Science Grads In Israel; Almogi Suggests Re-Training

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Labor Minister Yosef Almogi said today that Israel has a plethora of graduates in the humanities and social sciences entering the country as immigrants and suggested that re-training programs were the only viable solution to the problem. Almogi spoke at commencement exercises at the Hebrew University's Paul Baerwald School of Social Work at which 23 new immigrants were awarded degrees. All had completed a 13-month intensive course at the school.

Almogi said that 40 percent of recent immigrants were professionals, with a substantial number holding degrees in the social sciences and humanities. This adds up, he said, to an oversupply of such graduates. He said his Ministry was currently organizing retraining courses for immigrants in which 150 persons have enrolled so far. Today's graduates, aged 21-29, who received degrees in social work, already hold bachelors degrees in sociology, psychology, anthropology, education and other social sciences. They earned them in schools in the U.S., Canada, France, South Africa and South America.

Students From More Than 10 Countries Attending Hebrew U. Summer Courses

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Spain, Finland, Malta and the Philippines are some of the countries that for the first time have sent students to the Hebrew University's summer course, beginning today in Jerusalem. Students are also attending from Italy, Sweden, England, France, West Germany and other European countries. A majority of the record 1000-plus arrivals are from the United States, including contingents from the State University of New York; Brooklyn (N.Y.) College, and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. The total represents a 25 percent increase over last year. The summer course is taught on the regular university level.

West Bank Children Will Attend Summer Camp In Israel

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA)--Five hundred Arab children from the West Bank will attend summer camp in Acre under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Welfare representatives at the Military Government, it was announced today. During a tour of the camp, at the Hagallil Institute, Dr. M.A. Kurtz, Director-General of the Ministry, said the summer camp program for West Bank children was entering its fourth year and enjoyed the support of the parents and local authorities in Judea and Samaria.

State Dept. Denies It Recommended JDL Wiretap

WASHINGTON, July 7 (JTA)--State Department officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that it played no role in deciding to wiretap the Jewish Defense League on the basis of what the Justice Department in its brief on the case, called foreign policy considerations. The officials said that although "the Jewish Defense League constitutes a danger to our pursuit of our foreign policy objectives" the Department did not recommend wiretapping the group. In its brief, the Justice Department said that the surveillance "was deemed necessary to protect the nation and its citizens against the hostile acts of a foreign power and to obtain information against foreign intelligence activities deemed essential to the security of the United States." A Justice Department spokesman refused to explain why the language was used but said that the Department had consulted "with all the relevant agencies." State Department officials said that it was possible that the White House and the Attorney General negotiated the authorization for the wiretap without State Department advice. This was characterized as an "unusual but possible" procedure.

Col. Hassan Sues ADL For Libel, Asking \$24 Million

WASHINGTON, July 7 (JTA)--Col. Hassan Jeru-Ahmed, director of the Blackman's Development Center, is suing the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League for \$24 million for alleged conspiracy to libel and ruin his professional and personal reputation, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. Hassan's lawsuit alleges (who identified herself only as Capt. Moira of the Blackman's Liberation Army, claimed that the ADL had inspired a letter-writing campaign by Jews all over the country to get their Congressmen to urge the cut-off of Federal funds to the Blackman's Development Corp. An ADL spokesman told the JTA today, "We have not been served with anything and therefore cannot comment until we know what the suit is all about."

Capt. Moira told the JTA that more than 50 Congressmen have complained to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as a result of the letter campaign and that one sent Hassan a copy of a letter from a constituent. According to Moira, the Jewish Community Council of St. Louis wrote Rep. William Clay (Ohio), that Hassan was using a HEW training grant to train his Blackman's Liberation Army in the use of small arms and guerrilla tactics. She said the letter, dated June 21, was one of the bases for the libel suit. She said other counts of the suit are based on letters from Jason Silverman, ADL regional director, to HEW Secretary Elliot Richardson and a letter from Richardson to ADL national chairman Seymour Graubard saying that Hassan's training grant was being cut off pending an audit. Subsequent statements from HEW made it clear that the cut-off had nothing to do with charges of anti-Semitism leveled by the ADL against Hassan but with Hassan's particular bookkeeping procedures.

Last week Hassan threatened to sue the Government unless HEW restored a \$197,847 grant to the Blackman's Center which, among other things, conducts a narcotics rehabilitation program. HEW postponed its audit for two weeks to give Hassan time to get his books in order. Hassan was not available for comment today. Last week he accused the ADL of "systematically trying to turn the white and Jewish community against us." Moira told the JTA that the Blackman's Center was on the verge of bankruptcy because of the alleged ADL drive to cut off its funds. Capt. Moira described herself as an attorney for the Federal Government. She said she did not use her true name in the Blackman's Army because the agency which employs her might disapprove. Moira said she took a summer leave of absence in order to help Hassan on a full-time basis.

New U.S. Postal Service Required To Accommodate Sabbath Observers

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA)--The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) announced today that it has received confirmation from the U.S. Civil Service Commission that regulations concerning Sabbath observers apply to the new U.S. Postal Service which took over the functions of the U.S. Post Office on July 1. The confirmation was contained in a letter from Irving Kator, assistant executive director of the Civil Service Commission, to COLPA president Julius Berman. Berman had filed a formal application with the Commission asking that the regulations be applied to the new quasi-governmental agency.

They require the Postal Service to make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of Sabbath observing job applicants and employees when such accommodations can be made without undue interference with the business of the agency or the rights of other employees. Berman announced the new development. He added that "COLPA is embarking on a comprehensive program that will include negotiations with individual agencies, as well as Civil Service Commission and court proceedings to protect the rights of Sabbath observers in Postal Service employment as well as employment throughout the Federal system."

American House Dedicated In Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA)--The Zeev Grodecki American House, a multi-storeyed building which houses the offices of the Israeli-American Chamber of Commerce and other American groups, was dedicated here today. Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Tel Aviv's Chief Rabbi, made it official by affixing a mezuza to the building's main door. Those attending the inauguration ceremony at the new civic center in northern Tel Aviv were addressed by U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour, Israeli Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, and Dr. John Hanna, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Hanna said Israel is a "model" for the application of aid money. Sapir said that Israel ranks eleventh on the U.S.'s exporting list. Zeev Grodecki, after whom American House is named, is the late chairman of the Israeli-American Chamber of Commerce. He initiated the idea of the House.

Hebrew School Teen-Ager Scores Top Grades In Toronto

TORONTO, July 7 (JTA)--The top scholar of Metropolitan Toronto's 100 high schools this year is 13-year-old Kari Skorecki who scored an average of 87.5 percent in seven of his ten subjects. The youngster is enrolled at the Community Hebrew Academy and is a member of the Beth Ralom Synagogue.