

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

Tuesday, July 13, 1971

No. 132

Israeli Soldier Killed Battling Terrorists in Refugee Camp

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA)--An Israeli soldier was killed this morning during a terrorist attack in the Jebeliah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. A local woman and a baby were killed in the exchange of fire following the attack. Two girls were wounded. A terrorist was killed and another was wounded and captured in a clash with an Israeli patrol north of Jebeliah an hour later. Arms and ammunition were retrieved from their bodies. The dead terrorist was on the wanted list of the Israeli security forces. Another terrorist on the wanted list was killed in the Gaza Strip last night by an Israeli patrol that shot him when he refused to stop running. Three terrorists who kidnaped three Israeli Bedouins in the Gaza Strip Saturday were arrested over the weekend. They were holding their victims in an orange grove, when one escaped and called the security forces. An arms cache was discovered nearby. Israel lodged its second complaint in two days with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) against overflights of its Suez Canal position by Egyptian Sukhoi-7 fighter-bombers. The latest cease-fire violation occurred in the central section of the canal zone. The complaint was the 37th filed against Egypt since the cease-fire took effect last Aug. 8.

State Dept. Confirms New Soviet Military Supplies To Egypt, Syria; Mum On Power Balance

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA)--The State Department refused to comment today on a New York Times story that recent escalated shipments of the latest Soviet MIGs to Syria and Egypt upsets the military balance in the Mideast. The Department spokesman assured reporters that the U.S. has a long-standing commitment to keep the military balance in the region. But he refused to give the details of how the Administration would implement its policy. The spokesman refused to comment on charges by Israel Defense Minister Moshe Dayan last Saturday that Israel did not have a regular flow of arms from the U.S. because of Egyptian pressure on Washington not to supply Israel with warplanes. State Department officials however confirmed the Times story which included particulars of Soviet aid to Egypt and Syria. According to the Times, the UAR received nearly 100 MIG-21s since the cease-fire went into effect in Aug. 1970, with delivery of eight in June 1971 alone, as well as 80 transport helicopters, including 16 in June. The Times reported Syrian shipments at a total of 21 of the latest model MIG-21s, nine older MIG-17s, and five Sukhoi 7 fighter-bombers and 22 MIG-8 helicopters. Intelligence experts quoted by the Times interpreted the supply of the helicopters to mean that the USSR has decided to provide the Arabs with greater mobility in desert or mountain warfare.

GOP Senator Criticizes Nixon Administration For Keeping Israel Guessing On Arms

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA)--Sen. Bob Packwood (R., Ore.) told the JTA in an interview Friday that military aid to Israel should be handled "with the same quiet commitment and lack of fanfare as military aid to Turkey." He criticized the Nixon Administration for "keeping Israel on tenterhooks" about the future of military supplies, and said that the military aid should be separated totally from the Mideast negotiations. He vehemently disapproved of using military aid as a bargaining chip in any negotiations, adding, "We don't make Turkish military aid contingent on their closing the Dardanelles to Soviet military movements." He said that "no shipments of military supplies should be withheld unless we are absolutely convinced that there is a surfeit" and Israel cannot absorb additional supplies effectively. He suggested reviewing Israeli requests on the basis of "need and parity" with Soviet and American supplied Arab neighbors and giving "heavy credence" to Israeli estimates.

Packwood criticized the State Department for "pushing the Israelis and Arabs to some conclusion which the State Department thinks is satisfactory." The Arabs and the Israelis have been living together for thousands of years, Packwood pointed out. He urged the State Department to "quit trying to get a settlement--any settlement." He said the U.S. should be content with just offering the "use of its good offices" because "there is no way to force a treaty in the Middle East without blackjacking Israel with arms, a clearly immoral thing to do." Packwood who recently returned from Israel where he studied the "geography in dispute" and agricultural techniques for application in his home state, told the JTA that Congress must take a more active role in the arms supply so that "Israel is not left at the whim of the President - any President." He said such an enlarged role would include keeping the Executive branch as well as Congress and the public alert to Soviet penetration of the area and the fact that Israel has no other possible source of major armaments.

On the status of present negotiations for an interim settlement to reopen the Suez Canal, Packwood told the JTA that he "cannot believe that Donald Bergus (the top American diplomat in Cairo) circulated a memo on his own personal whim or on his own initiative without telling his superiors" as claimed by the State Department. He added that while an interim settlement was still possible, he hoped the State Department would not use the military aid to Israel to force her into one. On the geography of a possible permanent settlement, Packwood said that the east bank of the canal would not be essential to Israeli interests if she could retain the mountain passes controlling access to the desert. He said that Sharm el-Sheikh was "paramount" and although Jerusalem was a complex emotional issue, he did not see it as vital to Israel's security interests.

State Dept. Says It Recognizes Soviet Jews As Nationality, But Opposes Yiddish VOA Broadcasts

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA)--The State Department said today that it recognized Soviet Jews as a national group within the Soviet Union but nevertheless would not institute broadcasts to them in Yiddish or Hebrew over the Voice of America "at this time." The statement was contained in a letter to Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the AJCongress, from Samuel De Palma, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. De Palma's letter was in reply to a letter Rabbi Lelyveld

sent to Secretary of State William P. Rogers last June 16 asking the State Department to repudiate a reported statement by a U.S. official that Soviet Jews did not constitute a national group in the USSR and therefore was not entitled to Yiddish or Hebrew broadcasts. Rabbi Lelyveld asked Secretary Rogers to have the VOA inaugurate such broadcasts to Soviet Jews for their "symbolic as well as practical value." De Palma said in his letter that the official cited by Lelyveld was misquoted and that the State Department in fact, had long recognized Soviet Jews as a national group.

But the matter of Yiddish broadcasts, he wrote, had been "thoroughly considered both in the State Department and in the United States Information Agency" with the conclusion that "for the present at least such broadcasts should not be instituted." He cited as reasons for that decision, the "small" number of Yiddish-speaking or Hebrew-speaking persons, most of whom, he said, "also speak Russian or another language in which the VOA already broadcasts." De Palma also referred to "difficult technical problems" in reaching the entire Soviet Jewish community because it was "scattered throughout the country in an area which spans 11 time zones."

Report Brother Testified Against Jew Convicted In Sverdlovsk

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA)--The older brother of Valeriy Kukul testified against him at his trial last month, Jewish sources disclosed here today. Valeriy Kukul was tried on June 15 and 16 in Sverdlovsk and was sentenced on June 21 to three years in prison for anti-Soviet "slander" involving the distribution of petitions criticizing the trials of Soviet Jews. Kukul is 33 and has a 31-year-old wife and a 6-year-old daughter. The brother's name was not immediately available, but he was said by the sources to be a Communist Party member who was convinced that Valeriy's activities constituted anti-Soviet slander. The brother did not actually attend the trial, because of illness, but submitted a statement. Their mother, on the other hand, defended Valeriy against the charges leveled at him. At the trial, the sources added, two persons disavowed statements they had signed that were critical of Valeriy Kukul's activities. Lev Blank said he had signed under duress, and Mrs. Sophie Movshovich said she had signed out of fear. The convicted Jew will appeal his three-year sentence to the Supreme Court in Moscow in a few days, the sources said. They identified his attorney as Leonid Popov.

Jewish sources here reported that Hillel Zalmanovich Shur, the Soviet Jewish engineer recently sentenced in Kishinev to two years in labor camp for alleged anti-Soviet activities, is suffering from heart disease and an ulcer. They said the ailments may have been aggravated by the hunger strike Shur staged while awaiting trial. The 35-year-old prisoner was arrested last Aug. 5, and his sentence ends Aug. 5, 1972. In other developments, a traveler who recently returned from the Soviet Union reported here that the amateur Yiddish theater of Wilna, Lithuania, has voluntarily disbanded because its members thought it would be hypocritical to continue under the authorities' restrictions. Forty members of the 100-member group withdrew for this reason, the traveler said, and 30 emigrated, and the remaining 30 deemed the troupe dead.

Zealots Continue To Stone Buses Despite Sabbath Agreement

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA)--Religious zealots here are continuing their campaign against the Egged bus cooperative despite the latter's promise not to operate buses in Jerusalem before the close of the Sabbath. A woman bus passenger holding a baby was injured Saturday night when a bus was pelted with stones in the ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim quarter. The incident occurred a half hour after the Sabbath ended and normal traffic had been resumed through the quarter without incident. Later in the evening, local residents blocked traffic through the quarter by spreading rocks and garbage on the streets. Police were summoned several times to remove the obstructions. A spokesman for the extremist Neturei Karta said yesterday that Orthodox circles in Mea Shearim were investigating the feasibility of establishing their own bus line to carry residents of the quarter to and from the Mahane Yehuda market and other points in the city.

An Egged spokesman said last night that the company's agreement not to operate buses on the Sabbath stands despite the latest stone-throwing incident. "We don't understand what they want from us any more. We made an agreement and we stood by our obligation. We expect the police to find a way to stop our buses from being attacked," he said. The spokesman was referring to an agreement reached last Thursday at a meeting of Egged representatives with Rabbi Menachem Porush, Shear-yashuv Cohen and Yaacov Katznelson who pledged that there would be no more violence against the buses if Egged agreed not to operate during the Sabbath hours. But the stone-throwing Saturday night indicated that the rabbis' word carried no weight with the Orthodox extremists. The Neturei Karta leader, Rabbi Amram Blau, did not attend the meeting with the Egged representatives. A Neturei Karta spokesman said that one of the sect's leaders, Rabbi Aaron Katzenellenbogen, was summoned by Police Chief Daniel Barell last Friday and asked to have his followers refrain from demonstrations. Barell reportedly guaranteed that no buses would leave the terminal before the close of the Sabbath.

In a related incident Friday night, youth walking through the quarter with a lighted cigarette was assaulted by a group of zealots. He reportedly drew a knife and wounded several of his assailants. No complaint was lodged with the police. On Friday, a Jerusalem juvenile court imposed a \$175 fine on two youths, aged 15-16 for attacking religious youths during a demonstration here last Wednesday night. Another youngster was given a six month suspended sentence for setting his dog on religious youths demonstrating against the Egged bus company.

State Dept. Asked To Cite Soviet Human Rights Violations

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA)--Sens. Henry Jackson (D., Wash.) and William Brock (R., Tenn.) introduced a resolution today calling on the State Department to bring up the issue of Russian violation of the Declaration of Human Rights in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The resolution, co-sponsored by 12 other Senators so far, including Humphrey, Goldwater and McGovern, asks the President to utilize formal and informal contacts with the Soviet Union to persuade the USSR to change its limited emigration policies and to allow free exercise of religion within the USSR. The resolution evolved from a suggestion by David Willig of the Young Israel National Council of Intercollegiates to Sen. Brock's office.

Reform Rabbi, ZOA Leader In Dispute Over Criticism

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA)--Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, past president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he stands by the statement made by himself and CCAR president Rabbi David Polish that certain Zionist bodies "embrace America's most reactionary politicians who would betray Israel overnight if it suited their purposes." That statement, contained in a joint message by Rabbis Polish and Gittelsohn to the Reform rabbinical body's 82nd annual convention in St. Louis last month, came under sharp attack here yesterday by Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, vice chairman of the Zionist Organization of America's executive committee. Rabbi Sternstein claimed that these "invidious appraisals" were "utterly naive and lacking in responsibility." Rabbi Gittelsohn, reached by telephone at his study in Boston, retorted that criticism was in the honored tradition of the Hebrew Prophets and must not be suppressed. Rabbi Polish is presently in Israel.

Sternstein called the Reform leaders' remarks "distorted and myopic." He told a meeting of his committee that "Zionists are not as quick to polarize individuals by the terms 'liberal' and 'reactionary'--whatever these terms might mean today. For us," he said, "the issue is not who is a liberal and who is reactionary. It is who is a friend of Israel and the Jewish people--tried, tested and true--and who is not. There is no need to apologize for the geo-political reality which binds Israel and the United States. We are gratified by the assurances that America's security interests coincide with Israel's survival--for both serve the cause of world peace and freedom." Rabbi Gittelsohn told the JTA, in response to that assertion, that ZOA leaders were making "a considerable effort" to dampen Jewish criticism of Nixon Administration policies in Southeast Asia on grounds that "we must not make the Administration angry" because of possible repercussions against Israel. Rejecting that attitude, the Reform leader declared, "We must criticize American policies in Asia as if there were no Israel while supporting Israel's relationship with the U.S. as if there were no Asia." Gittelsohn said that despite the ongoing crisis in the Middle East, "the kind of state that Israel will ultimately be is being determined right now. In the long run, Israel's security will be assured more by adhering to the Prophetic Ideals of Judaism than by trying to put them in the freezer." The Reform rabbi contended that by the lights of the ZOA leaders, "Isaiah, Jeremiah and Amos were 'distorted' and 'myopic' in their utterances." "We are not modern-day Isalahs, nor do we have to apologize for our love and support of the State of Israel," he said.

Rabbi Gittelsohn also complained that Rabbi Sternstein's statement, released to the press yesterday, mentioned himself and Rabbi Polish by name while criticizing unrelated statements by a third American rabbi who Sternstein refrained from identifying. The third target of the ZOA leader apparently was Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, of Temple Emanuel, Englewood, N.J., a member of the Jewish Agency Executive presently in Israel. Last June 13 Rabbi Hertzberg accused Israeli political and religious leaders of "apathy and insensitivity" toward the existence of poverty in Israel." Rabbi Sternstein labeled those remarks "unwarranted, unfounded and irresponsible." He said they were made "without taking into account the extraordinary difficulties and complexities of this (Israel's) immigration problems." According to Sternstein, Israel "is striving mightily, in the midst of unprecedented defense expenditures, to solve these problems with justice and equity." He added, "The pressure cooker of the ingathering of the exiles" cannot be "expected to produce palatable concoctions overnight."

Kahane: JDL Would Use Dynamite 'If Necessary'

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA)--Claiming that he and his Jewish Defense League represented "a new type of Jew," Rabbi Meir Kahane said today that violence was "the only way to persuade the Soviet Union to free its Jewish citizens." He said the JDL would not "rule out the use of dynamite, if necessary," as long as innocents are not harmed. But Kahane denied that the JDL was responsible for leaving 197 sticks of dynamite behind shrubbery on the Palisades Interstate Parkway. Federal authorities were alerted to the dynamite yesterday by an anonymous caller claiming to be a JDL member. Last Friday, Rabbi Kahane and two other JDL'ers pleaded guilty to manufacturing explosives at their Camp Jedel in Woodburne, N.Y. The JDL chairman claimed he had not known he had to have a \$250 Federal stamp to explode bombs on one's own property. He and Chaim Bieber, 41, and Stewart Cohen, 18, will be sentenced on July 23. They face terms of up to five years.

At his press conference today at JDL headquarters in Brooklyn, Rabbi Kahane charged that the U.S. Government was out to "get" him solely because the Soviets hold the United States responsible for JDL actions. He said he did not think of himself as a martyr. The 38-year-old Orthodox rabbi said "Any one who looks forward to being a martyr is a fool. Jail is not a nice place for a Jewish boy or any boy. I don't want to go to jail." Accusing the established Jewish organizations of having "gone to great lengths to smear us," he also blamed the media and the JDL itself for failing to explain JDL goals sufficiently. Kahane said that "the only thing that will put an end to JDL will be an end to Jewish suffering." He said the JDL executive board will meet Thursday to plan a militant anti-Soviet campaign to be put into effect before July 23. It will also choose a new leader to head the JDL should Rabbi Kahane go to jail.

Orthodox Group Starts Campaign Against Israeli Conversion Law

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA)--An Orthodox group calling itself the "Committee for the Preservation of Judaism" announced today that it has started a world-wide campaign to get Jews to send letters and telegrams to Premier Golda Meir protesting the wording of Israel's Law of Return. The group claims that the omission of the words "by halacha"--religious law--from the text permits the registration of converts as Jews even though their conversions did not comply with halachic standards. According to the group this "could lead to the assimilation of Jews." A spokesman for the committee said it was composed of "young volunteers, rabbis and students from major yeshivas." He said a branch office has been opened in England and that others will be opened shortly in Italy, Australia and other parts of the world. The committee is circulating a pamphlet which says, "As a result of this outrageous law your own children may some day face the dilemma of not knowing whether or not they are marrying a Jew."

AJCongress Says Its Activities Against Parochialism Represents Majority Jewish Opinion

NEW YORK, July 12 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress responded sharply today to a charge by an Orthodox rabbinical leader that it was using Jewish communal funds to combat government aid to the secular programs of religious schools but failed "to lift a finger to assist or assure the continued existence of those schools." The charge was made by Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, who alleged that the AJCongress was "in the forefront of those who would destroy the entire Jewish educational system which has been the main factor in Jewish survival." Rabbi Berzon issued his statement in reaction to an AJCongress announcement last week that it would file suits jointly with the American Civil Liberties Union in six states to bar the use of tax monies for private and parochial schools. The suits will be based on the recent Supreme Court ruling. In a statement issued to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, the AJCongress said that "if its legal skills were not devoted to protecting the separation of church and state, we would then be remiss in our obligation to the total Jewish community."

According to the AJCongress, "The position of the vast majority of American Jews is against government funding of--and inevitable government influence in--the educational aspects of religious schools. This position has been thoroughly debated, reviewed and supported at every national session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, with only the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America dissenting," the statement said. Rabbi Berzon said, "The American Jewish community, through its communal ~~and secular~~ ^{and secular} which supports such agencies as the AJCongress and similar groups, gives no support to the Jewish day schools or any of its educational undertakings." The AJCongress statement said that its activities are "thoroughly reviewed by the Councils of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and our allocations are based upon the degree to which our program reflects the priority concerns of American Jewry." The statement continued, "Rabbi Berzon and his associates must learn that the first Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, under which American Jewry has thrived, cannot be supported or rejected as a matter of convenience."

Rabbi Berzon asserted that, "We too believe very strongly in the separation of Church and State, but there is such a thing as carrying a good thing too far. We too believe that religion must not interfere within the state, also the state should not exert influence within the various religious communities. However, the laws of our various states require that every child be given a secular education. The religious schools must provide a secular education to every child they teach. To expect government aid for this secular education is not a breach of the wall of separation between church and state." The AJCongress retorted that "If Rabbi Berzon supports the separation principle, he should recognize his, and our, obligation to support it as it applies to government funding of religious schools. No one has yet devised a way of being 'a little bit' pregnant."

Sen. McGovern Asks 'Clarification' Of JTA Headline

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA)--The office of Sen. George McGovern (D., S. Dak.) asked the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today to clarify what they termed "a misleading headline" in the Thursday July 8 Daily News Bulletin on an exclusive interview with the Senator, the only announced Presidential candidate. The headline, "McGovern Opposes Open-Ended Military Aid To Israel" came from the Senator's assertion that all arms requests should be scrutinized and no "blank checks" should be given. However, Washington jargon uses "open-ended military aid to Israel" to refer to the Jackson Amendment of 1970 authorizing the President to give Israel as much military sales credit as he deemed necessary. McGovern voted for the Jackson Amendment, and as stated in Thursday's interview, does not favor its repeal.

Mens Clubs Urge Emigration Rights For Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA)--The Soviet Union was asked by the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs today to allow free emigration of its Jews and to end "showcase trials" and other acts of cultural repression and discrimination against its almost three million Jews. A resolution adopted by the Federation's executive committee urged the governments of the free nations of the world, and the UN to do their utmost to influence the Soviet government to take such actions. The Federation, with almost 100,000 members in 350 Men's Clubs in Conservative synagogues, called on "the Soviet Union to immediately cease and desist from its acts of discrimination and repression against its Jewish citizens, and to afford them their full natural and legal rights of religious freedom, cultural identity, and emigration from their Motherland."

Jewish Contributions To U.S. Not Widely Known, Author Says

STAMFORD, Conn., July 12 (JTA)--What many Jews did for the United States should be better known. That was the burden of a talk given by Stephen Birmingham, the author, at a Sabbath eve symposium at Temple Sinai here. In doing research for his books, "Our Crowd," and "The Grandees," Birmingham said he discovered that many important contributions by Jews to the development of this nation are unknown to most Americans. Flogging in the Navy was abolished because of the efforts of Commodore Uriah Levy, a Jew who served this country in the War of 1812. It was Levy who was responsible for the preservation of Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia, a fact that was not even known to the guides in Monticello, according to Mr. Birmingham. In his books, Mr. Birmingham, who is not Jewish, has chronicled the achievements of a host of Jewish patriots ~~personalities~~ ^{personalities} whose accomplishments are largely ignored in history textbooks.

Egon Fink, JDC Aide, Dead

VIENNA, July 12 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here for Egon Fink, Joint Distribution Committee representative in Vienna since 1957, who died after a long illness at the age of 65. Born and educated here, Fink joined the staff of the JDC in 1946 in the British Zone of Germany where he served in JDC headquarters at Bergen-Belsen as liaison officer between the JDC and the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the British Zone. In 1949, when the JDC inaugurated its program in Morocco, he moved to Casablanca to become assistant director for JDC-Morocco. Following the outbreak of the revolution in Hungary in 1956, JDC summoned him to Vienna to help care for the thousands of Hungarian Jewish refugees pouring into the city.