



daily news bulletin

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LEBANESE JEWISH LEADER KIDNAPPED

No Clue To His Fate; Palestinian Groups Deny Involvement

PARIS, Sept. 8 (JTA)--A prominent Lebanese Jewish leader, Albert Atallah, was kidnapped Monday in Beirut by armed men, it was learned here today. In spite of intensive police investigation his fate remains unknown and the kidnapers have not yet been identified. The 67-year-old Jewish leader has served for several years as secretary-general of the Council of Lebanese Jews and is a well-known figure in Lebanese Jewish and non-Jewish affairs. Atallah was reportedly forced into a car while he walked through the predominantly Jewish quarter of Abou Jamil. Police say that in spite of the hour--the kidnapping took place at noon--none of the numerous passersby noticed anything strange.

Police investigators first thought that Atallah might be held for ransom by one of the Palestinian organizations but, the Palestinian Joint Command released an official communique today claiming that "no Palestinian has been directly or indirectly involved in the affair." None of the more extremist Palestinian organizations has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping as they usually do.

The local authorities do not believe that Atallah has secretly left the country as he never expressed any intention of doing so. Moreover, official circles say that he could have left legally and openly had he so desired. The French newspaper, *Le Monde*, reported from Beirut that the Lebanese government is taking "a very grave view" of the incident in view of the fact that another Jewish businessman, Edouard Sassoun, was murdered in his office in downtown Beirut more than two years ago and his murderers have not yet been found.

SOUTH AFRICA LIFTS BAN ON TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA)--A South African Jewish leader expressed the hope here today that "good relations" between Israel and the Republic of South Africa would be resumed now that the South African government has lifted a ban on the transfer of funds imposed after the Israel government made a gift, through the United Nations, of about \$2,800 to the Organization of African Unity. The South African government, which regards the OAU as an organization advocating terrorism against the republic's apartheid policy, publicly denounced the Israel gift.

Boetie Kessel, leader of a South African United Israel Appeal study mission now in Israel, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a special interview that the gift had been "quite unnecessary" and that South African Jews had felt very hurt by it and regarded it as an indiscretion on the part of the Israel government. He added that South African Jews, who reacted with public criticism of the Israel government, had been "comforted" by information that "important sectors" of Israeli Jews also considered the gift "inappropriate."

JORDAN BACKS DOWN ON COUNCIL DEBATE

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 8 (JTA)--A move by Jordan to request a Security Council meeting on Israeli practices in East Jerusalem came to a halt today. A decision, according to informed sources, was reportedly reached in Amman not to call for

such a meeting at least until after a summit conference of Arab states that starts Friday. The reason for this decision, sources noted is the present disunity among Arab states despite the new confederation and the growing lukewarm response to such a meeting on the part of the United States, the Soviet Union and Egypt.

The major stumbling block for these three countries is the fear that a Security Council debate may lead to an attempt on the part of other Arab states, notably Syria, to reword the Council Resolution 242 which the U.S., Soviet Union and Egypt say they accept as the basis for a Mideast settlement. Syria has not accepted the resolution. In addition, Egypt also fears that any move to reword the resolution to produce an evident anti-Israeli stance would imperil any chance of reopening the Suez Canal.

The Soviet Union is further cool to a Council debate, according to some observers, because its current moves to establish unofficial contacts with Israelis would imperil that policy. A Council debate would force the Soviet Union to associate itself with the more extremist Arab positions. Meanwhile, Egypt was reported preparing a request for a full debate on the Middle East at the General Assembly which begins its fall session Sept. 21. According to a report in *Al Ahram*, Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad will arrive next week in New York to represent Egypt in the General Assembly debate.

COURT HEARINGS ON KUKUL APPEAL

LONDON, Sept. 8 (JTA)--The Supreme Court of the Russian Soviet Republic opened hearings yesterday on the appeal of Valeriy Kukul but then postponed them until tomorrow because of the illness of the chief prosecutor, Jewish sources reported here today. About 200 friends of the 33-year-old Jewish engineer from Sverdlovsk assembled outside the Supreme Court building in Moscow to await the outcome of the appeal. Kukul was arrested last March and was tried and sentenced on June 15 to three years in prison for alleged slander of the Soviet Union. He had publicly proclaimed Israel as his "fatherland" and demanded permission to emigrate.

Menuha Tessil, a young Jewish activist from Riga, was released from jail after serving one week of a two week sentence for "hooliganism." Miss Tessil was one of three Jews who staged a hunger strike at the Riga visa office on Aug. 23 to protest the denial of emigration visas. Her companions, Monica Yehielson and Yerachmiel Trubeakin are still in jail, Jewish sources said.

RUSSIA FAVORS POLITICAL SOLUTION TO MIDEAST CONFLICT, LEBANESE SAY

PARIS, Sept. 8 (JTA)--Three Lebanese political leaders, who returned yesterday to Beirut from an official visit to Russia, declared in a television interview that they were convinced that the Soviet government now favored a political solution to the Israel-Arab deadlock. Kamal Jumblatt, president of the Progressive Socialist party, former Premier Rachid Karame, and Raymond Eddé, head of a right-wing nationalist bloc, agreed on that judgement during an interview with the Lebanese broadcasting service. They also expressed the belief that the Soviet Union now intended to use its influence in the Arab world for a compromise solution. They added that

they had been told by all Soviet sources that Russia would not participate in any new Mideast armed conflict between the Arabs and Israel.

AMERICAN FINANCING, MASS PRODUCTION CAN AID ISRAEL'S HOUSING SHORTAGE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA)--A combination of American financing and American mass-production methods can alleviate Israel's acute housing shortage according to Jack D. Weller, the American realtor who is a member of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors and chairman of its housing committee. In a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Weller said new housing projects in Israel will soon be financed by loans obtained from banks and insurance companies abroad. He said that in the next 12 months \$50-\$100 million may be raised for this purpose. The money would go toward building houses and the investment will be safeguarded in the form of mortgages allocated by the Finance Ministry at rates much lower than those now prevailing in Israel.

Weller took issue with Housing Minister Zeev Sharaf's criticism of his plan to produce "mobile homes" in Israel for young, newly married couples. Mobile homes are built in factories and transported to their permanent site. Weller said such homes fully furnished and equipped would provide 70 square meters of space and would cost less than half of what similar houses now cost in Israel. Sharaf had contended that Israel's roads and transportation facilities were not sufficiently developed for the mass movement of mobile homes.

Weller told the JTA that the builders who proposed the idea had not asked the Housing Ministry for money. Half of the amount would be their own investment or be paid by the new owners and half would be in a mortgage to be arranged by the builder. Weller said a single factory could turn out such houses at the rate of one an hour and they would take only one day to install. Weller praised Israel's efforts to ease the housing shortage. He observed that 31,000 dwelling units will be available to Israelis and new immigrants this year whereas in New York City with a population three-and-a-half times as large as Israel, only 16,000 units will be built.

ISRAELIS RETURN FROM USSR VISIT

Say Many Russians Express View Israel Has Right to Exist

TEL AVIV, Sept. 8 (JTA)--A member of the delegation of six Israeli critics of Israel's foreign policy who went to the Soviet Union as guests of the Russian Peace Committee said here today on his return that delegation members found among many Russians they met the view that Israel's right to exist was indisputable. Prof. Dan Miron of Tel Aviv University, speaking for the group at an improvised press conference, said that the delegation members were convinced that resumption of normal diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union was of "paramount importance."

The invitation for the six Israelis to visit the USSR was widely viewed as evidence of a reported Soviet interest in exploring that possibility but Prof. Miron had nothing to say as to whether the delegation found any evidence to support those reports. He said he was convinced that most Russian Jews had found their place as "an integral part" of the Russian nation but should be given the opportunity to maintain cultural ties with relatives and other sections of the Jewish people. He said the "smaller part" of Soviet Jewry wanted to emigrate from Russia and join relatives in Israel and should be permitted to do so.

ISRAELI-ARAB CABINET MINISTER CALLED QUILSING BY ARAB DELEGATES

PARIS, Sept. 8 (JTA)--The Arab delegates to the Interparliamentary Union Conference currently in session here made a loud and demonstrative exit last night when Abdul Aziz Zuabi, an Arab member of Israel's Knesset and Deputy Health Minister, began to speak from the rostrum. The delegates from the six Arab countries slapped their desks and banged on meeting hall doors and loudly explained, as they left the hall, that they were expressing their anger "at a man who has steadfastly cooperated with the Israelis." They also said they were willing to listen to Israeli Jewish delegates but not to an Arab "quilsing." The Israeli delegate has served for 20 years as a Mafal Knesset deputy and is the first Israeli Arab to get a Cabinet-level post. Earlier in the session, Gideon Hausner challenged the Arabs to "compete with us not in making war but in trying to improve the condition of the under-developed countries."

EGYPT, WEST GERMANY RENEW CONTACTS

PARIS, Sept. 8 (JTA)--Egypt and West Germany have renewed their contacts, apparently in order to try and work out an agreement providing for the resumption of full diplomatic and economic relations. Six Arab states broke off their diplomatic relations with Bonn in 1965 after West Germany and Israel decided to exchange ambassadors. The West German chief of diplomatic mission in Cairo Hans Wogler, conferred last week with the director of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Mahmoud Riad. Earlier in the week, the Arab League representative in Bonn was received at the Federal Foreign Ministry for what both sides described as "high level and important talks."

Observers in Bonn believe that the West German Chancellor, Willy Brandt, is determined to resume relations with the Arab states before the end of the current year, if possible. Brandt apparently is prompted by two motives: to prove to Moscow that West Germany is not "automatically inimical" or "blindly following the imperialist bloc," and to make West Germany's economy and political weight felt in the Arab world. According to these observers, Brandt feels that the time is now ripe for such a move, especially since the Western world, with the exception of France, has disappeared from the political horizons of North Africa and the Middle East.

HEBREW U CATALYZER IN AID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA)--The first course of a joint five-year project, during which the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will assist the Halle Selassie I University in Addis Ababa establish a micro-biology unit, recently finished with the examination of 35 students. The program has been successful and it has been decided to run two courses in the coming academic year with a total of 60 students, thus almost doubling this year's figure.

This venture represents a new concept in implementation of scientific cooperation with developing countries. Instead of involving individuals, the program calls for cooperation between entire institutions, which allows for sending many experts for shorter or longer duration, for effective use of equipment partly supplied by the Hebrew University, and for a constant and rapid flow of materials and knowhow as required by the teaching program. The project includes a long range program to establish a micro-biology unit within the Halle Selassie I University for teaching and research.

COURT ORDERS STRIKERS BACK TO WORK

**Mrs. Meir Denounces Charges
Government Is Anti-Labor**

TEL AVIV, Sept. 8 (JTA)--For the first time in the history of Israel, a court intervened in a labor dispute when a Tel Aviv district court issued an order today directing striking customs officials at Lydda Airport to return to work immediately. The order was issued at the request of Tel Aviv District Attorney Itamar Pilpel. The strikers were not represented at the hearing request. The order was based on a recently-passed law requiring a two-week "cooling off" period between announcement of plans for a strike and the start of the strike. Prison terms are provided for failure to obey such an order.

Prior to the court action, representatives of the striking customs officials told a press conference that if the government would issue an order, the strike would be called off. The representatives blamed the Finance Ministry for their walkout, contending Ministry red tape had caused "such a delay" in discussing and meeting their demands for higher pay. The workers also claimed that the volume of goods they must inspect had increased "many-fold" but that no additional customs inspectors had been assigned to the work. They demanded 12 more customs officials be assigned to Lydda Airport and expressed bitterness against the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, claiming the Histadrut had not backed their protest.

The customs strike has seriously effected Israel's exports. The Treasury moved today to allow shippers to by-pass customs clearance for export items and deferred export duty payments. It was not immediately clear how the striking customs officials would react to the order from the court; as distinct from a government order which they said they would obey. Commenting on the court order, Itzhak Ben Aharon, Histadrut Secretary-General, said tonight that the Histadrut would "carefully examine" the legality of the court order. He added it was "not healthy" for courts to intervene in what should be matters between unions and employers. However, he had previously asked the striking customs inspectors to return to work because their walkout had not been authorized by Histadrut.

Lydda Strike 'Pure Hooliganism'

The leadership of Israel's Labor Alignment met for seven hours last night on Israel's steadily worsening labor strife. Premier Golda Meir, furious over a wildcat strike of civil aviation workers which paralyzed Lydda Airport for 10 hours Monday, demanded at the meeting that illegal strikes be punished by law. She also denounced charges that her government was anti-labor. The Alignment faction in the Histadrut scheduled an urgent session today to discuss means to prevent wildcat strikes and to establish orderly procedures for calling strikes.

Mrs. Meir, who was vacationing when the Lydda strike occurred, summoned the Labor Alignment leadership to the urgent meeting. Most Cabinet ministers attended including Defense Minister Moshe Dayan who rarely intervenes in economic matters. Mrs. Meir's anger was aroused by the failure of the Lydda employee to give 48 hours strike notice as stipulated by law. "If strikers do not give notice they must know they are breaking the law and in democratic countries breakers of law are punished even by prison sentences," she said. "If they don't give notice and get off scot free there is no value to the law."

Mrs. Meir declared: "I cannot sit idly and watch as things are deteriorating and approaching a catastrophe. I do not agree to sit on a government when there is an alleged class struggle between it and the workers. I shall not agree in the twilight of my years to head a government which is called a 'millionaires-maker.'" Mrs. Meir called the Lydda strike "pure hooliganism" and warned that "radical unrest of the kind we have been experiencing has brought fascism to many countries." She had caustic words for her Alignment partner, Mapam, which she accused of acting in the strike situation as if it weren't in the government. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir told the meeting that he could not prepare next year's budget under the present circumstances.

Communications With World Endangered

Mrs. Meir was reported to want the firm backing of Histadrut on labor relations laws and was refusing to discuss them in the Knesset until she was assured of such Histadrut support. However, the Knesset plans to take up the issue Monday on motion of 30 MKs of the opposition Gahal and Free Center factions. Addressing a press conference on aliyah in Jerusalem today, Jewish Agency Chairman Louis A. Pincus said the current wave of strikes in Israel was very bad for the country's image. He urged labor leaders to take into account the negative influence of their strike actions on fund-raising for Israel.

Meanwhile, the entire technical and engineering staff of Israel's Post Office threatened to walk out the day after Rosh Hashanah in support of their wage demands. Such a strike would sever Israel's telephone, radio, telegraph and telex connections with the rest of the world. Jerusalem's mail carriers meanwhile escalated their work slowdown by refusing to deliver printed matter, greeting cards, postcards, and other pieces of mail "heavier than normal or unusual in size." Their previous slowdown had been limited to registered letters.

**JEWS DIAL-A-PHONE ON
RELIGION, KOSHER FOOD**

PARIS, Sept. 8 (JTA)--Jews in the Paris area who want information on any religious subject or who are simply seeking the address of the nearest kosher butcher may get it by dialing a telephone number free of charge. The service is provided by the Jewish Consistory of Paris which has set up a special center to dispense information on theoretical and practical religious subjects. These include counseling on matters of halacha-religious law--and advise to parents on Jewish educational facilities and religious services in the city's synagogues and in the suburbs. The center keeps a special file on the ingredients of various canned foods sold in French markets for the benefit of housewives who observe the rules of kashrut.

ISRAELI DIPLOMATS IN NEW POSTS

MONTREAL, Sept. 8 (JTA)--Dr. Theodore Meron, one of Israel's most distinguished authorities on International Law, will present his credentials tomorrow to Canadian government officials as the new Israeli Ambassador to Canada. Dr. Meron, a veteran of the War of Independence, is a graduate of the Hebrew University, Harvard Law School, and Cambridge University. He assumed his new post in Ottawa Sept. 1 after serving in a senior role in the Israel Foreign Office in Jerusalem. In another senior diplomatic move, David Ephraïm, former Ambassador to Gabon, has been named Consul General of Israel in Montreal. The Jewish community here will fete these Israeli diplomats shortly.

Police Protection Inadequate:VIGILANTISM NO ANSWER TO CRIME

NEW YORK, Sept. 8 (JTA)--Resort to vigilantism was condemned by two Jewish spokesmen as a more dangerous form of violence to a community than the crimes its use is intended to counter. This was the opinion expressed by Arnold Forster, General Counsel, and Benjamin Epstein, National Director, of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, on "Right Now!", a television program broadcast by WOR-TV. Commissioner Jack M. Sable of the State Division of Human Rights, host-moderator of the half-hour show, asked his ADL guests how to answer the fears of people who assert: "I want to live in the community; I don't want to flee any longer; I have no place to go, and the police are indifferent to my safety." Epstein and Forster agreed that police protection was inadequate.

Forster added: "We cannot solve this by killing each other with guns. I think the answer is law and order. If we forego and surrender law and order, we are anarchists; we are nothing; we wind up destroying one another. It is not a problem of racism--a problem of religious discrimination or of racial prejudice. It is a problem of violence that has infected and diseased our cities, which need far more enforcement programs than we've given them thus far." Epstein noted that "the ratio of policemen to population in New York is so poor as compared to many of our other cities that what we need in New York is the kind of police protection and manpower, personnel, modern techniques that will really give protection to the city." Sable, who is a social planner, said that he was "deeply concerned" with the fact that there is no long-range planning for our communities and that we redirect our resources only after it becomes an issue of violence and a threat of total community collapse. He called for better integrated neighborhoods, providing better homes and employment opportunities. The television program was broadcast Saturday.

IMMIGRANTS FROM NORTH SOUTH AMERICA CONTINUING; BRITISH, FRENCH DECLINE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA)--Immigration from North and South America has kept pace during the first eight months of this year with last year's record numbers but immigration from Britain and France is off by about a third, Jewish Agency chairman Louis A. Pincus reported today at a news conference. He said that 9,500 immigrants came from North America in 1970 and arrivals between Jan-Aug. 1971 were in the same proportion. The number of immigrants from Latin America has risen by 20 percent in the same period, he said. Pincus attributed the decline of olim from France to the shortage of housing units for large families. The Jewish community in France was almost doubled by arrivals from North Africa following Algerian independence, most of them families with many children.

Pincus added that the same explanation was not valid for Britain. He said there was simply "a receding of the wave after it reached its crest" and that next year might produce a new record. Immigration from the United Kingdom amounted to 1,500 in 1968 and 1,900 last year. The 1970 figure from France was 5,200 and from Latin America 4,500. Pincus was particularly jubilant over the immigration rise from the U.S. and Canada. He noted that last year's figure included several thousand "yordim"--Israelis returning home after having spent seven or more

years abroad who were granted new immigrant privileges.

This year the immigrant status has been withdrawn and the number of returning Israelis has decreased so that there is actually an increase of "genuine" olim from North America, Pincus said. The total number of immigrants who arrived up to the end of August was 26,250, almost identical to the number during the corresponding period last year. Last year's total immigration was 42,000. According to the published findings of a research team, 8.7 percent of all immigrants leave Israel. Jewish Agency officials say one of the reasons is that many newcomers are unmarried and that until last year almost no provisions had been made for housing single persons. Pincus promised a crash program to remedy the situation.

COMMUNAL LEADERS MEET ON 1972 PRIORITIES Needs Of U.S., Israel Abroad Weighed

NEW YORK, Sept. 8 (JTA)--More than 200 communal leaders and Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds executives from some 60 cities in the United States and Canada will attend the fall quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the CJF tomorrow through Sunday at the Waldorf Astoria, Max M. Fisher of Detroit, CJF president announced today. The agenda of the four-day conclave is designed to give lay and professional leaders of American and Canadian Jewish communities their first opportunity to preview and assess 1972 domestic, overseas and Israel needs and to develop guidelines for community action. Highlighting the sessions is the plenary forum of the Campaign Services Committee on Friday where participants will hear reports from three communal leaders projecting the agendas of priority and need confronting Federations at home, overseas, as well as Israel's health, welfare and education needs.

Scheduled to address this group are Raymond Epstein of Chicago, CJF vice-president, a participant in the reconstituted Jewish Agency's first Assembly in Jerusalem in June; Edward Sanders, campaign chairman of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles; and Fisher. Other highlights of the quarterly meetings include a report by Irving Blum of Baltimore, on communal reaction to the report of the Task Force on Jewish Identity, and first-hand reports on the historic Assembly of the reconstituted Jewish Agency, as well as the Agency's proceedings since then. Other sessions will deal with Federation relationships to Day Schools, public relations priorities for 1972, issues facing the smaller-sized cities, leadership development, urban affairs and public welfare, College Youth and Faculty programming and involvement, and community relations and the intermediate-sized cities.

PIONEER WOMEN TO HOLD CONCLAVE

NEW YORK, Sept. 8 (JTA)--More than 400 Pioneer Women leaders from across the United States will convene in St. Louis, Missouri, September 12-15, for their 22nd Biennial National Convention. Mrs. Jack Zackler, Chicago attorney and national president of the women's Zionist organization, said: "We are meeting this year at an unusual time in the history of American-Zionist affairs. Up to now, the continuing outside threats to Israel's security accompanied by the affluence within the American Jewish community accelerated financial support for Israel. However, in a period such as we are now experiencing, where there is an on-going cease-fire in Israel and an economic decline in our own country, we must be prepared to deal with a possible complacency within our own American-Jewish community."