



daily news bulletin

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Vol. XI - Fifty-Sixth Year

Tuesday, January 2, 1973

No. 1

BRAZAVILLE-CONGO BREAKS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL; REASON UNKNOWN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Government sources expressed surprise today over the break in diplomatic relations with Israel by Brazzaville-Congo, and said they could think of no apparent reason for the sudden move announced yesterday in Brazzaville. Brazzaville-Congo is the third African state to sever relations with Israel in recent months. The others are Chad and Uganda.

Israeli officials, asked to comment on the apparent wave of anti-Israel feeling in Black African nations, said they were "of course, not pleased by this development but it doesn't worry us." They attributed the breaks to a "growing radicalization" in some African quarters and to "stepped up" propaganda efforts by Libya and Saudi Arabia. Uganda broke ties with Israel last Sept. after President Idi Amin's visit to Libya. Chad severed relations last month following a visit by King Saud of Saudi Arabia to that country.

Israel announced last week that it was replacing its ambassador in Brazzaville-Congo with a non-resident charges d'affaires and was also closing its Embassy in Niger. The down-grading was attributed by Foreign Ministry sources here to budget cuts and "a general reappraisal of our relations in Africa and around the world."

GOLAN HEIGHTS QUIET FOLLOWING ATTACK ON SYRIAN ARMY BASE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA)--The Golan Heights was quiet today following an Israeli air attack yesterday on a Syrian Army base 40 miles north of Damascus. The attack was in retaliation for the heavy shelling of Israeli positions and settlements on the Golan Heights by Syrian artillery Saturday night. All Israeli planes returned safely to their bases and no casualties were reported as a result of the shelling. An Israeli patrol discovered and dismantled two anti-vehicle mines found this morning on a dirt road near Nahal Golan.

The air attack, Israel's second in four days against Syrian targets, was launched at midnight, two hours after Syrian 122 mm. and 130 mm. guns opened fire on Bnei Yehuda and Afik in the central Golan Heights. Israeli pilots reported sighting huge fires at the Nabk Army camp, 120 miles inside Syria, apparently the results of hits on fuel supplies and ammunition dumps. The Israelis said they encountered no anti-aircraft fire. The Syrians sent up night interceptor planes, something they have rarely done in the past, but the Syrian pilots kept out of range and no aerial combat developed, an Israeli spokesman said.

Syrian MIGs were sighted over the cease-fire line this morning but kept to their side of the line. Golan Heights settlers remained in bomb shelters during the night and regular classes for children were conducted in the shelters today as a precautionary measure. Israeli circles said they did not expect the border situation to deteriorate to all-out warfare. They said Israel will continue to maintain pressure on Syria to end terrorist incursions across the cease-fire line.

TWO MORE JEWS HELD IN SPY RING

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA)--One of the two additional Israeli Jews detained last week in connection

with the uncovering of an Arab-Jewish spy ring was identified yesterday as Ram Livneh of Tel Aviv, 27, son of the Rakah member of the Knesset, Avraham Levenbrum. Livneh is married and the father of two. The second Jew is Yehoshua Lerman, 22, known as "Mali," a new immigrant from Argentina.

The news of the arrest of a Knesset member's son caused anxiety in leftist circles in Israel, particularly among the Rakah members. Meir Wilner, a Knesset member who returned Friday from the Soviet Union, said that Livneh was a known member of Matzpen, a small-ultra-leftist Israeli group, and did not see eye to eye with his father.

Police sources said both Livneh and Lerman were not directly connected with the main group, called the Adiv group for Ehud Adiv, one of the four Israeli Jews seized in the initial roundup along with 35 Arabs, in what authorities said was a Syrian-directed espionage ring. But it was reported that upon suggestions from Adiv and from Dan Vered, another arrested suspect, a special messenger of the Syrian intelligence bureau had come to visit Livneh and Lerman and suggested they join the "revolutionary movement" to "oust the Zionist conquering forces from Palestine."

(See Page four for Maoist defense of spy ring.)

Deny They Knew Syrian Agent

According to police sources, both Lerman and Livneh, members of a faction which split from Matzpen, rejected the suggestion but they did not inform Israeli authorities about the contact, an offense in itself. Police were aware of that meeting but the two were not immediately detained in the hope that the Syrian contact might try another meeting.

Both had been under constant surveillance since the initial arrests of Adiv and Vered, the latter a left-wing extremist who joined the Students for a Democratic Society while in the United States and later quit Matzpen because he thought the anti-Zionist pro-Trotskyist splinter group was too conservative.

The two Jews denied all charges during interrogation, contending they did not know the man they met was a Syrian agent. Livneh, like Adiv, was a kibbutz member. He served in the Army and reserve forces. Two years ago he left his kibbutz and joined Rakah but left soon because it was not sufficiently revolutionary, police reported. He used the same reason for quitting Matzpen.

Lerman was reported to have been active in left-wing groups in Argentina and was said to have had troubles with the Argentine police. Officials speculated the Syrian contact man may have crossed over a Jordan River bridge during the summer visits but this could not be confirmed.

New Year Begins With A Bang MAJOR STRIKES HIT ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Israelis woke up to the New Year this morning to find their seaports paralyzed by a walk-out of maritime officers, factories shut down by work stoppages protesting the lifting of price controls and the threat of major strikes tomorrow by engineers and government hospital employees that could disrupt the

nation's communications; cut off water and electric supplies and curtail health services at 22 government hospitals.

The grim labor picture occupied the attention of the Cabinet which has appealed to the engineers and hospital workers to call off their strike threats. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir was scheduled to hold another meeting tonight with the representatives of 30,000 engineers and technicians who are demanding a higher wage scale. The hospital administrative, kitchen and house-keeping employees are protesting delays in applying the recommendations of a special committee which have already been applied to non-government hospitals.

The maritime walk-out stemmed from Histadrut's refusal to recognize the Maritime Officers Association, a union established by licensed officers who had previously belonged to the general maritime union. The Association members include harbor pilots, marine inspectors and other shore-based personnel in addition to sea-going ships' officers. Their walk-out prevented ships from entering and leaving ports and halted the loading and discharge of cargoes. The officers rejected a Histadrut appeal to cancel the walk-out but agreed not to declare an official strike pending further negotiations.

Will Set Standards For Wage Demands

The dispute with the engineers and technicians is by far the most serious facing Israel, not only because of the disastrous effects of a power and communications black-out but because its outcome will set the standard for wage demands in other sectors, notably academicians, journalists and non-government technicians. A wage agreement with the engineers was to have gone into effect last March 1. The government accepted their demands for a 34 percent wage hike.

But the engineers insisted on adding three or four more grades to the top of the employment scale and asked a 74 percent increase over the prevailing top grade wages. This was rejected by the government and Histadrut on grounds that the disparity between engineers' and other wages would destroy the wage system.

Protest End Of Price Controls

The termination at midnight last night of general price controls that had been in effect since Aug. 1971, set off a wave of protests which found expression in two-hour work stoppages at factories all over the country. The government fixed prices on 125 basic commodities and services in order to avert a sudden spurt of price increases. But general price increases of over 10 percent were anticipated and many shops have already posted higher prices.

Dr. Moshé Mandelbaum, deputy director of the Finance Ministry, said last night that he doubted the decontrol order would be followed by a sharp upward trend in prices. Gen. Haim Barlev, Minister of Commerce and Industry, signed an administrative order fixing ceilings on the prices of bread, eggs, meat, cooking oils, soups, frozen poultry, instant coffee, beer, tea, wines and many other edibles. Price ceilings were also fixed for such items as tin used in canning, structural steel and bath tubs.

MANAGUA JEWISH LEADER PUTS DAMAGES TO JEWISH COMMUNITY AT \$2-3 MILLION

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA)—Leonardo Hellenberg, secretary of the Jewish community in Managua, Nicaragua, estimated Jewish losses from the earthquake that devastated that city at \$2-\$3 million. Hellenberg, who is visiting relatives here, said Managua's 30 Jewish families escaped serious

injury but lost all their property which included textile mills. Some were insured but others were uninsured he said. He estimated that it would take at least eight months to rebuild Jewish community structures including the synagogue which was levelled.

Hellenberg, 27, who attended Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in Brooklyn, Yeshiva University High School and Hebrew University in Jerusalem, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he narrowly escaped death when the earthquake destroyed his home in Managua shortly after midnight Dec. 23. He said that he worked from 6 a.m. until noon helping the Nicaraguan Red Cross and then boarded a plane for the U.S. He said he planned the trip before the quake and had airline reservations. According to Hellenberg, Managua's Jews have taken temporary refuge in San Jose, Costa Rica and Miami, Fla.

ANXIETY OVER FATE OF VALERY KUKUI

LONDON, Jan. 1 (JTA)—There is great anxiety over the fate of Valery Kukui, the Sverdlovsk Jewish activist who is serving a three-year sentence in the forced labor camp of Novaya Liaila. Last July he was sentenced to four months' solitary confinement, but no reason for this was given. According to the camp administration, Kukui was released from solitary confinement in Nov. but neither his wife, Ella, who is in Israel, nor his relatives and friends in the Soviet Union have had any communication from him in the last eight months.

His relatives have not been given permission to see him, although a visit was due according to camp regulations. The camp administration stated that Kukui did not want to see his relatives or write to his wife. Close friends stated that this is a palpable lie. "Kukui is not made of such stuff."

Meanwhile, 32 Jews in Moscow, 25 in Leningrad, 12 in Vilna and 7 in Kiev have staged a hunger strike to protest against the administrative sentences imposed on Jews who had staged a sit-in Dec. 18 at the Supreme Soviet to appeal for amnesty for Jewish political prisoners. It has also been learned that eight women, fined 20 rubles each when they returned to the Moscow police station to retrieve their identity cards which were taken from them after the sit-in, did not go voluntarily but were taken to the police station by uniformed police who told them they must come to collect their cards. They were fined on arrival.

In another development, the chairman of the Council of Jewish Women's Associations, Mrs. June Jacobs, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Mrs. Regina Braun who was sentenced to 15 days imprisonment after returning home to Riga from the sit-in, is six-months pregnant. She is being held incommunicado.

President Zalman Shazar, Eliahu Eilat, Israel's first Ambassador to the United States, and Yitzhak Rabin, retiring Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., will represent Israel at the memorial service for the late President Harry S. Truman in Washington Friday.

Israeli security services took special precautions today against a possible wave of terrorist acts and sabotage in populated areas, particularly in northern Israel. Security sources said the Army was cooperating with border police and local police forces in implementing security measures in light of information indicating renewed terrorist activities in the north. It is believed that terrorists may attempt to infiltrate across the Lebanese border.

THAILAND OFFICIALS PRAISED FOR AVERTING HUMAN DISASTER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)—Israeli officials repeatedly praised Thailand officials over the weekend for their handling of the incident in which four Arab terrorists seized the Israel Embassy in Thailand last Thursday and held six Israeli hostages for 19 hours before being persuaded by Thai officials and the Egyptian ambassador to Thailand to release the hostages unharmed.

"Fortitude, sangroid, discretion, faithful, energetic patience, good judgement and unyielding firmness" were some of the phrases official Israeli spokesmen used to express Israel's feelings of gratitude. There also was some rather offhand appreciation for the Egyptian envoy in Thailand, Mustafa el-Essawi; but Israeli officials were obviously confused as to how to react to the Egyptian envoy's unexpected helpfulness.

The formal Israeli tone was set by President Zalman Shazar in a cable to Thailand's King, declaring that "by a combination of patience, good judgement and unyielding firmness, your authorities averted what might have been a human disaster of far-reaching implications." He cited the "admiration and appreciation of all of Israel," Premier Golda Meir, Cabled Premier Thanin Kittikachorn personally to express her deepest appreciation, saying, "I know you yourself played a decisive role in the signal achievement and we are most deeply grateful to you."

Egyptian Envoy One Of Several Factors

Chief of Staff David Elazar sent a cable to Kittikachorn in his capacity as Thai Army chief of staff, thanking him for the way his soldiers handled the incident. Foreign Minister Abba Eban told a radio interviewer that the Egyptian envoy had been one among "several factors" which had brought about the successful conclusion. Eban contrasted Essawi's mediation efforts with Egypt's flat refusal to help West Germany, during the hectic hours in Munich which ended last Sept. 5 in the slaying of 11 Israeli Olympic athletes.

However, Foreign Ministry officials refrained from endorsing the more outspoken praise for Essawi from Israel's envoy to Cambodia, Shimon Avimor, who had been one of the six hostages. Commenting on Avimor's appreciative statements, the officials here said he was "speaking in the heat of the moment." The comments of Israel's envoy to Thailand, Behavim Amir were considered here as "most appropriate." Amir said Essawi's behavior was "thoroughly proper and befitting a diplomat."

Israel's uncertain response to Essawi's mediation stemmed from the fact, sources said, that until last week, Cairo intelligence was known to be in close contact with the Black September group, of which the terrorists at Bangkok claimed to be members.

The question, officials here said, was whether there had really been a change of Egyptian policy or whether Essawi acted on his own without instructions, conceded to be highly unlikely. One consideration for withholding outright praise was a fear that it might deter the Egyptians from acting in a similarly humane manner in a future similar case. One theory here was that Essawi agreed to mediate to avoid the international criticism heaped on Egypt for its behavior in the Munich carnage.

Reappraise Security Arrangements

Meanwhile, an investigation has been started

into the security aspects of the case with the start of collection of information in Bangkok. Sources in Jerusalem said today that Israel intends to reappraise security arrangements at its Embassies in the wake of the Bangkok incident. "Of course we are checking to see how the Arab terrorists could have taken over the Thai Embassy and if something needs to be done then we'll have to do something," one source said. The sources said that Aharon Yariv, the Prime Minister's intelligence advisor who flew to Bangkok last week, would report to the government on his return.

At the same time, the Lebanese newspaper, Al Moharer, reported that the four Palestinians who occupied the Israeli Embassy will be referred to a "Palestinian guerrilla court for violating instructions to blow up the Embassy with all its occupants." The paper, which has close connections with Palestinian terrorist organizations, said the four will be tried as soon as they return to their base. It did not say where the base was.

SOVIET CLARIFICATION OF HEAD TAX WELCOMED BUT STILL UNACCEPTABLE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA)—A Jewish leader said today that a Soviet official's statement that the education head tax was being waived for older emigrants and scaled down substantially for others on the basis of the number of years they have worked, was "welcome" as far as it went. But Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the diploma head tax remained an "unacceptable" economic barrier for educated Jews wishing to leave the USSR and that his organization would continue its efforts to have it abolished.

Maass was commenting on the statement of Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Boris Shumilin, released Friday by Novosti, the Soviet external news agency. Shumilin claimed that the education tax affected only about 10 percent of all persons applying for exit permits and that the State gave "due regard" for age, health, length of work and other individual factors in applying it. He said reports to the contrary were "Bourgeois propaganda hostile to the Soviet Union, especially Zionist propaganda."

Maass noted that Shumilin's statement "seems to imply some relaxation of the rigid and unconscionable exit tax that was arbitrarily imposed on educated Soviet citizens in August" (1972). But the Soviet official contended in his statement that the work yardstick and humanitarian considerations have prevailed all along. He also claimed that exit visas were granted in 1972 to 95.5 percent of all Jewish applicants, a statement disputed by Jewish activists in Moscow over the weekend.

Only A Handful Of Cases

Shumilin emphasized repeatedly in his statement to Novosti that the education head tax applied to all Soviet citizens seeking emigration, regardless of nationality, whose country of destination was not another Socialist state with which the USSR has special relations. He said that "in the recent period" 530 visa applicants were exempted from paying the head tax out of consideration for their financial status.

Jewish activists in Moscow said Friday that they did not know of any cases in recent weeks in which such systematic waivers or reductions were applied. The sources noted further that most of the Jewish emigrants exempted from the head tax had their visas granted just before the American Presidential elections and that "since then there have been only a handful of scattered cases."

MAOISTS SUPPORT SPY RING AS FIGHTERS FOR SOCIALISM IN MIDEAST

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA)--The Progressive Labor Party, the official Maoist organization in the country, has come to the defense of Dan Vered "and his comrades" who were arrested in Israel several weeks ago as members of the Syrian-directed spy and sabotage ring. According to the latest issue (Jan. 11) of "Challenge," the mouthpiece of the PLP, Vered and the group arrested with him were part of "a handful of Jewish and Arab working people (who) formed the Revolutionary Communist Alliance...to win both Jewish and Arab workers to unite and fight for socialism" in Israel.

"The Alliance, Challenge explains, was formed last year, an event, 'which, though small in itself, could have catastrophic potential consequences for Zionists and their U.S. masters.' How? Challenge asserts that the Alliance, unlike other pseudo-revolutionary groups in Israel tolerated by the government and even encouraged to participate in the government to provide a facade of democracy, was prepared to expose Israel as a puppet of American imperialism and as a friend of some of the most reactionary regimes in Asia.

In addition, the PLP continues, the emergence of the Alliance came at a time when Israel was in the midst of strikes and general workers' resentment against inflation, the continuing state of war, and at a time when Zionism was becoming exposed as a vicious system of entrapping unwary Jews into "the Zionist paradise."

"To nip this danger in the bud," Challenge states, the government needed a scapegoat and Vered and "his comrades" fitted the bill. In a banner headline on page one of the latest issue, the arrests are termed: "Israeli 'Spy' Hoax: Anti-Communist Strike-busting." On page two, the headline over the story dealing with Vered states: "Israeli Anti-Communist Frame-up Can't Defuse Exploding Strike Wave." There is also a touched-up picture of Israeli Premier Golda Meir made to look like Hitler and wearing an armband with a swastika.

At the bottom of the article, Challenge includes a box item which states: "Dan Vered, one of the four arrested Israelis, wrote to PLP last year on the class struggle in the Mideast and his comrades' program to help lead it. From the very brief excerpt below, one can see why the fascist Israeli rulers want to see them destroyed." Part of the excerpt states: "In a certain sense, we are fighting a political struggle against gangsters. We must get this into our heads: we are outside the framework and this is an inevitable result of our internationalist position." Another segment of the excerpt states: "We are not speaking of miraculous solutions or of wonders. We say we must undertake a long march that demands work, skill and discipline, of no common measure with the norms familiar to us...."

Challenge provides a brief sketch of Vered's activities in the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) while he was in the United States several years ago, and asserts that he played "a leading role in his university in fighting and defeating the Weathermen, a faction that advocated terror, bombing and assassination and later left the SDS" to support the PLP Worker-Student Alliance SDS faction which advocated "hard and patient work with a long-term perspective, of winning workers' and students to a revolutionary socialist outlook."

The article concludes with an appeal "to every American worker" to help free Vered and other

members of the Alliance "so they can resume the struggle for socialism in the 'Middle East,'" and to end once and for all arrests of socialists in Israel which actually constitute "the Zionists' 'foreign aid' contribution to shoring up U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and in Southeast Asia."

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR B.Z. GOLDBERG; DEAD AT 78

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Funeral services were held yesterday for Ben Zion Goldberg, the noted American author and journalist, who died Friday of a heart attack at the age of 78. His death occurred two days after he arrived here from New York as a guest of the Histadrut. He was buried in the writers' section of Kiryat Shaul Cemetery near here. Mr. Goldberg was eulogized by Yitzhak Ben Aharon, Histadrut secretary, as a friend of the union movement and of working people.

Born near Vilna, he came to the United States in 1907 and received a doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University in 1930. Mr. Goldberg was a staff member of the Jewish Day Journal, a Yiddish daily which ceased publication in Dec. 1971. He was its managing editor from 1924 to 1940 and wrote a column for the newspaper for 52 years. Mr. Goldberg, who considered himself a Marxist but not a Communist, made several trips to the Soviet Union and wrote several books on Soviet Jewry. A critic of the Stalinist regime, he nevertheless opposed the cold war approach to the Soviet Union.

He was active in establishing the Sholom Aleichem House Library in Tel Aviv and at the time of his death was a columnist for The Jewish Week and The American Examiner, a member of the editorial board of Israel Horizons and a columnist for Al Hamishmar. During his decades as a journalist, Mr. Goldberg was a correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Toronto Star Weekly and the New Republic. Mr. Goldberg, whose real name was Ben-Zion Waffe, was married to Marie Rabinowitz, the daughter of Sholom Aleichem. She was at his side when he died.

DR. JACOB A. RUBIN, ZIONIST LEADER, JOURNALIST, DEAD AT 62

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Funeral services were held Friday for Dr. Jacob A. Rubin, Zionist leader and director of the Jewish National Fund Foundation of Greater New York, who died Thursday at the age of 62. Burial will be in Jerusalem. A journalist and author, Dr. Rubin was a native of Poland where he earned his degrees in law and diplomatic studies at the University of Lwow. He emigrated to Palestine in 1938 and with the outbreak of World War II, he volunteered for service in the Jewish Battalion.

He served as intelligence and information officer in the Jewish Brigade, the only military unit to serve in the British Army as an independent national Jewish military formation, and he saw action in the North African and Italian campaigns in 1944 and 1945. He was also editor of the Army periodicals Maavaka and He Hayil. Following the war, he was a member of the Rescue Committee of European Jews, and in 1948 was appointed to Israel's Provisional Council of State. He edited a number of Israeli dailies in the early years of Statehood. Dr. Rubin was the author of several books including "True/False About Israel." He was also co-author of "Pictorial History of Israel."



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Hellenberg, 27, who attended Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in Brooklyn, Yeshiva University High School and Hebrew University in Jerusalem, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he narrowly escaped death when the earthquake destroyed his home in Managua shortly after midnight Dec. 23. He said that he worked from 6 a.m. until noon helping the Nicaraguan Red Cross and then boarded a plane for the U.S. He said he planned the trip before the quake and had airline reservations. According to Hellenberg, Managua's Jews have taken temporary refuge in San Jose, Costa Rica and Miami, Fla.

ANXIETY OVER FATE OF VALERY KUKUI

LONDON, Jan. 1 (JTA)--There is great anxiety over the fate of Valery Kukui, the Sverdlovsk Jewish activist who is serving a three-year sentence in the forced labor camp of Novaya Lialia. Last July he was sentenced to four months solitary confinement, but no reason for this was given. According to the camp administration Kukui was released from solitary confinement in Nov, but neither his wife, Ella, who is in Israel, nor his relatives and friends in the Soviet Union have had any communication from him in the last eight months.

His relatives have not been given permission to see him, although a visit was due according to camp regulations. The camp administration stated that Kukui did not want to see his relatives or write to his wife. Close friends stated that this is a palpable lie. "Kukui is not made of such stuff."

Meanwhile, 32 Jews in Moscow, 25 in Leningrad, 12 in Vilna and 7 in Kiev have staged a hunger strike to protest against the administrative sentences imposed on Jews who had staged a sit-in Dec. 18 at the Supreme Soviet to appeal for amnesty for Jewish political prisoners. It has also been learned that eight women, fined 20 rubles each when they returned to the Moscow police station to retrieve their identity cards which were taken from them after the sit-in, did not go voluntarily but were taken to the police station by uniformed police who told them they must come to collect their cards. They were fined on arrival.

In another development, the chairman of the Council of Jewish Women's Associations, Mrs. June Jacobs, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Mrs. Regina Braun who was sentenced to 15 days imprisonment after returning home to Riga from the sit-in, is six months pregnant. She is being held incommunicado.

President Zalman Shazar, Eliahu Eilat, Israel's first Ambassador to the United States, and Yitzhak Rabin, retiring Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., will represent Israel at the memorial service for the late President Harry S. Truman in Washington Friday.

Israeli security services took special precautions today against a possible wave of terrorist acts and sabotage in populated areas, particularly in northern Israel. Security sources said the Army was cooperating with border police and local police forces in implementing security measures in light of information indicating renewed terrorist activities in the north. It is believed that terrorists may attempt to infiltrate across the Lebanese border.

THAILAND OFFICIALS PRAISED FOR AVERTING HUMAN DISASTER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Israeli officials repeatedly praised Thailand officials over the weekend for their handling of the incident in which four Arab terrorists seized the Israeli Embassy in Thailand last Thursday and held six Israeli hostages for 19 hours before being persuaded by Thai officials and the Egyptian ambassador to Thailand to release the hostages unharmed.

"Fortitude, sangroid, discretion, faithful, energetic patience, good judgement and unyielding firmness" were some of the phrases official Israeli spokesmen used to express Israel's feelings of gratitude. There also was some rather offhand appreciation for the Egyptian envoy in Thailand, Mustafa el-Essawi but Israeli officials were obviously confused as to how to react to the Egyptian envoy's unexpected helpfulness.

The formal Israeli tone was set by President Zaiman Shazar in a cable to Thailand's King, declaring that "by a combination of patience, good judgement and unyielding firmness, your authorities averted what might have been a human disaster of far-reaching implications." He cited the "admiration and appreciation of all of Israel." Premier Golda Meir cabled Premier Thanon Kittikachorn personally to express her deepest appreciation, saying, "I know you yourself played a decisive role in the signal achievement and we are most deeply grateful to you."

Egyptian Envoy One Of Several Factors

Chief of Staff David Elazar sent a cable to Kittikachorn in his capacity as Thai Army chief of staff, thanking him for the way his soldiers handled the incident. Foreign Minister Abba Eban told a radio interviewer that the Egyptian envoy had been one among "several factors" which had brought about the successful conclusion. Eban contrasted Essawi's mediation efforts with Egypt's flat refusal to help West Germany during the hectic hours in Munich which ended last Sept. 5 in the slaying of 11 Israeli Olympic athletes.

However, Foreign Ministry officials refrained from endorsing the more outspoken praise for Essawi from Israel's envoy to Cambodia, Shimon Avimor, who had been one of the six hostages. Commenting on Avimor's appreciative statements, the officials here said he was "speaking in the heat of the moment." The comments of Israel's envoy to Thailand, Rehavam Amir were considered here as "most appropriate." Amir said Essawi's behavior was "thoroughly proper and befitting a diplomat."

Israel's uncertain response to Essawi's mediation stemmed from the fact, sources said, that until last week, Cairo intelligence was known to be in close contact with the Black September group, of which the terrorists at Bangkok claimed to be members.

The question, officials here said, was whether there had really been a change of Egyptian policy or whether Essawi acted on his own without instructions, conceded to be highly unlikely. One consideration for withholding outright praise was a fear that it might deter the Egyptians from acting in a similarly humane manner in a future similar case. One theory here was that Essawi agreed to mediate to avoid the international criticism heaped on Egypt for its behavior in the Munich carnage.

Reappraise Security Arrangements

Meanwhile, an investigation has been started

into the security aspects of the case with the start of collection of information in Bangkok. Sources in Jerusalem said today that Israel intends to reappraise security arrangements at its Embassies in the wake of the Bangkok incident. "Of course we are checking to see how the Arab terrorists could have taken over the Thai Embassy and if something needs to be done then we'll have to do something," one source said. The sources said that Aharon Yariv, the Prime Minister's intelligence advisor, who flew to Bangkok last week, would report to the government on his return.

At the same time, the Lebanese newspaper, Al Moharrer, reported that the four Palestinians who occupied the Israeli Embassy will be referred to a "Palestinian guerrilla court for violating instructions to blow up the Embassy with all its occupants." The paper, which has close connections with Palestinian terrorist organizations, said the four will be tried as soon as they return to their base. It did not say where the base was.

SOVIET CLARIFICATION OF HEAD TAX WELCOMED BUT STILL UNACCEPTABLE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA)--A Jewish leader said today that a Soviet official's statement that the education head tax was being waived for older emigrants and scaled down substantially for others on the basis of the number of years they have worked, was "welcome" as far as it went. But Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the diploma head tax remained an "unacceptable" economic barrier for educated Jews wishing to leave the USSR and that his organization would continue its efforts to have it abolished.

Maass was commenting on the statement of Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Boris Shumilin, released Friday by Novosti, the Soviet external news agency. Shumilin claimed that the education tax affected only about 10 percent of all persons applying for exit permits and that the State gave "due regard" for age, health, length of work and other individual factors in applying it. He said reports to the contrary were "Bourgeois propaganda hostile to the Soviet Union, especially Zionist propaganda."

Maass noted that Shumilin's statement "seems to imply some relaxation of the rigid and unconscionable exit tax that was arbitrarily imposed on educated Soviet citizens in August" (1972). But the Soviet official contended in his statement that the work yardstick and humanitarian considerations have prevailed all along. He also claimed that exit visas were granted in 1972 to 95.5 percent of all Jewish applicants, a statement disputed by Jewish activists in Moscow over the weekend.

Only A Handful Of Cases

Shumilin emphasized repeatedly in his statement to Novosti that the education head tax applied to all Soviet citizens seeking emigration, regardless of nationality, whose country of destination was not another Socialist state with which the USSR has special relations. He said that "in the recent period" 530 visa applicants were exempted from paying the head tax out of consideration for their financial status.

Jewish activists in Moscow said Friday that they did not know of any cases in recent weeks in which such systematic waivers or reductions were applied. The sources noted further that most of the Jewish emigrants exempted from the head tax had their visas granted just before the American Presidential elections and that "since then there have been only a handful of scattered cases."

MAOISTS SUPPORT SPY RING AS FIGHTERS FOR SOCIALISM IN MIDEAST

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA)--The Progressive Labor Party, the official Maoist organization in the country, has come to the defense of Dan Vered "and his comrades" who were arrested in Israel several weeks ago as members of the Syrian-directed spy and sabotage ring. According to the latest issue (Jan. 11) of "Challenge," the mouthpiece of the PLP, Vered and the group arrested with him were part of "a handful of Jewish and Arab working people (who) formed the Revolutionary Communist Alliance...to win both Jewish and Arab workers to unite and fight for socialism" in Israel.

The Alliance, Challenge explains, was formed last year, an event, "which, though small in itself, could have catastrophic potential consequences for Zionists and their U.S. masters." How? Challenge asserts that the Alliance, unlike other pseudo-revolutionary groups in Israel tolerated by the government and even encouraged to participate in the government to provide a facade of democracy, was prepared to expose Israel as a puppet of American imperialism and as a friend of some of the most reactionary regimes in Asia.

In addition, the PLP continues, the emergence of the Alliance came at a time when Israel was in the midst of strikes and general workers' resentment against inflation, the continuing state of war, and at a time when Zionism was becoming exposed as a vicious system of entrapping unwary Jews into "the Zionist paradise."

"To nip this danger in the bud," Challenge states, the government needed a scapegoat and Vered and "his comrades" fitted the bill. In a banner headline on page one of the latest issue, the arrests are termed: "Israeli 'Spy' Hoax: Anti-Communist Strike-busting." On page two, the headline over the story dealing with Vered states: "Israeli Anti-Communist Frame-up Can't Defuse Exploding Strike Wave." There is also a touched-up picture of Israeli Premier Golda Meir made to look like Hitler and wearing an armband with a swastika.

At the bottom of the article, Challenge includes a box item which states: "Dan Vered, one of the four arrested Israelis, wrote to PLP last year on the class struggle in the Mideast and his comrades' program to help lead it. From the very brief excerpt below, one can see why the fascist Israeli rulers want to see them destroyed." Part of the excerpt states: "In a certain sense, we are fighting a political struggle against gangsters. We must get this into our heads: we are outside the framework and this is an inevitable result of our internationalist position." Another segment of the excerpt states: "We are not speaking of miraculous solutions or of wonders. We say we must undertake a long march that demands work, skill and discipline, of no common measure with the norms familiar to us..."

Challenge provides a brief sketch of Vered's activities in the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) while he was in the United States several years ago, and asserts that he played "a leading role in his university in fighting and defeating the Weathermen, a faction that advocated terror, bombing and assassination and later left the SDS" to support the PLP Worker-Student Alliance SDS faction which advocated "hard and patient work with a long-term perspective of winning workers and students to a revolutionary socialist outlook."

The article concludes "with an appeal 'to every American worker' to help free Vered and other

members of the Alliance "so they can resume the struggle for socialism in the Middle East," and to end once and for all arrests of socialists in Israel which actually constitute "the Zionists' 'foreign aid' contribution to shoring up U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and in Southeast Asia."

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR B. Z. GOLDBERG, DEAD AT 78

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Funeral services were held yesterday for Ben Zion Goldberg, the noted American author and journalist, who died Friday of a heart attack at the age of 78. His death occurred two days after he arrived here from New York as a guest of the Histadrut. He was buried in the writers' section of Kiryat Shaul Cemetery near here. Mr. Goldberg was eulogized by Yitzhak Ben Aharon, Histadrut secretary, as a friend of the union movement and of working people.

Born near Vilna, he came to the United States in 1907 and received a doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University in 1920. Mr. Goldberg was a staff member of the Jewish Day-Journal, a Yiddish daily which ceased publication in Dec. 1971. He was its managing editor from 1924 to 1940 and wrote a column for the newspaper for 52 years. Mr. Goldberg, who considered himself a Marxist but not a Communist, made several trips to the Soviet Union and wrote several books on Soviet Jewry. A critic of the Stalinist regime, he nevertheless opposed the cold war approach to the Soviet Union.

He was active in establishing the Sholom Alieichem House Library in Tel Aviv and at the time of his death was a columnist for The Jewish Week and The American Examiner, a member of the editorial board of Israel Horizons and a columnist for Al Hamishmar. During his decades as a journalist, Mr. Goldberg was a correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Toronto Star Weekly and the New Republic. Mr. Goldberg, whose real name was Ben Zion Waife, was married to Marie Rabinowitz, the daughter of Sholom Alieichem. She was at his side when he died.

DR. JACOB A. RUBIN, ZIONIST LEADER, JOURNALIST, DEAD AT 62

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (JTA)--Funeral services were held Friday for Dr. Jacob A. Rubin, Zionist leader and director of the Jewish National Fund Foundation of Greater New York, who died Thursday at the age of 62. Burial will be in Jerusalem. A journalist and author, Dr. Rubin was a native of Poland where he earned his degrees in law and diplomatic studies at the University of Lwow. He emigrated to Palestine in 1938 and with the outbreak of World War II, he volunteered for service in the Jewish Battalion.

He served as intelligence and information officer in the Jewish Brigade, the only military unit to serve in the British Army as an independent national Jewish military formation, and he saw action in the North African and Italian campaigns in 1944 and 1945. He was also editor of the Army periodicals Maavaka and Hayil. Following the war, he was a member of the Rescue Committee of European Jews, and in 1948 was appointed to Israel's Provisional Council of State. He edited a number of Israeli dailies in the early years of Statehood. Dr. Rubin was the author of several books including "True/False About Israel." He was also co-author of "Pictorial History of Israel."