



# daily news bulletin

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## NIGER BREAKS TIES WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Niger today became the fourth African state--the second in a week--to break diplomatic relations with Israel. The Foreign Ministry announced today that the Israeli diplomatic representative in Niger, Shlomo Avital, was summoned by the Niger Foreign Minister to receive a letter for Foreign Minister Abba Eban advising Israel of the break.

An Israeli spokesman said that there was nothing in the relations between Niger and Israel that could have justified this move. Brazzaville-Congo announced its diplomatic break with Israel last Sunday. In recent months both Chad and Uganda severed their ties with Israel.

Israeli officials have attributed the series of diplomatic set-backs in Africa to pressure by Arab countries and to a general wave of "radicalization" that seems to be sweeping Black Africa. The Foreign Ministry announced two weeks ago that Israel had decided to downgrade its representation in Niger and the resident ambassador, Yehoshua Rash, was transferred to neighboring Togo.

Reliable sources said at the time that the move was intended to avert a complete break by lowering Israel's profile in Niger and minimizing Arab pressure thereby. Libya was said to have been applying pressure on Niger to break with Israel and accompanying its pressure with financial blandishments. Eban told the Knesset yesterday that the recent setbacks in Africa stemmed from external pressures rather than the unpopularity of Israel's Middle East stance among African states.

## MRS. MEIR SAYS VISIT TO PARIS ENTIRELY NON-POLITICAL

PARIS, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir has made it clear that her forthcoming visit to Paris to attend a meeting of the Socialist International is entirely non-political. She said she would meet with no French officials other than those attending the meeting, would take part in no demonstrations and would not even hold a press conference. Mrs. Meir's remarks were relayed today by Salomon Friedrich, director of the Franco-Israeli Alliance, who interviewed the Israeli Premier in Jerusalem this week. Mrs. Meir is due in Paris Jan. 12. The Socialist meeting will be held Jan. 13-14.

Her acceptance of the invitation of French Socialist leader Francois Mitterand to attend the meeting has been sharply criticized in Gaullist circles and by some sections of the French press as interference in France's current election campaign. Mrs. Meir described her visit as "a normal gesture for someone who is a vice president of the organization," Friedrich reported. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that French Premier Pierre Messmer has himself recently invited Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban to Paris for an official visit.

## PREMIER SUGGESTS U.S. WITHHOLD WHEAT SALE TO USSR AS LONG AS JEWS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir suggested last night that the United States should withhold the sale of wheat to the Soviet Union as long as Russian Jews are not permitted

to leave for Israel. Addressing the annual convention of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry at the Van Leer Institute, Mrs. Meir said "it is inhumane for the Americans to condition the sale of grain on the Soviets' allowing Jews to join their brothers."

The sale of American wheat to the USSR to alleviate severe shortages caused by last year's poor crop is a major aspect of the expanded U.S.-Soviet trade agreed to at last May's summit meeting in Moscow. Bi-partisan resolutions awaiting action in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives this month would withhold most-favored-nation status and trade credits from the Soviet Union as long as that country continues to restrict emigration.

Mrs. Meir, in her address, also criticized international and Israeli scientists for not boycotting scientific conferences in Russia while Soviet authorities demand an exorbitant head-tax from Jewish academicians seeking to leave.

## Keep Up World Pressure

Prof. Yuval Neeman of Tel Aviv University estimated that there are about 370,000 Russian Jews with academic training. If the families of these professionals are counted, this means that about one-third of all Russian Jews are penalized by the education head tax, he said. Prof. Neeman added that the world scientific community must give Jewish scientists in Russia all the protection that international publicity can afford.

Avraham Harman, president of Hebrew University and president of the Public Council for Soviet Jewry, said that up to the Six-Day War only about 7000 Jews left Russia for Israel while since then 50,000 have come. He said this proved that the USSR responds to changes in circumstances. It is up to Israel and world Jewry to exploit Russia's need for economic concessions from the West, Harman stated.

Greville Janner, a visiting MP from Britain, told the meeting that direct action on behalf of Soviet Jews, such as telephone calls and radio broadcasts can have immediate results in Russia. Dr. Zeev Ravitsky, a Moscow chemist who recently arrived in Israel, urged the International Red Cross to visit Jewish political prisoners in the USSR. He also assailed the exploitation of Russian-Jewish immigration for partisan political purposes in Israel.

## GOREN-PUBLISHES LANGER CASE RULING, CITES HALACHIC BASIS FOR DECISION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren published his controversial ruling in the Langer case last night but continued to withhold the names of the nine gayanim (rabbinical judges) who concurred in it because of the "ugly atmosphere created by extremist elements." The ruling cleared Hanooh and Miriam Langer of the taint of bastardy, allowing them to marry their fiancés. It created a furor in right-wing Orthodox circles here and abroad.

The ruling cited four halachic grounds on which Rabbi Goren contends the Langer children were free to marry. It stated that there was no evidence that their mother's first husband, Avraham Borokowsky, was properly converted to Judaism; that even if he was properly converted, his reversion to Christian practices afterwards nullified his conversion; that there was no evidence that Mrs. Langer was ever married to Borokowsky; and that even if they were

married, Borokowsky's divorce of her after she remarried and bore children by her second husband, nullified the original marriage bond.

The Langer children had been declared "mamzerim" (illegitimate) by a Petach Tikva rabbinical court seven years ago. That court claimed that Mrs. Langer had never divorced Borokowsky who she married in Poland shortly after World War II and who subsequently disappeared. Borokowsky later turned up in Israel claiming to be a practicing Jew. He appealed to the Supreme Court to prevent publication of Rabbi Goren's ruling but the court deferred action until today. Borokowsky claimed that the ruling, published under the official seal of the State of Israel, injured and offended him.

#### Yosef Calls Goren Dictator

Meanwhile new trouble has developed between Rabbi Goren and his colleague Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. In an emotional speech to Jerusalem's Oriental community last night, Rabbi Yosef described Rabbi Goren as a "dictator," implied that he twisted halacha (religious law) for his own purposes, and begged the Sephardic community to support him in his confrontation with the Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi.

In a voice choked with tears, Rabbi Yosef said, "I live under a dictatorship. I am alone on the battlefield. I need your help to carry on. You do not know what is going on in the Chief Rabbinate. I am alone fighting every hour. I cannot sleep nights." He alleged, that Rabbi Goren imposed his will at Chief Rabbinate meetings by "banging his fist on the table and saying, 'that is it'."

Rabbi Yosef made no direct reference to the Langer ruling. However, he said, "I am opposed to extremism but I believe halacha should be dispensed without publicity and without sensationalism. I am of the school of Bet Hillel but I cannot make halacha so plastic that it can fit into any mold. I cannot tell the crowd that everything is permissible, everything is forgivable."

There was no comment today from Rabbi Goren. A spokesman for the Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi said that all rulings by the Chief Rabbinate were made through democratic procedures. Rabbi Yosef was out of town when Rabbi Goren convened his religious court to rule in the Langer case. His attack on Rabbi Goren last night was considered unprecedented in the annals of Israel's Chief Rabbinate.

#### RIVLIN: ASSIMILATION RIFE

##### AMONG JEWISH YOUTH IN DIASPORA

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Moshe Rivlin, director-general of the Jewish Agency, claimed last night that assimilation was rife among Jewish youth in Western countries. He told a convention of Agency emissaries that a survey of 10,000 Jewish students in Great Britain revealed that seven of eight had no contacts with Jewish life and that a third entered into mixed marriages. The situation is even worse in the United States, Rivlin contended.

He noted that in the U.S. only 7.7 percent of the Jewish youth received any Jewish education beyond the elementary level. He said a survey showed that 45 percent of American Catholic students and 15 percent of Protestant students believed that they should live by the values of their respective religions. But only eight percent of the Jewish students felt the same way, Rivlin said.

#### SEAPORTS HIT BY SLOW-DOWNS, HOSPITAL WORKERS END STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Israel's three seaports were crippled by work slow-downs today as 4000 dockworkers demanded wage scales on a par with the much higher paid construction workers. The longshoremen at Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat instituted a "rule-book" action, refused to work overtime and in many cases went home before working their normal hours.

The action, a partial strike in effect, hit the ports at the peak of Israel's citrus export season. Most citrus exports move through Haifa and Ashdod. The dock workers said they would not meet with Port Authority representatives unless the latter invite them.

New labor trouble erupted at Lod Airport, meanwhile, where 150 technical foremen employed by El Al staged a wild-cat strike shortly after midnight today in demand of higher wages. It was uncertain whether El Al would be able to maintain its normal flight schedules if the walk-out continues. Some 30,000 engineers and technicians who disrupted Israel's communications with a 24-hour "warning strike" Tuesday, said they would stage a three-day strike beginning Jan. 15 if there is no progress in their negotiations for a higher wage scale.

A three-day strike by 6000 government hospital employees ended today in a victory for the workers. Health Minister Victor Shemtov agreed to their demand to apply the recommendations of a recent inquiry committee to the 22 government hospitals. The recommendations, which included higher wages, were accepted by Kupat Holim (sick-fund) and municipal hospitals. But Shemtov had insisted earlier that they were not binding on the government hospitals. He reversed himself after a meeting of a special ministerial committee this morning which authorized him to end the strike.

#### ZIONISTS-REVISIONISTS TO WAGE FIGHT AGAINST QUOTA SYSTEMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--The United Zionists-Revisionists of America, a branch of the World Herut Movement, has announced the creation of a new board of trustees to increase ideological and organizational activities of its membership and establishment of a committee to fight against quotas in employment and education. Prof. Howard L. Adelson, UZRA president and board chairman, said this decision was taken at a recent meeting of the organization.

According to Prof. Adelson, the "new revitalized program of the UZRA will include the furtherance of Hebrew as the national language of the Jewish people, allya to Israel, establishment of self-defense groups in Jewish communities in need of such groups, and rejuvenation of Herzlian and political Zionism in this country." In addition, he noted, UZRA will continue its active ideological support of the Herut policy in Israel, "for the maintenance of the historical boundaries of Israel."

Focusing on the fight against quotas, Prof. Adelson disclosed that the UZRA had received numerous appeals to take effective measures against a new proposal circulated among some medical schools in this country to introduce various means for regulating admissions on an ethnic or racial basis. He stated that five New York State Supreme Court Justices from Manhattan and the Bronx, who insisted on complete anonymity, were consulted in preparing the guidelines.

The document stated, in part, "establishing given percentages or quotas of minority students to be accepted in a class represents predictable problems. This should be avoided at all costs. It is possible to

achieve the same results without giving the appearance of restricting portions of the class for designated groups."

According to Prof. Adelson, this proposal assumed serious significance in light of a reported statement by the Dean of the Medical School of the University of Illinois that the university's Board of Regents had directed that 60 of the 300 applicants admitted each year be members of minority groups. "Thus, the quota system in education was established," Prof. Adelson said. Initial steps to fight quotas, he added, has already been taken by the UZRA in a series of meetings with educators and political leaders. Professors Marnin Feinstein and Louis G. Heller have been named to head the committee to fight against quotas.

#### USSR ANTI-HIJACKING LAW DECREED TWO YEARS AFTER LENINGRAD TRIAL

LONDON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--The Soviet Union's first anti-hijacking law, decreed yesterday by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, writes into the USSR's penal code penalties imposed two years ago on nine Jews accused of attempting to hijack a Soviet airliner in Leningrad to fly to Israel.

The stiff penalties announced in Moscow include the death sentence in cases where a hijacking leads to death or serious injury and basic sentences of 3-10 years and up to 15 years -- the maximum Soviet prison term -- if violence is threatened or an accident is caused. The new law applies to the hijackers of Soviet planes and to hijackers who land non-Soviet planes on Soviet soil.

At the Leningrad hijack trial of Dec. 1970 in which the defendants were accused only of attempting to hijack a plane and in which no deaths or injuries occurred, death sentences were imposed on Edouard Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshitz, four others received 10-year terms each, one a 12-year term, one eight years and one a four-year term. Kuznetsov and Dymshitz had their sentences commuted to 15 years' imprisonment each after a world-wide outcry against the severity of the original sentences.

There have been no Soviet hijacking cases recently and Soviet airports have not adopted security measures comparable to those in Western countries. There are no searches of baggage and passengers. Observers here, speculating as to why the tough new penalties were published at this time, noted that the announcement of the hijack penalties coincided with efforts to obtain amnesty for Jewish political prisoners, the Leningrad defendants among them, in connection with the Soviet Union's 50th anniversary observances.

(In New York, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, accused the Soviet Union today of "hypocrisy" in imposing stiff penalties for skyjacking at home while working to "undermine and scuttle" efforts to deter international air piracy through the United Nations. Rabbi Hertzberg said, "If the Soviet government genuinely intends to help make civil aviation safe for innocent passengers, they let it cooperate in international efforts to punish and deter all acts of air hijacking without discrimination as to the political views or ideological commitments of those who carry them out.")

#### IKRIT-BIRIM RESIDENTS PROTEST ORDERS BARRING THEIR RETURN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--About 40 former residents of Ikrut and Birim who were evacuated from those Upper Galilee border villages after

Israel's War for Independence in 1948, demonstrated peacefully outside the Knesset today to protest orders barring their return. They told newsmen they would continue their campaign for return by legal means.

The demonstrators carried placards reading "Birim is a closed area. Justice cannot get in." They dispersed when a delegation of five former villagers were allowed to enter the Knesset building to speak to members in the lobby. Ikrut and Birim were evacuated by the Army in 1948 because their proximity to the Lebanese border was considered a security problem. The Arab villagers were relocated and the towns were subsequently razed. The villagers renewed their campaign to return last year but the Government upheld the military's position that the area still constituted a security zone. Last week military officials declared the area closed to civilians.

Meanwhile, the Military Governor of Nabulus turned down a request by former Mayor Hamdi Kanan and other city notables to hold a march Jan. 28 to protest the closure of 40,000 dunams (10,000 acres) of land by the Israeli Army since the Six-Day War. The Military Governor told a delegation that security considerations would not permit holding large meetings or demonstrations. The closed areas, which the Nabulus residents want reopened, are in the administered territories. The Army says they were closed for security reasons.

#### PRO-ISRAEL MAGAZINE LAUNCHED

MONTREAL, Jan. 4 (JTA)--A new monthly magazine published by the Canada-Israel Committee will attempt to achieve "a spiritual rapprochement" between the people of Quebec and Israel by presenting "the varied aspects of the cultural, artistic, economic and social life of Israel across impressions gathered by Quebecers who visited Israel," according to an editorial in the magazine's first issue dated Dec. 1972.

The French-language publication, "Regards Sur Israel," whose editor-in-chief is Michael Solomon, Montreal correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, claims to be the first magazine in North America in which prominent non-Jewish French Canadian poets and writers deal favorably with Israel. The editorial states that it is also the intention of the magazine to encourage those who have not yet gone to Israel to familiarize themselves with the ancient-new culture and social experiments in the Jewish State.

#### URGE BOYCOTT OF PEPSICO PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--The Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry has called upon Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout America to boycott Pepsi Cola products in retaliation for Pepsi's recent agreement to place the soft drink on the Soviet market. The agreement concluded between the PepsiCo Company and the Soviet Ministry of Trade enables Pepsi Cola to become the first American consumer product manufactured and sold in the Soviet Union.

The agreement stipulates that Pepsi Cola may be produced and sold in Russia in proportion to the volume of Russian alcoholic products marketed in the U.S. through PepsiCo's subsidiary, Monsteur Henri Wines. In protest, the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry is pressing Jewish organizations to cancel all Pepsi orders, remove Pepsi machines from their premises and write to suppliers explaining why the action is being taken. A boycott is also urged of PepsiCo's subsidiary products including Monsteur Henri Wines, Frito-Lay products and other soft drinks.

## NO ANTI-SEMITISM SEEN IN DEATH OF JEWISH COLLEGE STUDENT

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 (JTA)--A spokesman for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that there was "not the slightest hint" that anti-Semitism played any part in the accidental death of Fred Bronner, a Jewish youth who fell from a 500 foot cliff in the Los Angeles National Forest during a fraternity hazing Dec. 22. According to Harvey Schechter, Western States fact-finding director of the ADL, no evidence has come up so far that indicated any motivation behind Bronner's death.

Schechter said the ADL looked into the case after receiving inquiries as to possible anti-Semitic motivations. The youth was a member of Tri Chi, a local fraternity at nearby Pierce Junior College, and as far as the ADL knows, was the only Jewish member. The fraternity, which has no national affiliations, is not known to be exclusionary. But a remark by a fraternity brother, quoted in the local press, that they wanted to teach Bronner a lesson because he was "obnoxious," aroused some suspicion here.

Bronner was left in the hills at night and told to walk home, but stumbled over the cliff in the dark. Schechter said there was nothing unusual about the hazing in that other members of Tri Chi were initiated in the same manner on previous occasions. The fraternity has been suspended by the college authorities.

## HOLOCAUST EXHIBIT OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)--More than 100,000 persons of all ages -- many of them Hebrew school children as well as teenagers and college students -- already have viewed the first showing of a photographic exhibit in the U.S. entitled "The Holocaust and Resistance." The display which was released to the public just six weeks ago, will be on tour throughout the U.S. for the next six months. Because of the demand of Jewish organizations, institutions and the general public, the exhibit may have to continue into the fall.

In a special report issued this week, Eli Zborowski, president of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims, said that so far, the response on college campuses, schools and synagogues, and conventions, can best be summed up in the words of a University of Illinois student who wrote: "Pictures better capture the haunted looks, the terror-stricken faces of the Jewish people and the empty brutal faces of their oppressors. I commend this exhibition for helping us not to forget 'never to forget.'"

The display commemorates the 30th anniversary of Ghetto uprisings in Nazi occupied Europe. The American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims asked Yid Vashem, Israel's National Remembrance Authority, to prepare the exhibit. There are 10 duplicate mobile exhibits circulating throughout the U.S. All major American Jewish organizations are sponsoring the exhibit.

### Effects of Exhibit

Declaring that the exhibit was prepared in the hope that it will be a stimulus to more extensive study on the subject, Zborowski reported that already one effect of the exhibit in the past six weeks is that students in Hebrew schools are asking their teachers for more material on the Holocaust. More-

over, he continued, the exhibit is proving that this visual display -- the Holocaust and Resistance -- is drawing in many persons which books and articles have not yet reached.

Moshe Sheinbaum of Sheingold Publishers said those groups involved in the displays' presentation to the American Jewish community are convinced that the display has heightened the awareness of the Holocaust among Jewish and non-Jewish youth and among the general public.

For instance, the exhibit, which has appeared in more than 50 locations in the past six weeks in the U.S. has also brought a greater demand for literature on the Holocaust. Zborowski reported that thousands of booklets on the Holocaust have been sold at the sites of the Exhibit, and the demand is increasing.

## JEWISH STUDENTS PROTEST MOSCOW CIRCUS

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Thousands of black balloons bearing the message "Free Soviet Jewry" and a night-time candlelight vigil greeted the Moscow Circus as it opened here tonight at the Spectrum. For the next three days, until the circus closes Sunday night, vigils, education campaigns and pleas for boycotting the Soviet show will be part of a joint venture by local Jewish high school and college groups comprising the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the Jewish Community Relations Council's Youth Council and the Philadelphia Union of Jewish Students.

Sanford Solomon, JCRC Youth Council president, and Mike Masch, PUJS chairman, stated jointly, "We are not opposed to the visit of the Moscow Circus, and we are not opposed to cultural exchanges between the Soviet Union and this country. But we do oppose the continued oppression of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union, the denial of Jews to the right to emigrate, and their being imprisoned and harassed for attempting to exercise basic human rights."

Mark Levitt, SSSJ coordinator, stated that the Jews of this city "cannot keep faith with their brethren in the Soviet Union if they attend the circus. We have a more important job to do: protesting the ransom tax levied on Jews seeking to leave Russia and seeking amnesty for Jewish prisoners of conscience."

The objective of the week-end demonstrations, according to the youth leaders, is to convince Congress to deny most favored nation status to the USSR until the ransom tax is repealed, and to call attention to the plight of some 40 Jewish prisoners of conscience.

## SHAZAR TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON NIXON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar will pay a courtesy call on President Nixon tomorrow while in Washington to attend a memorial service for the late President Harry S. Truman, the White House announced today. Nixon will also receive South Korean Prime Minister Kim Chong Pil, Philippine Foreign Secretary Carlos Romulo, who will represent their nations at the Truman service. Shazar is expected to remain in Washington through Saturday. He will reportedly make a stopover in New York for a day or two before returning to Israel next week.

Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen said today he hoped the Danish Labor movement could be a bridge between the Israeli and Arab movements to contribute to peace in the Middle East.