



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St., New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XL - Fifty-Sixth Year

Tuesday, January 9, 1973

No. 6

ISRAELI, SYRIAN FORCES BATTLE ON GROUND AND IN THE AIR

6 Syrian MIGs Downed, 2 Israeli Settlements Heavily Shelled

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Israeli and Syrian forces battled on the ground and in the air today. Israel claimed that its jets shot down six Syrian MIG-21s in a dogfight over Syrian territory and inflicted heavy damage on Syrian Army camps, radar stations and terrorist strongholds inside Syria. All Israeli planes were reported to have returned to their bases safely. Israel also claimed hits on six Syrian tanks. Two Israeli settlements, Merom Hagolan and Nahal Snir along the Syrian border, were heavily shelled by Syrian artillery. Two Israeli soldiers were reported slightly wounded. Meron Hagolan sustained heavy damage.

The latest flare-up of fighting between Israel and Syria--the fifth in the last two months--followed a series of terrorist attacks on Israel territory during the past 24 hours. A military spokesman said an Israeli patrol was ambushed by small arms fire near Kuneitra on the Golan Heights late yesterday; an Israeli outpost in the Kuneitra area was shelled from Syrian territory during the evening; and a second Israeli patrol was attacked by small arms fire early this morning. The spokesman said the terrorist attacks were coordinated with the Syrian Army.

Air Force jets struck in retaliation this morning against terrorist bases near Dail and Mazirab in southern Syria; an artillery battery and two Syrian Army outposts southeast of Kuneitra; a Syrian Army camp at Nawa north of Dara and two Syrian radar stations, one near Nouweima and another near Shahabe. Later in the day, Israeli planes struck again, hitting targets at the Yahudiyyeh Army camp near the seaport city of Latakia; Army camps at Tasas and Partus, and an Army camp and radar station at Karwousoua.

The air battle developed at noon today when Syrian MIG interceptors were sent up against Israeli planes attacking the radar stations. Israel said six of the MIGs were downed by air-to-air missiles. Israel denied a Syrian claim that two Israeli planes and four Israeli tanks were hit.

Syria Appeals For Help

Syrian artillery opened up a barrage along the cease-fire line shortly after the air battle. Israeli artillery and tank guns returned the fire in a duel which lasted until sunset. Israel said hits were scored on two Syrian tanks near Boukata and on four others in the central region of the cease-fire lines opposite Rafid. According to Israeli sources, returning pilots reported direct hits on Syrian Army installations. In one area ambulances were seen evacuating casualties.

At the height of the battles, Damascus radio broadcast an appeal to other Arab states to join in the fighting. The Damascus commentator stressed that Syria should not be made to stand alone against Israel which can concentrate its forces in the north because there is a cease-fire on the other fronts.

(A report from Cairo today said that President Anwar Sadat has instructed War Minister Gen. Ahmed Ismail to prepare an Egyptian military response to Israeli attacks on Syria. The report said a renewal of Egyptian military action after more

than two years of observing the cease-fire was contemplated at the highest government levels in Cairo. Such action would be limited but could involve Egyptian air strikes at Israeli targets, the report said.)

Israeli circles said today that Syria's appeal for help, also broadcast by the terrorist radio station in Dara, was not likely to be heeded. They said that Egypt has repeatedly warned Syria that it would not engage Israel every time an incident occurs. The Egyptians say they will go to war when they think they are ready and at a time of their own choosing.

Meanwhile, two parcels of arms and ammunition wrapped in raincoats were found today under a bush near Akhziv in Upper Galilee. The parcels were believed to have been left behind by terrorists who infiltrated from Lebanon recently but abandoned their sabotage mission in face of an Israeli manhunt. The parcels contained sub-machineguns, hand grenades and seven kilograms of explosives.

VICTORY FOR SOVIET-JEW SEEKING TO JOIN FAMILY IN U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Efforts by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) have succeeded in obtaining a waiver of an exit fee of nearly \$10,000 which Soviet authorities had imposed on a Jewish citizen, Alexander Malchik, who sought to join his American wife and two-year-old daughter in the U.S. A letter from Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, delivered by hand to the Senator's office today, assured him of Malchik's release.

Malchik's American wife, the former Lauletta Hanson, sought the help of Jackson in obtaining the release of her husband after months of diplomatic effort failed. Repeated pleas by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow were ignored by the Soviet authorities. Mrs. Malchik is a Russian-language specialist at the University of Washington.

Jackson responded to a letter written by Mrs. Malchik from Leningrad by writing himself to Dobrynin on Dec. 28. In his letter, Jackson urged the Soviet Ambassador to make representations to his government on behalf of the Malchik family. Responding to Jackson, Dobrynin wrote in his letter delivered today: "I would like to inform you that Alexander Malchik may leave the Soviet Union without repaying the State its expenses for the education he received."

A spokesman for Jackson described Malchik as a 24-year-old university graduate. The Malchiks were married in a private ceremony in the USSR in June, 1970. Mrs. Malchik subsequently returned to Seattle where their daughter was born. The spokesman said Soviet authorities initially refused to recognize the marriage but finally did last July. Mrs. Malchik is presently in Helsinki, Finland, waiting for her husband to leave Russia. The Senator's office did not know when they would return to the U.S.

YOSFE SAYS HE WAS 'DUPED' INTO SIGNING LARGER MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--The feud between Israel's two chief rabbis sharpened today when Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef charged that he was "duped" into signing the marriage certifi-

icate of Hanoch Langer. Langer and his sister, Miriam, were freed from the taint of bastardy last month in a controversial ruling by Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and a court of nine dayanim (rabbinical judges) which permitted them to marry their fiancés. The ruling created a furor in right-wing Orthodox circles.

Rabbi Yosef has avoided the opprobrium heaped on Rabbi Goren by dissociating himself from the ruling although he has not publicly criticized it. He was reportedly infuriated Friday when a newspaper published a photocopy of the marriage certificate on which his signature was clearly visible. Rabbi Yosef, in a statement issued today, claimed that the certificate had somehow been slipped among the scores of marriage certificates he signs each week and that he signed it unknowingly. He hinted that Rabbi Goren's hand was behind the alleged subterfuge and demanded a commission of inquiry to find out how the certificate came to his desk and who passed it on to the press.

Rabbi Yosef reportedly tore the certificate to shreds in a fit of anger yesterday when it was brought to him by Pinhas Sheinman, chairman of the Tel Aviv Religious Council. A new certificate will be issued and will be signed by Rabbi Goren. Rabbi Yosef is in an anomalous position. Although he describes himself as a moderate in the interpretation of halacha (religious law) he was a member of the Rabbinical Supreme Court bench which in 1969 upheld the earlier ruling of a Petach Tikva rabbinical court that the Langer children were "mamzerim" (illegitimates). His open feud with Rabbi Goren is regarded by many Israelis as scandalous.

Several members of the Chief Rabbinate Council sent Rabbi Yosef a letter yesterday objecting to his recent charge in Jerusalem that Rabbi Goren was dictatorial. They stated that all Council meetings were conducted in a democratic manner by Rabbi Goren. Rabbi Yosef has complained frequently that he is a minority of one at Chief Rabbinate meetings. The five Ashkenazic members are all Goren supporters and the five Sephardic members had backed former Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim against Rabbi Yosef in the chief rabbinate elections last year.

RECORD IL 19.8 BILLION NATIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED FOR 1973-74

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--A record IL 19.8 billion national budget for 1973-74 emphasizing social services and economic development was submitted today to the Knesset. If approved, the budget will go into effect April 1, the start of the new fiscal year. It reflects the increased rate of immigration, the growing costs of absorbing the newcomers and mounting needs in the areas of health, education and social welfare.

The military portion of the budget continued to decline in relations to the total budget. Military defense expenditures will rise by only seven percent and will account for 35.8 percent of the national budget compared to 39.8 percent for fiscal 1971-72 and 42 percent in 1970-71.

A 26 percent increase has been earmarked for social services as well as a 14 percent rise for loans and other expenditures for economic development. The cost of absorbing immigrants in the coming year has been estimated at IL 3 billion which is borne by the State and the Jewish Agency. About 60,000 immigrants are expected this year compared to 55,400 in 1972 and 41,930 in 1971.

Major Increases In Social Welfare, Health

As in the past years, the budget is divided into two sections: an ordinary budget of IL 15.130 billion which covers all government expenditures, and a spe-

cial budget amounting to IL 4.670 billion for development and repayment of debts. Military expenditures will rise from IL 5.515 billion to IL 6.125 billion. The major increases will be felt in education which goes up from IL 996 million to IL 1,443 billion this year, health from IL 271 million to IL 443 million, social welfare, from IL 107 million to IL 163.5 million.

Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir who presented the budget to the Knesset said that 1972 was marked by economic expansion. He noted that last year Israel earned its first billion dollars from exports of goods, its first billion from the export of services and the first billion dollars of foreign exchange reserves in its treasury. He said that the capital inflow, while creating inflationary pressures, stemmed the drain of Israel's dollar resources. "At the end of 1969," he said, "we had only \$350 million left, enough to pay for eight weeks of imports."

PROF. LERNER HOLDS WEEKLY WEIZMANN INSTITUTE SEMINARS IN MOSCOW HOME

REHOVOT, Jan. 8 (JTA)--The Soviet cybernetics expert Prof. Alexander Lerner, whom the USSR authorities have prevented from emigrating to Israel where a position awaits him at the Weizmann Institute of Science, is giving weekly cybernetics seminars on behalf of the Institute in his Moscow apartment. This was announced by Prof. Chaim L. Pekeris, head of the Institute's Department of Applied Mathematics, who said that the participants in these seminars are experts in the field, most of whom studied under Prof. Lerner at the Moscow Institute of Control Sciences.

Prof. Lerner has also been asked to prepare reviews or syntheses of papers published in Soviet journals in his field of expertise. The Weizmann Institute will compensate him for all expenses incurred in this work and will provide an honorarium for the review articles received. They will be distributed to Israeli scientists and submitted for publication in important scientific journals abroad.

Academician Keldysh, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, has been informed of this arrangement and asked to ensure that Prof. Lerner and other Soviet Jewish scientists dismissed from their former posts at least be afforded the opportunity to utilize Soviet libraries in order to give them a meaningful occupation and provide the rest of the world with a greater knowledge of the important published contributions of Soviet scientists. Prof. Albert B. Sabin, outgoing president of the Weizmann Institute, last year offered positions at the Institute to Prof. Lerner, his son and his daughter, all of whom are applied mathematicians.

KAHANE TO BE PROSECUTED ON CRIMINAL CHARGES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defense League, definitely will be prosecuted on criminal charges stemming from two unrelated offenses, legal sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. One charge relates to alleged attempts by the JDL to smuggle arms out of Israel for a private war on Arab terrorists in Europe. The other concerns Kahane's letters to Arab families on the West Bank demanding that they get out of the country because it belongs to the Jews.

A senior official of the Ministry of Justice told the JTA that Kahane would probably be charged under the sedition laws for writing the letters. He said the sedition laws, which are

part of Israel's criminal code, preclude sowing hatred between different sections of the population. Attorney General Meir Shamgar, meanwhile, has informed the Cabinet that there are grounds to prosecute Rabbi Kahane on the arms smuggling charge.

The JDL leader visited a Druze newspaper office in Haifa yesterday where he drank a "toast of peace" with a Druze leader who had received one of Rabbi Kahane's threatening letters. The JDL head said the letter had been sent to the Druze by mistake, but said he stood by his letters to the West Bankers. He stated the JDL had established a fund to aid them in resettling elsewhere.

14 JEWS LANGUISHING IN BAGHDAD'S NOTORIOUS KASR EL NIHAYA PRISON

PARIS, Jan. 8 (JTA)--The situation of the tiny remnant of Iraq's Jewish community has worsened in recent months, it was reported here today. According to A.S. Karlikow, European Director of the American Jewish Committee, two Iraqi Jews were arrested in Nov. and three more at the end of Dec. bringing to 14 the number of Jews incarcerated in Baghdad's notorious Kasr el Nihaya prison. Karlikow said that information from Iraq indicates that two or three of the eight Jews arrested last Sept. may have died in prison and may have been victims of torture. Another Jew, Akram Behar, has been imprisoned since 1969.

Karlikow reported, "The latest arrests and certain parallels with the situation in Jan. 1969--when the Iraqi government hung nine Jews in public squares--point to the chilling prospect that Baghdad again is preparing trials in which Jews will be made the convenient scapegoats for internal Iraqi difficulties and power struggles."

He said that one ominous sign was the Baghdad government's swift confiscation of the assets and properties of the recently arrested Jews. In the past such actions were taken only against Jews who left the country or, as in Dec. 1969, against Jews who were jailed pending trials that resulted in the mass hangings, Karlikow said.

He noted that the recent moves against Iraqi Jews were unexpected inasmuch as the Iraqi authorities had been following a more moderate line toward Jews since May, 1971. Although under surveillance and control, Jews were being permitted gradually to leave the country and local harassment of them was muted. As a result of the more moderate emigration policy, only 500 Jews now remain in Iraq, Karlikow said, "a pitiful remnant of what was, some 25 years ago, one of the most important Jewish communities in the Middle East, 120,000 strong."

Every Jew Lives In Fear Of Arrest

The AJ Committee's European Director said the situation began to deteriorate last Sept. when eight Jews were suddenly arrested and a prominent member of the Jewish community, Abraham Zayeg, was found murdered in his Baghdad home. The murder remains unsolved. Karlikow said that reports early in Dec. that the eight Jews had been freed proved to be premature. He said the reports had been based on assurances from Iraqi officials which turned out to be worthless.

"Today, every Jew in Baghdad lives in fear of arrest, according to information reaching us," Karlikow said. He said the sudden reversal of policy toward the Jews in Iraq was a consequence of a power struggle within the Iraqi leadership, economic difficulties and unresolved troubles with Iraq's Kurdish minority. According to Karlikow, "rumors of forthcoming trials (of Jews) to appease the population are rife."

Karlikow reported that many of the Jews who passed through Iraqi jails prior to May, 1971, were subjected to torture and several died or conveniently "disappeared." The reputation of Kasr el Nihaya prison ("The Palace of No Return") is a particularly grim one, Karlikow said.

He identified the Jews arrested last Sept. as Dr. Ezra Azzam, Jacob Abdul Aziz, Victor David Ezra, Jacob Rajwan, Shaoul Rajwan, Azouri Shemesh, Shaoul Shemesh, and one Jew not positively identified but probably Salim Ishayek from Basra. The Jews arrested last Nov. are Salim Sadka and Naji Chitayat. The names of the three arrested in Dec. are not known.

GROWING ECONOMIC UNITY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND TERRITORIES DEFENDED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA)--A senior Army official today defended the growing economic interdependence between Israel and the administered Arab territories which he said was the outcome of a natural process of supply and demand rather than special planning. He said there were presently 58,000 Arabs from the territories working daily in Israel, an "accomplished fact" which he said was "stronger than any planning."

Some Israeli leaders, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir among them, have taken a dim view of the growing Arab work force in Israel. They have warned that this could lead to an unbalanced society in which Israelis would constitute an employer class and the Arabs the menial laborers.

But the views of the Army official are also shared by many Israelis. They believe that the free movement of labor between the territories and Israel proper raises the Arabs' living standards, contributes toward a normalization of life in the territories and improves security. In the long run, they say, it provides a solid foundation for co-existence and helps eliminate the false image now prevailing between Jews and Arabs. The establishment of closer ties founded on economic, cultural and educational processes will assure peaceful co-existence between Jews and Arabs when a peace treaty is eventually signed, these sources say.

Improvements For Arab Refugees

Israeli authorities, meanwhile, are taking measures to improve the living conditions and security of Arab refugees in the Gaza Strip. Refugee camps in the Strip are being thinned out. At Raffah, the largest camp, 100 families have already been relocated and 100 dwellings in the camp have been demolished to make way for roads, it was reported today.

Another 150 families will be evacuated to new houses shortly and 600 more new flats are under construction in the Khan Yunis area. Refugees in the area of Gaza township are being offered government land on which to build homes with their own resources. Israeli authorities will provide water and electric systems, schools, clinics and civic centers in the newly developed areas. Gaza itself is without a mayor. The municipality is currently governed by an Israeli team aided by local officials.

Prime Minister Golda Meir will address the 1973 Israel Bond Inaugural Conference in Miami. It was announced today by Ira Guilden, president of the Israel Bond Organization. The dinner on March 3 will pay tribute to Sam Rothberg, a founder and the present general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization.

The second U.S. postage stamp to honor a Jew, an 8¢ commemorative honoring the noted composer-pianist George Gershwin, will be issued Feb. 28.

SHAZAR SAYS SOVIET JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL FUTURE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA)—Soviet Jewish immigrants in Israel represent the cultural and spiritual future of the Jewish nation and their talents and contributions must be encouraged and nurtured. This view was expressed today by Israeli President Zalman Shazar during an hour-long meeting with 40 Jewish and Israeli journalists. Speaking in Yiddish, the 83-year-old statesman described how the Soviet Jews, "who come to Israel out of a thick tangled jungle that is the Soviet Union," are completely dedicated to building a Jewish life for themselves in their new home.

He noted that many of the Soviet Jews become integrated after six months in absorption centers but that some find it difficult to relate to the new Israeli scene and must find ways of overcoming cultural and psychological hurdles. For the most part, Shazar said, the difficulties encountered are the result of impatience on the part of the new immigrants who want to find their niche in the new society and the impatience on the part of the Israelis who do not quite know how to relate on all levels to the newcomers.

Shazar stressed that the Soviet Jewish immigrants, unlike Jewish immigrants from other countries and earlier olim, seek myriad ways of expressing their identity as Jews and that sometimes their efforts at expressing their Jewishness jars the equilibrium of Israelis. Some Soviet Jews are dissatisfied with what they find in Israel compared to what they expected. But, he noted, dissatisfaction is a chronic affliction of Jews like crying at a wedding when they should be happy. The earlier immigrants and the sabras have already decided, more or less, what their condition of existence in Israel should be. The Soviet immigrants are still uncertain.

Asked what keeps the feeling of Jewishness alive among Jews in the Soviet Union, Shazar replied that it was a combination of deep-rooted consciousness, Zionism "and the deepest sources of Jewishness akin to mysticism." He urged the journalists to promote a greater consciousness of Jewish literature, history and culture among younger Jews in order to prevent the well-of Jewish consciousness from drying up.

Shazar, Lubavitcher Rebbe Exchange Gifts

Shazar noted that many Jews in the diaspora express their Jewishness in indirect ways. Hecited as an example a folksinger he met who told him that when he sings Black folk songs and spirituals he feels a kinship to the Jewish people because the spirituals talk about Moses and the Jordan River. The lesson, Shazar said, was that no matter how far afield Jews seem to wander they remain in essence Jews seeking their identity.

Shazar made a similar point yesterday when he met for 75 minutes with a 25-member delegation of the Presidents Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations headed by its president Jacob Stein. He said that Soviet Jewish intellectuals, scientists, writers, professors and engineers are having a difficult time being integrated into Israeli society. This is so, he said, because these elements were part of a privileged strata in the USSR and now have to learn to live in a society where there are no such groupings. He also related that his meeting with President Nixon last Friday, after the memorial service to the late President Harry S. Truman, was warm and friendly. He said Nixon showed a deep understanding of Israel's problems.

Last night, Shazar, accompanied by security men, visited the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem M. Schneersohn at his home in Brooklyn. The rebbe had sent a delegation of older hasidim to meet Shazar at his Hotel Pierre suite, before proceeding to Brooklyn where they arrived at 8:30 p.m. Despite the cold, throngs of dancing and singing hasidic Jews greeted the President. The rebbe spoke publicly for one-half hour with Shazar. The two men exchanged gifts and the President gave the rebbe several rare-hasidic manuscripts written by the rebbe's ancestors.

The rebbe presented Shazar with three leather-bound volumes: one, containing the writings from the Baal Shemtov; one, writings from Rabbi Dovber of Messeritch; and the third volume, the writings from Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of the Chabad Lubavitch movement. The two men spoke of problems that confront Jews in Israel and throughout the world, and underscored the spiritual significance of the Torah. They later spoke privately for some five hours.

IN MEMORY OF BIALIK

By S.J. Goldsmith, London JTA Bureau Chief

Chaim Nachman Bialik, the Jewish national poet, was born 100 years ago today. The son of a village innkeeper in southern Russia, he was given the traditional Jewish education of his day, culminating at the Yeshiva of Volozhin, the greatest institution of Jewish learning in Eastern Europe. Volozhin fashioned his character and provided his vast store of Jewish knowledge. He missed nothing from Genesis to the latest scribe of his day and everything that was in between.

For sheer poetic force he was among the great poets of all time by any yardstick. As a Hebrew poet he covered the whole gamut of Jewish experience. He ranged from a harrowing lament for the destruction of the Temple to a protest over the pogrom of Kishinev, from the abiding longing for Zion to melancholy reflections on the passing of an era, from admonitions about divisions and futile arguments in Jewish life to the extolling of the moral and ethical values in Jewish teaching.

The more Jewish Bialik was, the more universal he was. Some of his memorable poems relate to the human condition. They mourn talent enslaved by poetry, weep for orphans without protection, echo the pain of the lonely who sing to themselves like a cricket in a humble dwelling, and praise the downtrodden and voiceless whom he begs to accept him in their midst.

Bialik lived in Eretz Israel since 1924. He died in Vienna in 1934 after an operation and was buried in Tel Aviv. He foresaw his untimely passing:

After my death

mourn me thus:

There was a man

and, see, he is no more.

And his song was cut before time....

The greatest Hebrew poet since the golden age, Bialik was the custodian of the Jewish heritage and tradition, the exponent of the Jewish genius and the interpreter of the longing for Zion. He is shared by Israel and the diaspora and his spell remains an abiding force for unity in Jewish life.

Mario Gibson Barboza, Brazil's Foreign Minister, will visit Israel as an official guest from Feb. 4-8, and Egypt from Jan. 28-Feb. 1.