



# daily news bulletin

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## ICAO AGENDA INCLUDES MOTION BY EGYPT TO DISCUSS DOWNING OF LIBYAN PLANE

Israel Objects To Wording Of Agenda Title, Libya Withholds Support  
By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA UN Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The International Civil Aviation Organization accepted today a motion by Egypt to include the downing of a Libyan airliner by Israel on the agenda of its 19th session which opened here this morning. The motion was supported by some 60 countries. Other states that registered for the session, including Israel, offered no objections.

The Israeli delegate, Ya'acov Doron, objected, however, to the wording of the title of the agenda item which, he said, could create "a priori" opinion. The title of the item, which has been designated No. 3 on the agenda, is "A Libyan Civil Aircraft Shot Down on 21 Feb. 1973 by Israeli Fighters Over the Occupied Egyptian Territory of Sinai." The same wording is contained in an Egyptian draft resolution condemning Israel and calling on the Secretary General of the UN to institute an investigation.

Libya did not support the Egyptian agenda item and said it would not participate in the debate scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. Libya will probably abstain as well from voting on the Egyptian draft resolution. Some observers here attributed Libya's aloofness to its desire to retain a free hand for retaliatory action against Israel without being bound by an ICAO resolution.

### Resolution Urges Immediate Investigation

The draft resolution which Egypt will seek to have adopted at the ICAO's 19th session states: "The Assembly, having considered the item concerning the civilian aircraft which was shot down on 21 Feb. 1973 by Israeli fighters over the occupied Egyptian territory of Sinai; condemning the Israeli action which resulted in the loss of 106 innocent lives; convinced that this accident affects and jeopardizes the safety of international civil aviation and therefore emphasizing the urgency of undertaking an immediate investigation of the said event; 1) directs the (ICAO) Council to instruct the Secretary General to institute an investigation in order to undertake fact-finding and to report to the Council at the earliest date; 2) calls upon all parties involved to cooperate fully with the investigating teams."

As of noon today, about 40 states had registered to speak at the session at which the Egyptian item will be discussed. The ICAO is a special agency of the United Nations headquartered in Montreal. Its 19th session opened in the General Assembly Hall with a standing observance by all delegates of a minute of silence in memory of the 106 victims of the Libyan plane disaster. The delegate from Madagascar expressed regret over "the loss of human life" and said the dead were "innocent victims" of an "irresponsible act."

The Soviet and French delegates strongly supported the Egyptian motion. The Soviet delegate called the incident a "new link in murder carried out by Israeli aggression." The Egyptian delegate called it a "flagrant crime" against civil aviation and said there were expressions of sorrow, concern and condemnation

throughout the world.

An Israeli spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Israel has no objections to an investigation, had in fact proposed one itself and was willing to cooperate and supply all facilities. But Israel objected to the condemnatory tone of the Egyptian proposal.

## FRENCH LAWMAKERS ASK SYRIA, IRAQ TO END PERSECUTION OF JEWS

PARIS, Feb. 27 (JTA)--More than 100 French parliamentarians, Senators and members of the National Assembly, have asked Syria and Iraq to "stop persecuting their Jews." The joint French appeal calls on the Iraqi government "to show to international representatives, such as the International Red Cross, the 10 Jews who were reported dead."

The Iraqi Embassy in Paris last week denied that Jews were persecuted or maltreated. "If this is so," the appeal states, "let foreign representatives investigate." The appeal also calls on the two governments to "enable Syria's 4500 Jews and the 400 who live in Iraq to enjoy the fundamental liberties prescribed by the Declaration of the Rights of Man." Most of the signatories belong to the Gaullist, Reform and Socialist Parties.

## GROMYKO: MIDEAST DANGER TO WORLD PEACE

PARIS, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko said here today that the Middle East crisis endangers "not that region alone but peace in the entire world." Gromyko, who was addressing the International Conference on Vietnam currently meeting here with the participation of 12 governments and the UN, said that the Middle East crisis "should be solved on a similar basis to what happened in Vietnam."

The Soviet Minister added: "Like in Vietnam, the reestablishment of peace in the Middle East can be obtained only on the basis of justice, respect of the legitimate rights of the people involved, the end of oppression and encroachment and the renunciation of territorial annexations." Gromyko's reference to the Mideast came as a surprise to most delegates, since the conference had been dealing exclusively with the Vietnam situation and the exchange of prisoners.

Basing themselves on Gromyko's declaration, observers here believe that the Soviet delegate also raised the Middle East issue when he conferred here this afternoon with U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers. It is generally believed that the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs Chi Peng-Fei will also raise this issue during his forthcoming meeting with Rogers.

## MRS. MEIR HOPES AIRLINE TRAGEDY WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH TALKS ON MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir arrived at Dulles International Airport here late yesterday afternoon and less than five minutes after her arrival faced a battery of newsmen who bombarded her with questions, mostly relating to the shooting down of the Libyan airliner. She said in reply to questions that she at no time considered postponing her trip to the U.S. because of the tragedy.

Mrs. Meir told some 80 news media representatives who met her in a special section of the

airport terminal that if the Israeli fighter pilots had any "inkling" that there had been passengers aboard the airliner it would not have been harmed. Asked if she was satisfied that there would not be any repetition of such an incident, the Premier replied, "I am satisfied the standing orders in our army are such--I hope--that something like this can never happen again."

Speaking calmly and answering all questions put to her, she said she was convinced that the tragedy over the Sinai will not "interfere" with the process of seeking an agreement in the Middle East.

The Israeli Premier was greeted at the airport by Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin. Security measures were heavy but not unusual for the arrival of foreign dignitaries. Her arrival marked the beginning of a 10-day visit to the U.S. which includes meetings with President Nixon and other top administration officials.

### U.S. Prepared To Play Perfect Role

Asked by newsmen if the departure of Soviet military personnel and advisors from Egypt has changed her thinking on concessions, Premier Meir replied:

"I do not think or speak of concessions. We do not give any to Egypt and they do not give any to us. Compromise, yes. In the process where the parties are interested in a real peace, each party must understand what is essential to the other and what is not essential to itself. We have not had this great experience to sit down with our neighbors and for each to underline what is absolutely essential to each of us. It is not a matter of concessions if each party does not get everything but the essential points for its existence. I see in that the best safeguards for the future."

Referring to the role of the United States in trying to help break the Middle East deadlock, Mrs. Meir said the administration was preparing to play "the perfect role." She noted that the U.S. is not indifferent to the situation. "It is very interested, very anxious that there should be a step toward peace," she observed. If the parties involved in the Mideast conflict "would be prepared to begin to talk about peace, the United States would do everything possible to help the parties come to an agreement" but not decide for the parties, Mrs. Meir stated.

The Israeli Premier is scheduled to have a private meeting tomorrow morning at the capital with the 39-member House Foreign Affairs Committee headed by Thomas E. Morgan (D.Pa.). Later in the day she is to meet with State Department and Pentagon officials. On Thursday she meets with President Nixon. Tonight Mrs. Meir will dine with Rabin in his home. It was reported that several members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be present.

### 3 ARRESTED FOR DESECRATING CEMETERY

BONN, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Lichtenfels police have arrested three young men said to be connected with the desecration last weekend of the Burgengstadt Jewish cemetery. No names were released but the three were a 19-year-old school boy, a 21-year-old student and a 24-year-old unskilled laborer. They said they did not know why they wrecked the cemetery, causing DM 70,000 worth of damage. They claimed they were drunk at the time. All three have rejected accusations that they acted for political reasons or in demonstration against the shooting down of the Libyan airliner.

### BALPA HEAD REGRETS IFALPA REFUSAL TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The president of the British Airline Pilots Association expressed regret today that the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) declined at its meeting here yesterday to take any action against Israel over the downing of the Libyan airliner. Capt. Jack Linstead, BALPA president, said, however, that his organization would abide by the IFALPA decision.

Addressing a press conference, Capt. Linstead said "British pilots are very unhappy that they had little support at the IFALPA meeting for their request that a strong line be taken against Israel. Nothing the Israeli pilots have said changed our position that positive action was necessary if we are to prevent a repetition of the Sinai tragedy. We are annoyed that IFALPA declined to take any action."

One participant in yesterday's IFALPA meeting described the outcome as a triumph for Israel. Another said, however, that it was "a victory for common sense." He said the British contingent displayed no hostility toward Israel. Capt. Linstead said BALPA recognized that IFALPA is not a punitive organization but felt, nevertheless, that some action should have been taken.

(In Geneva, the Commission on Human Rights which began its 28th session yesterday rejected a Pakistani proposal that Israel be denounced for a "massacre of innocents." The 32-member commission refused despite pressure from Arab delegates. Action on the resolution was postponed until today.)

### CATHOLIC PRIEST MURDERED BY TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Security forces in Gaza are searching for terrorists believed responsible for last night's murder of a Catholic priest and other recent political assassinations, including an attempt two weeks ago on the life of Gaza's former mayor, Rashid Shawa. The priest, Father Hanna el-Nimri, was found shot through the heart on the floor of his tiny flat adjacent to the Catholic church in downtown Gaza this morning.

Father el-Nimri was a member of the Gaza Town Council and was recently elected to the neighborhood committee that is to participate in the election of a new mayor to succeed Shawa. The terrorists regard all persons who participate in the elections as collaborators with the Israeli regime. The police are said to know the identity of the murderers. Father el-Nimri was born on the West Bank and came to Gaza in 1949. He headed the 900-member Catholic community in a town of 120,000 Moslems. He was said to be respected and well-liked by all Gazans.

### EX-NAZI GETS LIFE SENTENCE

BONN, Feb. 27 (JTA)--A Hamburg court passed a life sentence today on Otto Tüchel, 63, a former Nazi police officer found guilty of murder and abetting the murder of Jews in the Riga ghetto between 1941-42. Another police officer, Friedrich Jahnke, 62, was sentenced to three years in jail for abetting murder. Two others, Emil Diederich, 59 and Max Neumann, 60, were found guilty on the same charges but were freed on grounds that they acted under orders. About 25,000 German and Latvian Jews were shot in the Riga ghetto.

Zeev Bashan has been named Israel's first Ambassador to Haiti. He is expected to take up his duties shortly. Hatfi has an Embassy in Jerusalem.

### RUSSIANS TOLD EMIGRATION POLICIES MAJOR OBSTACLE TO EAST-WEST TRADE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Three top Soviet officials attending the U.S.-Soviet Trade Conference which opened at the Shoreham Hotel here today heard Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D., Me.) warn that Soviet policies toward Jews seeking to emigrate are a "major road block" in the way of expanded East-West trade.

Muskie declared that "Soviet leaders would be profoundly mistaken if they underestimated American feelings on the exit visa question. Americans properly perceive the exorbitant tax on Jewish emigrants...as being in violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms," he said. "For more than two million Soviet Jews, those provisions of international and domestic law are dead letters," Muskie said, referring to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Soviet law.

The panel at which Muskie spoke was closed to the press but the prepared text of his remarks was made available. The panel members included V. S. Alkhimov, the Soviet Deputy Minister for Trade who heads the 15-member high level delegation of Soviet experts attending the conference; G.A. Arbatov, director of the Institute for U.S. Studies of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and N.N. Inozemtsev, director of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the Academy.

In addition to the 15 experts from Moscow, the conference opening today was attended by about 20 members of the Soviet Embassy staff in Washington. The importance the Russians attach to the conference was indicated by the fact that it is being covered by two correspondents from the Washington bureau of Tass, the Soviet news agency.

### KNESSET EXPRESSES GRIEF FOR AIRLINE VICTIMS, UPHOLDS AIR FORCE ACTION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The Knesset adopted a formal expression of grief last night for the victims of the downed Libyan airliner but upheld the action of the Israeli fighter pilots who shot the plane down. A resolution adopted by a 66-3 vote stated that the Air Force had acted to protect the national security and denounced what it called false accusations against Israel and its armed forces over the incident. The resolution, which followed a Knesset debate and a statement by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, was supported by virtually all factions. The two Communist factions and Haolam Hazeh were the only ones opposed.

Dayan, whose brief opening statements preceded the Knesset debate yesterday, closed the debate last night with an appeal to the nation to trust in its armed forces. He said that if qualified international bodies decided to send experts to Israel, he would personally discuss with them the Army's standing orders which cover the penetration of Israeli air space by civilian planes.

A public opinion poll published in the newspaper Haaretz today indicated that 72.5 percent of the respondents approved the Air Force decision to force the Libyan plane to land. The poll, conducted in all of Israel's major cities, registered 23.7 percent disapproval and 3.8 percent no opinion.

### HILLEL SAYS CRIME, TERRORISM, DECLINING

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The problem of terrorism in Israel has become marginal and Israel has no intention whatsoever of changing her policy of "open bridges" with Jordan, Israel Minister of Police, Shlomo Hillel said yesterday at a press conference sponsored by the American

Sephardic Federation. Hillel, who came here to convey "the blessing" of the Israeli government to the newly established Federation, admitted that Israel had a "certain amount" of crime increase last year, which he said was "due in a way to the increase in population." According to Hillel, the tourist boom and the fact that more than one million Arabs from the administered territories have free entry into Israel has contributed to the increased crime rate.

Hillel asserted that Israel has less crime than any other Western country. He cited only 45 murder cases in 1972 compared to 36 in the previous year. He said the worst crime Israel fears today is "the murder on roads" (auto accidents) by "aggressive" Israeli drivers who caused the death of 630 Israelis last year. Referring to the use of drugs in Israel, Hillel said that as a result of the "harsh measures" taken by the government against sellers and users of drugs, Israel is no longer the "paradise of hashish" that it was after the Six-Day War.

Referring to the downing of the Libyan plane, Hillel said he was sure it was not planned intentionally. If the Israelis had planned to shoot down the plane, he said, there was no reason for them to wait 16 minutes to do so.

### FUNERAL HELD FOR RABBI YEHUDA MOSHE DANZIGER, ADMOR OF ALEXANDER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Funeral services were held Monday night at the religious suburb of Bnai Brak for the Admor of Alexander, Rabbi Yehuda Moshe Danziger, who died earlier in the day in a Tel Aviv hospital. He was in his nineties. Admors, rabbis, heads of yeshivas and yeshiva students attended the funeral. Rabbi Danziger was one of the greatest Torah scholars and author of books on subjects of halacha and hasidism. Prior to his becoming an Admor (master) he was a diamond polisher in Jerusalem. His son, Rabbi Yehuda Menahem Danziger, will be crowned as the Admor of Alexander.

### KEREN HAYESOD MISSION PLEDGES \$7M

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal International Study Mission pledged \$7 million last night, the largest single contribution to Israel of any Keren Hayesod mission to date. The pledge was announced by KH general director J. Kreutner at a dinner session attended by Deputy Premier Yigal Alon and the 350 members of the mission representing Jewish communities in 10 European and western hemisphere countries.

The \$7 million represents contributions to this year's UIA campaign and projects to be established in Israel by the same contributors through the KH. The UIA raises funds for Israel in 69 countries, excluding the United States.

Special preventive measures have been taken in northern Israel against possible terrorist attempts to infiltrate from Lebanon to commit acts of sabotage or terror in Israeli territory, it was disclosed today. Security authorities were alerted following a renewal of terrorist activities along the Lebanese border and a recent statement by the Lebanese Premier that "the terrorists are our brethren."

Twenty-four Israeli firms and export organizations will participate with jewelry and craftwork displays at the Frankfurt International Fair this week. West Germany imported nearly DM 2 million of jewelry and ceramics from Israel in 1972. Israel exported more than DM 42 million in these products to West Germany in 1972.

