



# daily news bulletin

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## DEATH SENTENCE OF RUMANIAN JEW COMMUTED TO 20 YEARS IN JAIL

NEW YORK, May 14 (JTA)--The death sentence handed down against Andrei Asher, a 63-year-old Rumanian Jew, has been commuted to 20 years' imprisonment, it was confirmed by several sources here today. Asher, a resident of Bucharest and a chemist by profession, was sentenced to death on April 30 after conviction for alleged economic crimes involving acceptance of a bribe.

Jacob Birnbaum, national director of the Center for Russian Jewry with the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, reported the commutation. It was confirmed by Dr. Charles H. Kramer, president of the Rumanian Jewish Federation of America. Birnbaum said he was given word of the commutation by Ion Datou, the Rumanian Ambassador to the United Nations following an earlier meeting he had with the Rumanian Ambassador to Washington, Cornelius Bogdan. Birnbaum said that "Hopefully, in view of his (Asher's) age and state of health they will let him out earlier."

Efforts to save Asher's life were made by Dr. Kramer's organization this week. Six Orthodox rabbis signed an appeal to Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to grant clemency to Asher and reverse the death sentence. The same group signed messages to President Ford, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to intervene to save Asher's life.

## TWO NAZI CRIMINALS RELEASED

BONN, May 14 (JTA)--The West Berlin Senate has pardoned and released two Nazi criminals serving life sentences on 30 charges of murder. Each had served 21 years. They are Otto Locke, 62, convicted of the murder of seven Jewish inmates of the Birkenau concentration camp, and Gottfried Matthes, a 72-year-old doctor, who was convicted of murdering 23 mentally defective Germans in the Polish town of Grottkau. Matthes was medical director of the State Health Authority at the time.

## STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAYS HE HAS 'NO SECOND THOUGHTS' ABOUT SALE OF MISSILES TO JORDAN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 14 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman said today that he had "no second thoughts" about the U.S. deal to sell Jordan a \$100 million "Hawk" anti-aircraft missile system and other weapons despite reports that Jordan is receiving air defense cover from Syria. Questioned by reporters on that matter, Department spokesman Robert Funseth said "I have seen press reports of this arrangement with Syria" but "we certainly have not received any official information."

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said at a press conference in Kansas City yesterday that the sale of "Hawks" to Jordan was justified to make sure that Jordan stays in the moderate camp. Reminded of the Secretary's assertion and of the fact that Jordan may now get Soviet weapons by way of Syria, Funseth replied, "We have to make judgements on what-actually happens. As of right now, our assessment is that

Jordan is essentially moderate and has been retrained in the Middle East. Our position remains accurate as stated by the Secretary" yesterday in Kansas City.

When reporters noted that King Hussein said recently that Jordan was prepared to participate in a new Arab war with Israel, Funseth said he was "not aware" that Hussein made such a statement, adding that the "Hawk" missile "is after all, an air defense system." Reporters asked Funseth whether, at his recent meetings here with President Ford, Kissinger and Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger, Hussein had made any reference to his arrangement with Syria. The State Department spokesman replied, "Not that I am aware of."

(See separate story on build-up of Jordanian forces near Israeli border.)

## URGE ACTION TO HELP BRING NAZI CRIMINALS TO TRIAL

BRUSSELS, May 14 (JTA)--Maurice Ploro, president of the Belgian Union of Deportees and Families urged Nazi victims today to help bring war criminals to justice by pressing charges against former SS men and other Nazi officers responsible for crimes committed during World War II. According to Ploro, West Germany has started civil actions against four Nazi war criminals but it is taking an inordinately long time to bring them to court because there is no outside pressure.

Such pressure can be exerted by public opinion, by the deportees themselves or members of their families, Ploro said. The four criminals in question are Constantin Canaris; Kurt Ashe; Ernst Ehlers; and Karl Fiehlitz. The Belgian government transferred over 6000 documents to the West German authorities earlier this year to facilitate the prosecution.

## JORDAN BUILDING UP FORCES NEAR ISRAEL BORDER; ISRAELI ARMY ALERTED TO POSSIBLE SURPRISE MOVE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA)--The heavy build-up of Jordanian forces including tanks and mobile units near the Israeli border has alerted the Israeli army to a possible surprise move that would end four years of tranquility on the eastern front. The massing of Jordanian troops and armor, which can be seen clearly from settlements in the Beisan Valley, has caused concern and puzzlement in both military and political circles in Israel, mainly because the moves were unexpected and their true intent is unknown.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres who toured Jordan Valley settlements yesterday referred to the "flirtation" between Jordan and Syria which, he said, "does not mean that Syria is going in Jordan's direction but rather that Jordan is adopting a Syrian orientation" meaning a more belligerent line toward Israel.

The rapprochement between Amman and Damascus is a relatively new development with ominous overtones for Israel. Some sources here believe that Jordan has abandoned its moderate stand and is moving toward the war option confident that it will be protected by the Soviet-made Syrian air defense umbrella.

But King Hussein has said recently that "thanks

Al managing director Mordechai Ben Ari to call off the strike on grounds that it would cut Israel off from vital commercial air communications with the rest of the world.

The immediate cause of the strike is the travel tax the government has decided to levy on free tickets granted airline employees. But the strikers say they are opposed to the idea of travel taxes in principle which, they say, no other Western nation has.

The local offices of some foreign airlines, which have opposed the travel tax on grounds that it reduces travel, were giving tacit backing to the strikers. The 50,000-member Israeli Students Association announced support for the abolition of the travel tax and said it would demonstrate on behalf of the striking airline employees.

#### EBAN PRESENTS 15-POINT PEACE PLAN WHICH INCLUDES FUTURE MAP

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA)--Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban presented last night a 15-point peace plan, including a delineation of Israel's future borders, which he said the government should propose without delay. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said an overall settlement was only one of the options facing Israel at present, and ruled out Eban's suggestion that Israel map its final borders before negotiations with the Arabs begin.

Both diplomats stated their views at a meeting of the Labor Alignment's Knesset faction. The meeting, surprisingly, was devoid of polemics. Eban, who has come under bitter criticism from Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other Labor Party leaders for his public criticism of the government's policies during the recent bilateral talks with Egypt conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, asked, "Is it not possible for a man sincerely to believe that the situation is serious and sincerely to propose ways to remedy it?"

His peace plan envisaged an Israel withdrawal from the bulk of the Arab territories occupied since the June, 1967 Six-Day War but recognized the need for a continued Israeli presence in "tactically significant" areas such as the Golan Heights and Sharm el-Sheikh and the permanent status of Jerusalem as a unified city and the nation's capital.

#### Elements In Peace Plan

Other points of the Eban peace plan were: a full-fledged peace treaty embodying the political recognition of Israel and an end to the state of war; an end to hostile actions by irregulars; iron-clad demilitarization arrangements; provisions for the maritime rights of all parties; an end to economic warfare; an end to hostile propaganda; free traffic of foreign tourists between countries.

Also, trade ties, cultural relations and the establishment of diplomatic relations to be implemented gradually; regional cooperation; an end to political harassment in international forums; mutual compensation for Arab refugees and Jewish refugees from Arab lands; open borders, especially within the boundaries of Mandatory Palestine.

Eban said there was no contradiction between such an overall peace plan and efforts to achieve a step-by-step settlement. Allon said he did not rule out additional interim agreements and that war was not necessarily unavoidable.

But he insisted that Israel could not lay out a

map of future frontiers beforehand when those frontiers will be items for negotiations. Allon said he also did not rule out a mutual defense agreement between Israel "and her friends." However, he added, "guarantees cannot serve as a substitute for an independent defense capacity."

#### TZUR SENTENCING DUE MAY 26

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA)--A three-member Tel Aviv District Court said it will pass sentence May 26 on Michael Tzur, former managing director of the Israel Corporation and former chairman of the Zim Israel Navigation Co., who pleaded guilty last Friday to 14 counts of larceny, bribery and corruption. Tzur, 52, is the highest ranking Israeli public official ever to be charged with such offenses. He faces maximum prison terms of 10 years on each of the counts against him which include theft, embezzlement, betrayal of confidence and mishandling public funds.

Tzur was once the "fair-haired boy" and financial "genius" of Israel's economic establishment who served in numerous high government posts including that of director general of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the 1960s.

A protégé of former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, he was named chairman of the board of the Zim Lines in 1967 at a time when the national steamship company was in serious financial straits. He was credited with putting Zim into the "black" after purging its old management and abolishing its money-losing passenger services. Tzur was also a member of the board of directors of the Haifa Refineries.

In 1970 he was named managing director of the Israel Corporation, a multi-million dollar quasi-public investment organization headed by Baron Edmund de Rothschild whose purpose was to amass capital for Israel's industrial development. He was forced to resign from that post and from the Zim Lines last year after it was learned that he had invested monies ear-marked for Israel's capital development in dubious enterprises of his personal friend and business associate Tibor Rosenbaum, a Swiss-Jewish financier.

The collapse of the Rosenbaum financial empire resulted in severe losses for the Israel Corp. and the Zim Lines and exposed the fact that Tzur had transferred the public monies without the knowledge or approval of the Israel Corporation's board of directors. Rosenbaum was arrested in Switzerland earlier this month and is being held on bail of 5 million Swiss Francs (\$2 million) on charges of financial malfeasance.

Tzur, who had earlier protested his innocence, is believed to have pleaded guilty to avoid exposure of the details of his financial manipulations and other persons involved in them that would have come out in the course of the trial. The prosecution, which has demanded the maximum penalty allowed by law for Tzur's offenses, had assembled 47 witnesses to testify for the government.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin announced Wednesday night that he had asked the Mapam leadership to meet with him for a "coordination session" before his trip to Washington next month to meet with President Ford. This action followed warnings by the veteran Mapam leadership that they would not tolerate endlessly the Labor majority's failure to consult with Mapam on basic foreign policy issues and the government leadership's foreign-policy inaction. In view of recent defections from the Labor Party, such as Arye Ellav, Mapam's warnings appeared to have deep and immediate significance in Rabin's view.

to our brethren, we shall have protection from the air," meaning apparently that Jordan could participate in a new war against Israel without fear of devastation by Israel's superior air force. One of the reasons Jordan remained on the sidelines in the Yom Kippur War is believed to have been its vulnerability to air attack.

### Probe Meaning Of Jordan's Stance

Israeli circles are uncertain whether the new stance by Jordan means that country is preparing to join Syria in a full-scale war or a war of attrition precipitated by a Syrian refusal to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF); or whether Amman is simply flexing its muscle to impress President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, who will visit Hussein in a few days, with the fact that the Jordanian army is ready to take part in any action called for.

The recent Jordanian moves can also be viewed as part of a mounting Arab war of nerves against Israel at a time of its strained relations with Washington before Premier Yitzhak Rabin's crucial meeting with President Ford next month. Whatever the reason, Peres observed in a speech to settlers at Patael in the Jordan Valley near Jericho yesterday that "We are lucky the Jordanians are not here, otherwise they would have moved their forces toward Jerusalem."

### Permanent Settlement In Jordan Valley

At Kokhav Hashahar, a Nahal (para-military) settlement in the Jordan Valley, Peres assured the settlers that their status would not be affected by a future peace settlement with Jordan. "It is our intention that there will be permanent settlement in the Jordan Valley.... Regardless of the future political status of the area, the Jordan will be the security boundary of Israel and Jewish settlements will continue to exist here," the Defense Minister declared.

He observed that the Jewish settlements are located on 16,000 dunams of arable land that was never cultivated under Jordanian rule. "There is no reason why it should not be as flourishing as the rest of the Jordan Valley," he said.

### JORDAN SEEN AS THREAT IN ALL-OUT WAR, BUT NOT IN LIMITED FIGHTING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA)--Jordan was viewed here today as a military threat to Israel in the context of an all-out war with both Egypt and Syria involved. But it was felt that Jordan would be unlikely to launch hostilities alone, and would be unlikely, too, to join a war initiated by Syria so long as Egypt did not join it. This view was offered as military sources expressed their concern at Jordanian troop movements and the army reported it had taken action to closely watch developments and avoid any possibility of Israel's being taken by surprise.

Belief was expressed that it was unlikely that Jordan would allow a significant Syrian armed presence on her soil. The traumatic divisions of the past between the Jordanians and the Syrian Baath were still too fresh to permit that kind of intimacy, it was felt. There could, however, develop a situation in which Jordan would host a token force of Syrian troops as a symbol of the ongoing reconciliation between the two countries, and of Jordan's new resolve to present a bellicose image and take a more active role in the confrontation with Israel.

### LEBANESE SHELL SETTLEMENT

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA)--Several shells were fired from Lebanese territory shortly after midnight at Shetullah settlement in Upper Galilee, it was reported this morning. There were no casualties or damage.

Israeli border police and civil defense guards stepped up patrols throughout the Galilee region in anticipation of possible terrorist assaults tonight or tomorrow on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Israel's independence. May 15 of last year was the date of the terrorist attack on Maalot in which 25 Israelis, including 21 students, were killed.

Police Minister Shlomo Hillel told an audience in Rehovot last night that the police and civil defense groups were at their maximum strength in preparation for terrorist acts on May 15. It was learned from reliable sources that police vacations were cancelled. The public has been urged to be on the alert over the next few days.

Meanwhile, Israel has released and returned the second of eight Lebanese nationals seized Sunday and Monday nights in an Israeli army sweep through "Fatahland" in southeastern Lebanon for suspected terrorist collaborators. Dr. Ahmed Borda, a physician, was handed over to Lebanese army authorities at the Rosh Hanikra border post today, a military spokesman said. A Lebanese woman, Fadiyah Faiz Lahamda, was returned yesterday.

### MAPAM LEADER REPORTS SOVIET OFFICIAL, VIETCONG DELEGATE INDICATE SOFT ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA)--A Mapam leader said today that he had received indications favorable to Israel from a high ranking Soviet official and from a representative of the new rulers of South Vietnam who he met at a conference on Vietnam held in Amsterdam recently.

Yaacob Mayus, a member of Mapam's political committee and secretary-general of the Israel Committee for Peace, said a member of the Supreme Soviet, surnamed Koderiachev, told him in Amsterdam that the Soviet government was making efforts to persuade the Arabs, including the Palestinians, to recognize Israel's right of existence. He said he knew of the visit by two Soviet emissaries to Israel recently.

Mayus also reported that a Vietcong delegate, identified as Din Be-Tieh, indicated that the Vietcong does not rule out talks with Israel and is ready to receive aid from anyone. Din thanked Mayus for the medical aid the Israel Committee for Peace sent to North Vietnam during the height of the Vietnam war several years ago, the Mapam leader reported.

### 24-HOUR EL AL STRIKE BEGUN

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA)--A 24-hour strike by 3000 ground employees of El Al and several hundred employees of 15 foreign airlines serving Israel began at midnight last night to protest the government's travel tax. Only Swissair, staffed entirely by Swiss nationals, refused to join the strike and maintained its normal flight schedules today. Local employees servicing the planes of Air France, Lufthansa and TWA which said they would maintain their schedules, refused to service outgoing planes and incoming passengers.

The airline employees who formed a new Aviation Workers Union, defied no-strike orders issued by a Tel Aviv District Labor Court last night and this morning. Earlier they had rejected appeals by Transport Minister Gad Yaacobi and El

