



daily news bulletin

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TELEPHONE MAN AND TWO SOLDIERS INJURED BY BOOBYTRAP

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA)--Two Israeli soldiers and a telephone linesman were injured today when a boobytrap exploded near Nablus on the West Bank. Israeli forces are searching the area. The incident occurred as telephone technicians escorted by soldiers were about to repair a telephone cable that had been cut between Nablus and Jenin. One of the soldiers picked up a scythe near the downed line which turned out to be boobytrapped.

Police meanwhile have warned school children beginning their summer vacations to beware of innocent-looking objects and not to pick up or touch anything they may find lying on the streets or along the seashore.

Arson Against Cars

Tel Aviv police are investigating a wave of fires and explosions that have hit vehicles in the city's streets. A small explosive charge damaged a private car parked on Hayarkon St. here this afternoon. There were no injuries. The car was owned by an Israeli woman employee of TWA and was parked near the airline office. Police are not certain whether the act was that of local criminals or terrorists.

Four parked cars and one parked bus were set on fire in Tel Aviv Friday night. Another car was damaged by an explosive charge earlier last week and an explosive charge was discovered and dismantled in still another car that had been garaged for three days. Police suspect that these incidents may be the latest form of terrorist activity in Israel's largest city.

CABINET OKs IL 550 MILLION BUDGET CUT TO BALANCE EXPECTED TAX LOSSES

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA)--The Cabinet approved an IL 550 million cut in Israel's IL 56.3 billion national budget for the new fiscal year yesterday but did not decide where the axe will fall. That matter will be left to negotiations between Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and his fellow ministers. Failing an agreement, the matter will be placed in the lap of Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

Each minister is jealously guarding his budget. The IL 550 million reduction that Rabinowitz recommended to the Cabinet yesterday was far lower than the IL 1.3 billion cut the Treasury had hoped for. The figure was reached only after hard bargaining among the ministers.

The budget reduction is required to balance the losses to the Treasury resulting from the new tax reform measures which, while closing loopholes and expanding the definition of taxable income, will substantially reduce the rate of taxation paid by Israelis. It was hoped that the proposed added value tax would fill the gap. But the government conceded yesterday that the October 1 target date for the new levy to take effect is far from certain.

POLITICAL OVERTONES SEEN IN CHURCH LEADERS' VISITS TO JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA)--Jerusalem is

playing host to two foreign church leaders and while their visits to the Holy City are primarily of a religious nature, the political overtones are not lost on Israeli officials. Vazken I, head of the World Armenian (Catholic) Church, was personally greeted by Mayor Teddy Kollek and representatives of the Religious Affairs Ministry at Jaffa Gate yesterday. The other visitor is Metropolitan Philaret, the Russian Orthodox Archbishop of East Berlin and Central Europe, who is heading a Russian Orthodox delegation from the Soviet Union.

Their visits are unconnected. They are, however, the latest in a growing number of officials of various Christian churches to come to Jerusalem in recent months to visit the various shrines and meet formally with local officials. These visits are viewed by Israelis as a manifestation of the Christian world's special interest in any possible solution to the knotty problem of Jerusalem's future political status.

Hopes Russian Pilgrims Will Visit Israel

Mayor Kollek warned recently that the Christian world's interest in Jerusalem was enormous and that it was important for Israel to get across the message that the holy places of all faiths were protected and freely accessible within its territory. As far as the present visit is concerned, both church leaders will have an opportunity to witness personally how inter-faith accord works in the Israeli capital. Philaret attended services today at the Russian Church which were also attended by the Greek Orthodox Bishop, Constantine. The prayers were recited in Russian, Greek and Arabic. He and Vazken are scheduled to visit mosques, to meet with the Chief Rabbis and Religious Affairs Minister and visit the Yad Vashem.

Philaret made one remark of a political nature today. He expressed optimism over the prospects of renewed diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union and told Israeli Religious Affairs Ministry officials that he hoped there would be a flow of Russian pilgrims to Israel.

SEE DANGER IN EMPLOYMENT OF ARAB LABORERS ON FORTIFICATIONS

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA)--Israeli soldiers have complained that Arabs and certain Druze employed by the army to build fortifications pose a possible security risk because secret aspects of security are exposed to them in the course of their work. The soldiers have reportedly brought the matter to the attention of the military authorities and the Chief of Staff but so far, they say, no action has been taken.

The soldiers, reservists, were said to have been surprised to find Arabs from the administered territories working on fortification projects and Druze so employed on the Golan Heights. Although Israeli Druze, who are non-Arab Moslems, are a loyal element and serve in the armed forces, Golan Heights Druze who lived under Syrian jurisdiction before the 1967 Six-Day War are suspect. Several of them have been arrested and imprisoned for passing military information to the Syrians. Only last week a military tribunal in Majdal Shams on the slopes of Mt. Hermon sentenced a local Druze, Majid Abu-Jaber, 27, to seven years' imprisonment for spying against Israel.

CABINET TAKES UP CHARTER-FLIGHT CONTROVERSY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA)--The controversial issue of charter flights to Israel came up at yesterday's Cabinet meeting and was referred to the ministerial economic committee for resolution. Failing a decision there, it will come before the full Cabinet for a final vote--something the Cabinet clearly would like to avoid.

The government is divided on the issue. Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol wants the ban on charter flights lifted in order to stimulate Israel's sagging tourist industry. But Transport Minister Gad Yaaobi, strongly backed by Israel's national air carrier, El Al, insists that the ban be maintained except, as is now the case, for religious pilgrims and the nationals of Scandinavian countries. Last week Yaaobi flatly rejected recommendations by an American firm of experts commissioned by Kol that the charter ban be rescinded to stimulate tourist traffic.

U.S. Jewish Leaders Urge Charter Flights

The dispute was enlivened by the adoption of a resolution at the closing session of the Jewish Agency's fourth annual Assembly here last Thursday supporting charter flights. The resolution, which came as a surprise, was proposed by an American delegate, Merrill Hassenfeld of Rhode Island, and his wife, Sylvia, who is national president of the United Jewish Appeal's women's division.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mrs. Hassenfeld said that in her UJA experience she encountered many women who would dearly love to visit Israel annually but simply could not afford it. She said her concern was not merely fund-raising--although, she maintained, people who visited Israel invariably found themselves moved to give more--but more important, that as many Jews as possible should be encouraged to visit Israel and thereby identify with it in these troubled times.

Merrill Hassenfeld said El Al's concern for its profitability was narrow-minded. He said that in the broader perspective of Israel's national interest, it was vitally important for as many Jews as possible to be able to visit Israel, especially Jewish youth. The Hassenfelds said they hoped the top UJA leadership would pursue the subject with Israeli representatives until a solution was found.

DECISION TO EXPORT ISRAEL'S NEW JET FIGHTER CRITICIZED

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA)--The Cabinet's decision yesterday to permit, in principle, the export of Israel's new supersonic jet fighter plane, the "Kfir," will have no immediate practical effects on Israel's economy. But it has already drawn sharp criticism from some quarters in Israel and, reportedly, an angry reaction from Marcel Dassault, the manufacturer of France's famous Mirage jets against which the "Kfir" may ultimately compete on the world's markets.

Government sources conceded that there are, at present, no orders from any foreign country for the "Kfir" and that it might be several years before any materialize. But the Cabinet's decision gave Israel Aircraft Industries, manufacturers of the "Kfir," the green light to plan ahead for increased production.

The "Kfir" has been on the assembly line for some time, though it was unveiled to the public only last April. According to foreign sources, the jets are being produced at the rate of four per month at present. The Israel Air Force reportedly intends to order about 200 of the type.

The "Kfir" is similar to the French Mirage V but is equipped with the more powerful American J-79 engine used in Phantoms and incorporates certain Israeli improvements and innovations. Its chief selling point, when it goes on the world market, will be its relatively low cost. According to Israel Aircraft Industry officials, the planes will sell for about \$4 million apiece.

Fear For Credibility Of Israel's Arms Needs

The Cabinet's decision to authorize export of Israel's first home-built combat aircraft was reportedly based on the recommendation of Defense Minister Shimon Peres who, while attending the Paris Air Show recently was said to have been impressed by the broad interest shown in the "Kfir" by potential customers. The Israeli plane was not displayed at the Air Show. The official reason given was that it could not be readied in time. But the French authorities are known to have been displeased at the idea of displaying a competitive aircraft similar to the Mirage but much cheaper.

Criticism of the Cabinet's decision to export the "Kfir" was summed up in the newspaper Maariv today. According to the critics, the credibility of Israel's needs for sophisticated American planes for its air force would be greatly weakened by the knowledge that Israel has a surplus of planes for export. Furthermore, the United States, which is vigorously seeking markets for its jet fighters--especially the new F-16--is no more likely to welcome competition from Israel than the manufacturers of the Mirage, the critics said. They warned that Israel's image in the eyes of the world as a small country desperately seeking arms for her defense will now be questioned and this may have adverse effects when Israel seeks arms in the future.

ISRAEL'S 'UZZI' MACHINEGUN POPULAR WITH BODYGUARDS

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA)--About 400,000 of Israel's famed "Uzzi" submachineguns have been exported since the weapon was first manufactured in the 1950s and are presently used by the armies and police forces of 60 countries, the military industry's publication "Bata" reported. According to "Bata" the "Uzzi" is the official weapon of the bodyguards of the Presidents of France and the Philippines Republic and of the King of Thailand.

NEW EQUIPMENT EASES FIRE PERIL FOR ISRAELI TANK CREWS

TEL AVIV, June 23 (JTA)--The army's ordnance corps announced the development of new fire extinguishing equipment that could save the lives of tank crews whose chief danger is incineration when their tanks are set on fire. The army also revealed the development of a new armored combat vehicle which is superior to any previously in use by the Israeli army. The new vehicle, which has been introduced to units patrolling the Lebanese border, is characterized by high speed, ability to negotiate rough terrain and an extra large fuel capacity which enables it to remain in action for many hours without refueling. It can be equipped with a variety of weapons according to needs, the army said.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Five more yeshivot have joined the Heseder arrangement under which yeshiva students continue their studies while in the army. The five yeshivot are all on the secondary school level.

WZO AGREES ON UNITED ACTION TO FIGHT ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

\$39.5 M Budget Adopted

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization Executive adopted a \$39.5 million budget for the current fiscal year today and pledged to intensify efforts to combat the Arab boycott. The WZO agreed that the anti-boycott activities on a world-wide basis should be coordinated between the WZO, the World Jewish Congress, other Jewish national and international organizations and the Israeli government.

The WZO named a five-member committee which will meet this week to discuss the issue with WZO Chairman Pinhas Sapir, WJC president Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Avraham Agmon, who was recently named the Israeli government's special advisor on anti-boycott activities. The members of the committee are: Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the WZO's American Section; Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Leon Dulzin, WZO and Jewish Agency treasurer; Avraham Shenker, head of the WZO's organization and information department; and Ezra Shapiro, head of Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal.

Dispute Resolved

The WZO Executive's decision at today's meeting, which Goldmann attended, ended a dispute between Goldmann and some WZO members over which group should coordinate the anti-boycott activities. Goldmann had insisted that the WJC should be the coordinating body. But earlier this month, Mrs. Jacobson, who is also chairman of the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations (COJO) had suggested that COJO do it. The WZO Executive said in a statement that everyone at today's meeting felt the need for the intensification and coordination of efforts and since Goldmann made it clear that the WJC did not intend to act "exclusively or to coordinate alone the work of other bodies" all agreed there would be "no difficulty" in united action. The WJC plans to hold a special conference on the problem in Geneva next month.

The budget adopted will be used for aliya work; education and culture in the diaspora; links with small Jewish communities; and Zionist activities. It earmarks \$1.5 million for the encouragement of various volunteer programs under which young people from overseas spend time working in Israel. This is believed to be an effective method of encouraging aliya, since many of those in the programs later decide to remain in Israel.

CHIEF RABBI DENIES TRYING TO EASE JEWISH PRESSURE ON ROMANIA OVER EMIGRATION ISSUE

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania denied here today reports that he was seeking to soften Jewish pressure on Rumania--particularly in the United States--on the question of Jewish emigration from Rumania. Rabbi Rosen arrived here yesterday for a brief--and unexpected--visit and conferred today with officials of the government and the Jewish Agency on the situation of the Rumanian Jewish community.

President Nicolai Ceausescu of Rumania met with Jewish leaders and with Congressional leaders during his recent visit to Washington. He is seeking to win most favored nation trade status

for Rumania but the obstacle has been Rumania's alleged restrictions on Jewish emigration. The Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Foreign Trade Act links the emigration practices of Communist bloc nations to trade benefits granted them by the U.S. Ceausescu reportedly told both the Jewish leaders and the Congressmen that Rumanian Jews who wish to leave may do so but that not many exercise that option. He also reportedly disputed Jewish estimates that some 70,000 Jews currently live in Rumania. He placed the Jewish population at a somewhat lower figure.

According to informed sources, the Rumanian President had little success in persuading either group that their complaint that Rumanian Jews were not being permitted to leave for Israel in any substantial numbers was unjustified.

(According to informed sources in New York, but unconfirmed, there was a sudden spurt in the number of exit visas issued to Rumanian Jews between June 4-16. The sources said that 1255 Rumanians received visas in that period, half of them Jews. The approximately 600 visas issued in that eight-day period brought the total number of exit visas given to Rumanian Jews during the first six months of this year to 900, the sources said. That was about one-fourth of the 3500 exit visas granted to Rumanian Jews in 1974.)

RELIGIOUS JEWS MARK COMPLETION OF TALMUD READING CYCLE

JERUSALEM, June 23 (JTA)--Celebrations marking the completion of the seven-year cycle of the Talmud occurred in the religious communities of Jerusalem and Bnei Brak tonight. This was the seventh such cycle, terminating a page per day of the 2711 pages of the Talmud, which originated with Rabbi Meir Shapira, the founder of the Lublin Yeshiva and the spokesman for Polish Jewry in the years preceding World War II. Rabbi Menahem Porush, a member of the Knesset, headed the Jerusalem ceremony at the Beit Ya'acov Yeshiva. Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef also attended.

The Witnitz section of Bnei Brak held a similar celebration and also marked the commencement of an expansion program for the Witnitz Yeshiva. The ground-breaking ceremonies for the new yeshiva for boys aged 13-16 were attended by Rabbi Moses Hager, head of the Witnitz rabbinical court and Rabbi Itzhak Mair, the mayor of Bnei Brak.

JEWISH RESTAURANT WINS DAMAGES FOR LIBEL IN NOVEL

LONDON, June 23 (JTA)--Bloom's, a famous Jewish restaurant in London's East End was awarded substantial damages by the High Court in its libel suit against author Frank Norman and the publishers of his book "One of our Own." The size of the monetary award was not disclosed. Norman and his publisher, Hodder and Stoughton, agreed to withdraw the book and destroy all remaining copies.

The restaurant claimed it was libeled by references in the book to a fictitious East End restaurant called "Bluma's" which the author accused of violating wartime food rationing laws, and which, he implied, served non-kosher meats labeled kosher. The real Bloom's is well known to Londoners and tourists for its corned beef and Vienna sausages.

CORRECTION

The story on Page One of the Monday, June 23 JTA Daily News Bulletin should read "An investment of \$600 million for a nuclear reactor...." instead of \$800.

ARAB-SPONSORED NY BANK MUST GIVE NON-DISCRIMINATION PLEDGE, STATE OFFICIAL SAYS

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA)--An Arab-sponsored bank that plans to open in New York shortly will be required to give a pledge of non-discrimination before it receives a charter from the State Banking Department, according to Ernest Kohn, the Department's acting superintendent. He made his pledge in a letter to the American Jewish Congress, which had asked that a condition of a charter for the new bank be assurance against discrimination.

In a letter to the AJCongress and at a meeting with its representatives, Kohn stated, "the firm conviction of this Department is that discriminatory practices or policies not only would be inconsistent with the anti-discrimination laws currently in effect...but are incompatible with the public service function of banking institutions in this state."

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, AJCongress president, wrote Kohn following reports that four American banks were applying to the State Banking Commission for permission to establish a new financial institution to be known as the "United Bank, Arab and French, New York." More than 20 Arab banks and several from Europe reportedly would be associated with the American banks in founding the new institution and an estimated 40 percent of the bank's initial \$25 million capital will come from Arab sources, according to news reports. However, no formal application has been received yet, according to Kohn.

WJC OFFICIAL REPORTS NO CHANGE IN CUBA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

MONTREAL, June 23 (JTA)--Lavy Becker, chairman of the World Jewish Congress' committee on small communities, reported on his return from a visit to Jewish communities in the Caribbean area that the condition of the Jewish community in Cuba remains unchanged.

According to Becker, who is an honorary president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Cuban Jews maintain five synagogues, adult and youth Hebrew classes, a youth group and a Hebrew-Yiddish choral society. Although diplomatic relations with Israel were severed by Cuba in August, 1973, Cuban Jews were permitted to celebrate Israel's Independence Day in 1974 and 1975, Becker reported.

Becker, a member of the board of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, discussed the requirements of Cuban Jewry in Havana with a representative of the Cuban Foreign Ministry and said he was encouraged by that official's positive responses. The meeting was arranged by the Canadian Embassy in Havana. On his trip, Becker also visited the Jewish communities in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

PRESIDENT OF W. GERMANY LAUDS CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWS TO HIS COUNTRY

By Mindy Yochelson

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA)--Dr. Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic of West Germany, made a point of visiting the Leo Baeck Institute here Friday, during a one-day stop-over in New York, part of his five-day visit to the United States. At the Institute, which is a research center on the history of German Jews from the 18th Century to the Nazi era, Dr. Scheel declared that some of the great Jewish intellec-

tuals, such as Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein and Karl Marx, were persons of great German culture as well as being Jews.

He declared that he was pleased that Jews driven out of Germany by the Nazis had maintained the German heritage that Hitler sought to erase. Dr. Ernest Hamburger, a member of the Institute's executive committee, presented Dr. Scheel with specially bound volumes of two books published by the Institute about Jews in German political life during the 19th and 20th Centuries. One was written by Dr. Hamburger.

Dr. Scheel presented to Dr. Max Gruenwald, president of the Institute, the first edition of the complete works of Heinrich Heine, published in 1866. The German leader recalled that this was the second time a President of West Germany had visited the Institute. His predecessor, Theodor Heuss, came to New York in 1958. The Institute was named after Rabbi Leo Baeck of Berlin, the last leader of the German Jewish community before the Nazi era. Rabbi Baeck was responsible for beginning the reconstruction of good relations between the Germans and the Jews after World War II.

L.A. JEWISH GROUP MAY SUE OVER DELETION OF ADS FROM BOLSHOI PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES, June 23 (JTA)--An official of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation-Council said today that the organization was considering legal action for breach of contract because a paid advertisement it had placed in the program booklet of the Soviet Bolshoi Ballet performances here was ripped out before the program was distributed to the audience.

The ad in question welcomed the Soviet dancers but charged that "Soviet Jews are denied the right to emigrate freely; to practice their religion; and to study their culture and ancestral language," according to Charles Posner, an official of the JF-C. Lillian Libman, tour director for Hurok Concerts, Inc., sponsors of the Bolshoi tour, said the sponsors had the right to remove "offensive material" from the program and added that "if any further insults are leveled against the Russians, they will have to cancel."

The JF-C committee arranged a demonstration last Tuesday night when the Bolshoi performances began, which was attended by 1000 protesters. Programs distributed to patrons on the first and second nights had three pages torn out and on the third night ads that appeared on those pages were deleted. In addition to the JF-C's ad, an advertisement placed by the Southern California Council for Soviet Jewry on behalf of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's book "Gulag Archipelago" was removed as was an ad by the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department advertising a performance by Valery and Galina Panov at the Greek Theater here. The Panovs, former members of the Kirov Ballet of Leningrad, were permitted to leave Russia for Israel last year after years of struggle for exit visas.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Maki, the pro-Israel Communist Party which was created ten years ago after splitting from the pro-Moscow Rakah, has decided to join with MK Meir Payil's Techelet Adom Movement and form a new Moked faction to replace the present one that has a single Knesset seat. The new Moked Party will hold its constituent assembly within a few months. Meanwhile, former Maki leader Shmuel Mikunis, is trying to set up an opposition Communist Party and has called for a national assembly to be held next month.