



daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XLIV - 60th Year

Monday, February 7, 1977

No. 26

2 JEWISH GROUPS WELCOME SUSPENSION OF TRIFA FROM NCC GENERAL BOARD

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Two Jewish organizations have welcomed the suspension of Archbishop Valerian Trifa, who has been accused of leading the murder of Jews and Christians in Rumania during World War II, from the general board of the National Council of Churches (NCC). The NCC's executive committee was informed Friday that the Orthodox Church in America has asked Trifa to absent himself from all further meetings of the NCC's general board, until all charges against him will have been dealt with by the courts.

Trifa, head of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate Church of America, faces denaturalization hearings on charges by the Justice Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, that in applying to enter the country he lied about his membership in the fascist Rumanian Iron Guard and his participation in the murder of Jews and others in Bucharest in 1941.

Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice-president of the Synagogue Council of America, who shortly before the announcement made an unprecedented address to the NCC's executive committee, called Trifa's suspension "an act of moral courage and responsibility. It is an expression of the Council's opposition to anti-Semitism and of its awareness that the Holocaust remains a constant challenge to the religious conscience of all mankind."

A Step Forward

The American Jewish Committee said today that "in light of the record of Archbishop Trifa's unremitting anti-Semitism and pro-Nazi activities, the American Jewish Committee had cause to hope the National Council of Churches would have taken forthright action to remove Trifa from its board."

Nevertheless, the statement by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, the AJ Committee's director of inter-religious affairs, continued, "we acknowledge that the NCC's present action is a step forward in indicating the disapproval by the National Council of Trifa's anti-Semitic attitudes and behavior."

Tanenbaum noted that on Jan. 19 the AJ Committee provided the NCC with "primary Rumanian sources which made it abundantly clear that Archbishop Trifa is an admitted anti-Semite and participated in pogroms that massacred thousands of Jews and Christians." Tanenbaum added that the AJ Committee believes that the "de facto suspension" of Trifa will strengthen U.S. government efforts which "hopefully will lead to his deportation as an undesirable alien who has lied to gain entry to our country."

In his address to the NCC executive committee Friday, Rabbi Siegman said the Jewish community was asking the NCC a "moral question. How can a man accused of participating in the Holocaust, in the destruction of European Jewry, be listed as a member of the board of an organization that invokes the name of the Church of Jesus Christ?"

STATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING WHETHER TO ALLOW JIRYIS TO ATTEND MEETING OF QUAKER GROUP

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--The highest levels of the State Department were reported today to be considering whether to allow Palestine Liberation Organization propagandist Sabri Jiryis to re-enter the United States in order to address the conference of the American Friends Service Committee Feb. 11-14. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who goes to the Middle East Feb. 15, was said to have the matter on his desk for a personal decision.

The AFSC, which has long contended that the terrorist organization should be included in the Middle East settlement process, has listed Jiryis as a featured speaker at its four-day program that it states is designed to influence the Carter Administration.

Jiryis was directed in mid-November by the State Department to leave the United States by Nov. 30 after it was found that he had provided false information on his visa application. Jiryis, a Palestinian, came to the U.S. ostensibly to set up a propaganda office for the PLO in Washington. While here he engaged in talks with Jews in New York and Washington. The AFSC set up the Washington meeting.

ISRAEL OFFERS TO OPEN TWO PORTS TO TRAFFIC TO AND FROM JORDAN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Israel has offered to open its Mediterranean ports of Haifa and Ashdod to traffic to and from Jordan, Transport Minister Gad Yaacobi revealed Friday. He said Jordan has not acted on the proposal. Yaacobi, speaking on Israel Radio, said that the proposal was made to Jordan through Arab personalities on the West Bank. "We made this suggestion as a natural continuation of the open bridges policy," he said. Since the 1967 Six-Day War, there has been free passage of people and goods over the Jordan River bridges.

RABIN MEETING WITH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM REGARDING BLACK AFRICA, MIDEAST By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin's surprise secret meeting with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny in Geneva Friday was viewed here as a timely diplomatic stroke that could have ramifications beyond Israel's often stated desire to restore normal relations with Black Africa. The tone of the joint communique issued by the two leaders and the matters covered in their three-and-a-half hour meeting were cause for optimism even before the Premier briefed the Cabinet at its weekly session today.

They spoke of the need for a political solution of the Middle East conflict through negotiations, of the mutual interests of Israel and the African states and of the need to oppose Communist influence in Africa. Although the meeting was not expected to result in an immediate restoration of diplomatic ties, it could create a better atmo-

phere in Israel-African relations in a year of crucial diplomatic tests.

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told newsmen yesterday that "This was an important political achievement as far as our relations with Africa are concerned." He added that Rabin's trip "was part of an overall effort by Israel to resume the good relations she once had with Africa."

Despite the fact that most Black African nations broke with Israel after the Yom Kippur War and have generally voted with the Arab bloc at the United Nations and other world forums, Israeli diplomats have kept contact with key African leaders, sometimes secretly. Allon met the Foreign Minister of Zaïre in Geneva last year and conferred with African diplomats at the General Assembly last September. In November, Rabin had extensive talks with Senegal's President Leopold Senghor at the Socialist International Conference in Geneva.

A significant factor in Rabin's meeting with Houphouët-Boigny is that the latter has met recently with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization, a matter which, according to reports, was frankly discussed between them Friday. It was learned that the Geneva meeting was arranged at Houphouët-Boigny's initiative and at his request was kept secret until it was over.

Retains Friendship With Israel

According to reports of their talks, the Ivory Coast President told Rabin "It hurts me that for political reasons which I could not ignore, I had to sever diplomatic relations with Israel. But I have remained loyal to our friendship with Israel." Haaretz reported today that Houphouët-Boigny seemed convinced that the leaders of the Arab states are now ready to settle the Middle East conflict by political agreements that would exclude the PLO. But the Arab leaders are not ready at this time to say so bluntly to the PLO. Houphouët-Boigny reportedly said.

He reportedly told Rabin of his meetings with PLO people, including Dr. Issam Sartawi who impressed the African leader by his moderation. Rabin reportedly responded by telling Houphouët-Boigny of the role Sartawi played in an attack on an El Al plane in Munich eight years ago in which an Israeli actress, Hanna Maron, was seriously injured.

Houphouët-Boigny reportedly was interested in the Council for Israel-Palestine Peace headed by such prominent Israelis as Gen. (Res.) Matityahu (Matt) Peled, Arie Eliav and Uri Avneri. Rabin, who described Peled as "an old acquaintance," is said to have told Houphouët-Boigny that his group represented only a fringe of the Israeli public. Rabin also reportedly told Houphouët-Boigny that Israel did not ignore the need to find a solution of the Palestinian problem but it could not agree to a Palestinian state and therefore sought a solution in the context of a peace agreement with Jordan.

Nature Of Joint Communiqué

The joint communiqué issued in Geneva said: "The President and the Premier exchanged views on the Mideast situation and the diplomatic efforts for peace in the region. They agreed that the best way to achieve peace in the region was by means of a dialogue on the basis on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They also discussed the role of African countries in international affairs in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and

frankness."

The communiqué spoke in terms of dialogue without mentioning the Geneva conference or the Palestinian problem. While political circles here believe that the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the African states will not take place until a Middle East settlement of some sort is reached, the Rabin-Houphouët-Boigny meeting represented a considerable thawing of relations.

The African states are believed to be thoroughly disenchanted with the results of their entente with the Arab bloc, though they are not ready at this time to renew official ties with Israel without the agreement of the Third World.

Rejects Charge Of Politicking

When Rabin returned from Geneva Friday night he did not talk to newsmen at the airport but went directly to Kibbutz Beeri in the Negev where he addressed the convention of the Kibbutz Hameuchad movement. This immediately gave rise to charges of politicking. When a reporter at the kibbutz asked if his Geneva trip was not an "exercise" in election politics, Rabin replied, "Nonsense."

He added that "Israel has to continue to conduct its foreign policy as if it had a regular government in office for the next four years." He told the kibbutz members that Israel had to make every possible effort to return to friendly relations with Africa. He said Israeli involvement in Africa should be based on moral values more so than political considerations. "Votes at the UN are only a secondary matter," he said.

It was learned that the Geneva meeting was arranged in top secrecy two weeks ago. The details were organized by Eli Mizrahi, manager of the Prime Minister's Office, who flew to the Swiss city late last month. His absence was explained by illness.

Rabin informed Foreign Minister Allon of his pending trip last Monday and Defense Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday. He told other Cabinet ministers later in the week. His trip was made with the approval of the Cabinet as required by law.

VANCE GIVES VIEWS ON THE MIDEAST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance said that "The parties will determine whether there will be a Palestinian state" in the Middle East, that the situation there has "improved from what it was nine months or a year ago," but that the favorable conditions may be destroyed if no progress is made toward peace this year.

Vance expressed those views Thursday in a special interview with the Associated Press and United Press International. The Secretary will begin a six-nation tour of the Middle East Feb. 15. He also told the wire services that he has severed the "linkage" between human rights issues and other matters between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

At a press briefing later, State Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency if Vance's remarks meant that the Administration opposes such laws as the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the U.S. Trade Act and the Stevenson Export-Import Bank legislation which link Soviet emigration and human rights practices with U.S. trade and economic benefits.

Brown said Vance had thought about it and indicated that the Secretary will address that matter at an appropriate time with the Soviet Union. Vance is going to Moscow to discuss bilateral issues late in March. Brown said the State Department would respond to the JTA's question at a later date.

Mideast Situation Has Improved

Vance was questioned closely on Mideast issues by the wire service reporters. He was asked, "Must there be a Palestinian state for there to be peace in the Middle East?" He replied, "That is up to the parties to decide" but he did not identify the "parties." He added, "I think it is necessary if one is going to achieve a settlement to recognize the legitimate requirements of the Palestinian people and I have said this many times before."

Asked if those requirements included statehood, Vance said "That is up to them to decide how that might be done." Asked if "them" referred to the Palestinians or the parties to the conflict, Vance replied, "the parties."

He said that "despite difficulties which exist" the Middle East situation has "improved from what it was nine months or a year ago." But he added that if progress is not made in 1977, "other factors may arise which may destroy the more favorable conditions which currently exist." Vance's remarks in that connection differed from the more blunt prognostication by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim who said last week that a Middle East war would erupt in two years if progress toward a settlement is not made this year.

NAVON WARNS AGAINST TALKS BETWEEN DIASPORA JEWS AND ARAB LEADERS By Maurice Samuelson

HEATHROW, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A conference of leaders of Anglo-Jewry was warned today that talks between diaspora Jews and Arabs and Arab leaders would not hasten peace between Israel and her neighbors. The warning was given by Yitzhak Navon, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, to a "Solidarity With Israel" conference.

Referring to a planned trip to Cairo by leaders of the World Jewish Congress, Navon said that he had told WJC President Nahum Goldmann that he doubted the Arab leaders' intentions. They were less interested in peace than in driving a wedge between Israel and the United States and between Israel and world Jewry. If the Arab leaders really wanted peace, they knew that they could only negotiate with Israel, he said.

By welcoming diaspora Jewish leaders, the Arab states aimed to show up Israel as intransigent, Navon said he did not object to a planned WJC mission to Cairo but had asked Goldmann: "Do not commit us to anything."

Navon also clarified a report that he had challenged diaspora leaders' right to voice opinion on Israeli foreign policy issues. He said he only disapproved of comments on vital matters impinging on national defense. "If Israel has to fight again, it is our children in Israel who will have to do the fighting," he said.

The conference, at which Navon was the guest speaker, was similar to one held a year ago, at the same hotel near London Airport, to demonstrate Jewish solidarity in the wake of the anti-Zionist resolution at the United Nations General Assembly. The 240 delegates, representing more

than 40 organizations and public bodies, reviewed the past year's work and reaffirmed Anglo-Jewry's emotional and practical commitment to Israel in the fields of immigration, fund-raising, tourism, education and public relations.

FOSSIL SNAKE, SOME 80-100 MILLION YEARS OLD, FOUND IN ISRAEL

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--The discovery of the first fossil snake in Israel, a marine snake some 80-100 million years old, has been reported by Prof. George Haas of the zoology department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This is not only the first fossil snake found in Israel, but also a rare find in the whole world because of the excellent preservation of its skull. The snake's length is estimated by the university's experts at five to six feet long.

The fossil was found in the hills of Jerusalem, an area where fossils of a variety of fish had been found in the past in stone tablets from the Cretaceous period. Crabs, mollusks, sea urchins and starfish have all been found in excellent condition in the same area.

One of the astonishing finds in recent years was the discovery of turtle fossils with their shells beautifully preserved in stone. Turtles similar to the fossilized ones found here are alive today in Central and South America and in Madagascar. Haas is now studying the exact identity of the newly-found fossil snake at his Hebrew University laboratory.

EBAN SUPPORTS PERES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban has withdrawn his candidacy for the Labor Party's nomination for Premier and has announced his support for Defense Minister Shimon Peres in his efforts to oust Premier Yitzhak Rabin from the post. Eban's announcement was made at his home Thursday night before a group of 120 of his supporters, all but two of whom agreed to support Peres.

Eban said that because of the present leadership of Labor the party for the first time is isolated from other political factions. He said the present leadership has failed in bringing harmony and partnership not only within the Alignment and the government coalition, but also between the top leaders of the party itself. Peres, who arrived at the end of the meeting, praised Eban and said that the former Foreign Minister will return soon to an active role in the government.

GAZIT RETURNS TO PARIS

PARIS, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to France, Mordechai Gazit, returned to Paris Thursday after a 23-day absence meant to mark Israel's dissatisfaction at France's release of Palestinian terrorist Abu Daoud.

Gazit, who was welcomed by representatives of France's major non-Communist parties, stressed that he will inform France "of Israel's point of view and position (on the Abu Daoud affair)." He refused to say at what level he will make his presentation but diplomatic circles believe he will ask for an audience with French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The Israeli Ambassador said that French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud's visit to Israel Feb. 27 "was still being studied" in Jerusalem. He is also due to meet this week with Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon in Brussels, but this meeting is not yet definite either.

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS GIVE CARTER ADMINISTRATION GREEN LIGHT TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO EGYPT FOR FOOD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Congressional leaders apparently have given the green light to the Carter Administration to transfer \$190 million from development programs in Egypt to be used for the purchase of agricultural products to help feed the Egyptian people.

The Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee agreed last week without dissent after Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, Alfred Atherton, conceded the transfer was for political and psychological reasons rather than a means to bolster Egypt's economy.

Rep. Clarence Long (D.Md.), who questions economic support of Egypt when a quarter of its gross national product is going for arms, said that he "very reluctantly went along" with the transfer because the action did not represent an increase in aid but a readjustment and that he did not wish to see foreign policy made on a crisis-to-crisis basis with the Carter Administration just starting out.

Long insisted that the matter be placed on the public record and for that reason, an aide said, the hearing was arranged. Previously, acquiescence by the committee leadership usually was sufficient to approve such actions.

In the Senate, the Appropriations Subcommittee led by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D.Hawaii) has 15 days in which to object to the action but no hearing is scheduled and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed it is unlikely it will be.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES UNDERTAKE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS REGARDING SOVIET JEWS, TEENAGERS, ELDERLY

BALTIMORE, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A regional approach to coordinating Soviet-Jewish resettlement activities is under way in the Baltimore-Washington-Norfolk area, it was reported by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. Representatives from these areas met recently as a regional steering committee and agreed to establish an Outreach Program to involve smaller Jewish communities in resettlement.

According to the CJF report, it was agreed that a committee of lay and professional workers will talk to the leaders of neighboring communities, with each small community being encouraged to accept at least two Soviet Jewish families. The steering committee undertook to establish a job bank and to publicize, on a monthly basis, a list of jobs available and a compilation of those individuals for whom employment has not been found.

The list will be circulated throughout the area, and if an individual and a job can be matched the communities involved will work out an arrangement whereby the family can be transferred and still continue to receive the services it requires. The project was undertaken initially through the joint efforts of CJF and HIAS.

Report On Denver, Chicago

In another development, the CJF reported that the Allied Jewish Federation of Denver has established a Youth Programs Task Force to explore the needs of teenagers in the community and to develop plans for providing services most effectively through various agencies, congregations, Jewish Centers and family services. Denver is one of 10 communities participating in a CJF

demonstration project on planning for teenage youth. The Denver Task Force will serve as a model for other participating communities.

The CJF also reported that a temporary residence program to serve elderly persons in need of short-term housing is being operated by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago through its Council for Jewish Elderly. Designed to serve a wide range of clients--elderly victims of fire, eviction, those recuperating from illness or whose partners or families are temporarily absent--the program's goal is to stabilize and comfort the aged during the crisis period and to determine individual, long-range care plans.

The residence, which accommodates 11 elderly persons at one time, with a maximum stay of 30 days, features 24-hour attendance by residential care workers in three shifts. A social worker and nurse are available on call. On admission, a discharge date is projected and staff workers then focus on long-term care options while the client's temporary needs are met.

JTA FOUNDED 60 YEARS AGO

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA)--The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was established Feb. 6, 1917 in The Hague (Holland) by Jacob Landau with the help of Jacques Buchenholz, Sylvain Birnbaum, Sylvain Russ and Elias Chananian. It was known then as the Joodsch-Correspondentie Bureau and represented the first effort to organize a worldwide Jewish news service. The purpose was to prepare world public opinion for an intelligent handling of the Jewish problem at the Versailles Peace Conference. After World War I the Agency was re-established in London in 1920. The headquarters of the JTA were established in New York in 1921. The Agency was reincorporated in 1936 to give formal status to its communal, non-profit character as an instrument of the Jewish people.

ISRAEL WILL NOT PERMIT PORNOGRAPHIC FILM ABOUT JESUS

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, has disclosed that Israeli government authorities will not permit a Danish film producer to make a pornographic film about Jesus in Israel. Tanenbaum said that the producer, Jens Jorgen Thorsen, "obviously attempting to cash in on the current sickness of pornography, has prepared a film script that blasphemously seeks to portray Jesus as a drunkard, a fornicator and homosexual."

Tanenbaum stated that "the promoters, who seek to release the film about 'the love affairs of Christ,' have announced with incredible arrogance that the film will be 'blasphemous, pornographic, sadistic.'" Tanenbaum revealed that he had made an immediate inquiry of Israeli government authorities in Jerusalem and had received this official reply: "Mr. Thorsen has not applied to enter Israel for the purpose of filming, and should he apply for such purposes, he would be denied entry. The government of Israel will not allow any film to be made that would be offensive to any religious group." . . .

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund will plant trees in a 50-acre area in Ofra, along the Gulf of Eilat, in Eilat itself and throughout the Sinai peninsula.