



daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XLIV - 60th Year

Thursday, February 10, 1977

No. 29

ISRAELIS ANGERED OVER U.S. AIRCRAFT FIRM'S MOVE TO SELL JETS TO ECUADOR

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL-AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Israelis were angered today by confirmed reports that a major American aircraft manufacturer is trying to sell combat jets to Ecuador after the U.S. government blocked the sale to that country of 24 Israel-made Kfir interceptors. Although talks are still going on with U.S. authorities to get the ban lifted, the Northrop Corp. reportedly began negotiations with the Ecuadorian air force for the sale of its F-5 jets.

Israelis were especially incensed because the American excuse for not approving the sale of the Kfirs to Ecuador was its long standing policy against the introduction of advanced and sophisticated combat aircraft to Latin America. The State Department offered that reason in a statement Monday which noted that this policy has been in effect for at least 15 years. The sale of the Kfirs to Ecuador requires a U.S. re-export permit since the Israeli plane is powered by a General Electric engine.

Although Israeli sources acknowledge that chances for the \$150 million sale to Ecuador now appear very dim, Israel Aircraft Industries which manufactures the Kfir said it is going ahead with preparations for the transaction. The anger against American interference in the deal was increased by the fact that the Ecuadorians selected the Kfir in competition with French Mirages and the U.S. F-5s.

UN BODY CONFERS OBSERVER STATUS ON A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO

VIENNA, Feb. 9 (JTA)--The United Nations Industry and Development Organization today conferred observer status on a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PLO man, Ghazi Hussein, presented his credentials to Abd el Rahman Khane, director of the UN sub-agency. Hussein is expected to get accreditation from the International Atomic Energy Agency, another UN agency headquartered in Vienna, within the next few days.

He will also head the new PLO office here but he has refused to disclose plans about future relations between the PLO and the Austrian government. The government permitted Hussein to open the PLO office here after the UN General Assembly granted the PLO observer status in 1975.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT ORDERS POLICE TO TRACK DOWN SYNAGOGUE VANDALS

PARIS, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Algerian President Houari Boumedienne said today that he has ordered police to track down with all available means the vandals who desecrated and looted the Algiers synagogue last month and bring them to trial. Boumedienne, who received Marcel Said, president of the city's Jewish community, in a private audience, asked him to convey to all community members his "sympathy at the loss they suffered." He also told Said that Algeria's Jews will "always find my door open."

Three suspects have been arrested in connection with the synagogue break-in but none of the stolen objects, including silver candle sticks and Torah scroll ornaments, have been recovered. The police investigation is continuing.

CANADA MAY ACT AGAINST BOYCOTT

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Canada may pass a law to prevent the nation's banks from going along with the Arab boycott against Israel, Finance Minister Donald MacDonald said this week. He told David Orlikow a New Democrat member of Parliament from Winnipeg, that he would consider including a clause in the Bank Act to prevent banks from continuing their current practices of giving companies letters of credit certifying that the firms are complying with the boycott.

A report last month by a group of prominent Canadians said that government measures against the boycott did not go far enough and urged special legislation. Current government policy is to refuse federal aid to firms complying with the boycott.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau said last Thursday that the government has gone as far as it can and will not interfere with companies and banks on the boycott issue. While MacDonald's comment seemed to open the door to some further action, some observers thought it may be some time before anything is done even if MacDonald decides to proceed with a toughening of the rules. The Bank Act is coming up for a 10-year review prior to its scheduled expiry June 30 but there is speculation that it may be extended a year to allow for revisions.

FRANCE, ISRAEL MOVING TOWARD NORMALIZING THEIR RELATIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Mordechai Gazit, Israel's Ambassador to France, will meet Friday with French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in what is considered a major step towards the normalization of relations after the Abu Daoud affair.

The Elysee spokesman said the meeting will be devoted "to an examination of peaceful solutions to the Middle East conflict" but Israeli sources stressed that what Israel wants to hear is an explanation of the Daoud affair.

In spite of Israeli insistence that the Daoud incident has not yet been erased or forgotten, France and Israel already seem on the way to a near normalization of their ties. French and Israeli experts are expected to start reviewing the Franco-Israeli extradition agreement before the end of the month.

Meanwhile Israel and France jointly have agreed to postpone French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud's forthcoming trip to Israel by one month. Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Alon and de Guiringaud, who met yesterday in Brussels, decided that the trip originally scheduled for Feb. 27 will take place on March 30. Though neither side officially commented on this decision it was obviously taken as an additional

proof of Israel's dissatisfaction with France's release of Daoud. De Guiringaud and Allon met for more than an hour after Allon signed Israel's financial agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC).

Their meeting, in spite of the existing tension between the two countries, started off well when the two ministers realized, while exchanging a few personal remarks, that they had fought during World War II on the same side, on the same battle fields and at more or less the same time. De Guiringaud served with the Free French Forces in Syria while Allon, a Palmach commander, helped the British army in its junction with Charles de Gaulle's troops.

The two ministers agreed to do their best to normalize relations between the two countries. Allon and de Guiringaud also examined the entire Middle East situation but paid special interest to the bilateral relations between France and Israel.

The Israeli minister also held separate talks at his hotel with the Foreign Ministers of Holland, Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, Britain, Ireland and Italy. Before returning to Israel today, he was due to meet with the leaders of the Belgian Jewish community.

EX-NAZI TRACKED DOWN IN W. GERMANY

VIENNA, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Center, announced today that he has tracked down another Nazi war criminal. Wiesenthal, who played a prominent role in locating Adolf Eichmann, said he discovered a former German SS officer who committed war crimes in occupied Yugoslavia during World War II.

He said that Clement Druschke, 62, who is now a tavern keeper in Heidelberg, West Germany, was responsible for the shooting of 45 hostages in 1942 when he was head of the Gestapo police in Jesenice, Yugoslavia. Druschke is also believed responsible for having shot a 16-year-old Yugoslav boy just before the end of the war. He sent several hundred Yugoslavs to German concentration camps where most of them were killed, Wiesenthal said.

Wiesenthal said he located a witness who passed the site of the 1942 massacre almost immediately after the shootings. The witness said he saw Druschke standing near the dead bodies with a pistol in his hand. Wiesenthal said German authorities have started an investigation.

EEC-ARAB DIALOGUE BEGINS IN TUNIS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Richard Faber, Assistant Undersecretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, will lead the European team at the European Economic Community (EEC)-Arab dialogue committee meeting which opens tomorrow in Tunis. As reported last week, the EEC will not welcome Arab calls that it should speak out on the need for convening the Geneva conference and for a Palestinian presence there.

It will try to emphasize the commercial and cooperation aspects of Euro-Arab relations. If a political statement proves unavoidable, the European diplomats will be guided by the November, 1973, Luxembourg Declaration of the EEC and by last year's UN General Assembly statement by the Dutch UN delegation. (See Feb. 2 issue of the Bulletin.)

Meanwhile, more light has been cast on last week's London meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers

and their decision to refrain from a public declaration calling for Palestinian participation at a reconvened Geneva conference.

A draft declaration along these lines had previously been worked out at two levels among the nine EEC Foreign Ministers, first by heads of Middle East sections and then by political Directors-General. When the Foreign Ministers assembled in London under the chairmanship of the British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Crosland, the French minister supported such a declaration.

But, contrary to some reports, the French minister was not supported by his West German colleague and he eventually acceded to the British argument that it was wrong for the EEC to launch its own initiative prior to the Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance.

GENSCHER PRAISES 'CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE' OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT

By Jon Fedler

BONN, Feb. 9 (JTA)--West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, currently visiting the Middle East, met with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Khaddam in Damascus. They reportedly discussed the Middle East conflict, Arab-European relations and bilateral matters. German sources said today that Khaddam and Genscher had reached "wide agreement in their assessment of the objective possibilities of a Mideast peace."

In interviews with Syrian and Kuwaiti newspapers, Genscher praised the "constructive attitude" of Assad. He said "Syria's role in what has already been achieved and in future progress cannot be over-estimated." Genscher will be in Damascus today and tomorrow and will spend Friday and Saturday in Jordan before going to Egypt.

In addition to his meeting with Hafez, he is expected to meet with King Hussein of Jordan and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and with the foreign ministers of those countries. Genscher's visit to Syria is the first by a West German Foreign Minister since Syria broke diplomatic relations 10 years ago because of German arms deliveries to Israel. Relations were restored between the two countries in August, 1974.

The Syrian Foreign Minister was in West Germany in May, 1975. Since 1974 Syria has received \$72 million in German capital aid (loans at cheap interest) and technical help worth \$12 million. Trade has also risen rapidly. Germany has since 1973 been Syria's largest source of imports. German exports to Syria were \$24 million in 1975 and in the first nine months of last year were \$26 million.

Hopes To Reduce Mistrust

Genscher told a Jordanian news agency today that he hoped that the experience gained from his present trip to the three Arab countries and his visit to Israel in March would "help reduce mistrust" in the region. He said he would use his meetings with Arab leaders to discuss chances for a Mideast peace settlement.

Genscher claimed that the prospects for progress in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict are better than ever before although the obstacles are still "large." He said he had "particularly high expectations" for his visit to Jordan, which, he said, "plays an extremely important role in this regard."

HISTADRUT URGES STATE OF ECONOMIC EMERGENCY AS LABOR STRIFE MOUNTS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Histadrut called on Premier Yitzhak Rabin today to declare a state of economic emergency in Israel to forestall threatened massive strikes by public employees and to end current strikes and work slowdowns that could have a crippling effect on the country.

The Prime Minister and Histadrut Secretary General Yehoram Meshel met this evening to discuss the situation. Meshel told reporters later that the Premier was aware of its gravity. The Manufacturers Association also urged Rabin to intervene personally to save the nation from what it says will be economic chaos.

The Histadrut Central Committee met in emergency session earlier today. According to Meshel, the Histadrut leadership believes that the latest wave of labor strife was initiated in the belief that with elections approaching, the time is ripe to make demands on the government and other public employers.

Histadrut, therefore, wants Rabin to declare an emergency until after the May 17 elections. Meanwhile, the Central Committee called on public service workers to accept government proposals to avoid the almost inevitable promulgation of restrictive labor relations laws.

While the labor federation and the industrialists have a common interest in ending the strike threats, Meshel accused Abraham Shavit, president of the Manufacturers Association, of trying to wreck labor solidarity by urging production line workers to join a campaign against the demands of public service workers. Histadrut also disputed reports that some 200,000 Israeli workers are presently involved in strikes, threatened strikes or slowdowns. But whatever the number, it is large and a new series of strikes in the public sector could have devastating consequences.

Strikes, On And Pending

Already a rule-book slowdown by El Al technical workers has seriously disrupted the airline's flight schedule. In several cases, mechanical difficulties were "discovered" in planes about to take off, forcing them to discharge their passengers who were delayed several hours while the aircraft underwent inspection and repairs.

About 20,000 social scientists employed by the government began a work slowdown today and announced a full-fledged strike for Feb. 17. Yesterday, 1000 psychologists employed by public institutions stayed away from work to attend rallies in the three largest cities for higher wages.

Transport Ministry employees are threatening a strike of unlimited duration which would shut down Israel's seaports, airports and meteorological stations beginning this Sunday. Employees of the Bank of Israel have threatened to strike in support of wage demands. A similar threat was made by lecturers and assistants at the major universities unless wage negotiations are completed within two weeks. Employees of the income tax and revenue departments returned to their jobs under a court order but began a work slowdown.

YIDDISH PAPERS MERGE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 9 (JTA)--The weekly "Yiddische Presse," published in Rio de Janeiro since 1929, and "Der Nyer Moment," published in Sao Paulo three times a week since 1950, have merged. In a statement to the readers, the pub-

lishers--editors of both papers, David Markus and Konrad Charmatz, announced that the merger was undertaken to avoid the collapse of both papers due to increased costs of production. Under the merger, the weekly will be distributed in Rio de Janeiro under the name "Yiddische Presse" and in Sao Paulo under the name "Der Nyer Moment." The editorial and printing offices will remain in Rio.

ISRAEL BONDS TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF REUNITED JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 (JTA)--The development of Jerusalem, which is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its reunification this year, will be a major objective of the 1977 campaign for the sale of State of Israel Bonds, it was announced by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization.

The 1977 drive will have its North American launching Feb. 19 in Miami Beach. More than 500 leaders from the United States and Canada will take part in initiating the enrollment of top subscribers from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and over to promote Israel's economic development. Former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan will be the guest speaker. Another major aspect of the 1977 drive will be the support of increased production for export to take advantage of the open door for Israel goods in the Common Market countries beginning next July, Rothberg said.

He emphasized the importance of the development of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and reported that Israel Bonds helped to provide for the economic integration of a population increase of 120,000 persons in Jerusalem. Rothberg stated that Israel-Bond funds must also help finance the search for new sources of energy to free Israel from the need to spend approximately \$700 million a year for oil imports. He said Israel's intensive efforts to find substitutes for oil are expected to result in the wider use of solar energy and to stimulate the program for the generation of hydroelectric power.

F-15s TO BE IMPROVED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (JTA)--The American F-15 jet fighters that Israel has bought from the U.S. will embody changes suggested by the Israel Air Force that will improve the plane's performance, informed sources disclosed. They said that the U.S. Air Force was seriously considering incorporating these changes into its own operational F-15s.

Israel ordered 25 of the planes from the McDonnell Douglas Corp. Three were delivered in December and the rest, with the requested changes, will be delivered late this year and in 1978. The U.S. is said to expect additional orders for the F-15 but the Israel Air Force prefers to wait for the F-16 which is more advanced and cheaper. ***

NEW YORK (JTA)--A commemorative has been created to mark the 60th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration of 1917. This event is memorialized by the Judaic Heritage Society in an historic form combining a medallion sculpture of Chaim Weizmann, a facsimile of the actual Declaration, and a type set of the coins which played a part in the daily life of Jews in Palestine before the birth of the State of Israel.

BLIZZARD DISRUPTS ACTIVITIES IN A NUMBER OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 9 (JTA)--The Jewish community in Buffalo along with everyone else in the city and area was beginning to recover today from the severe winter blizzard which dumped 170 inches of snow and drove temperatures down to below freezing for 35 consecutive days.

Lester Levin, executive director of the United Jewish Federation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview that the blizzard forced the Jewish community to close or curtail programs and facilities, that many individuals in the community suffered severe economic losses because businesses and offices were shut, and that one of the major buildings, the Jewish Community Center, was heavily damaged.

Levin said that yesterday was the first time in 11 days that Jewish schools were reopened for elementary and high school students. They, along with all Jewish religious and other schools in the area, had been closed. Many synagogues were forced to close for the past two weekends and Shabbat services cancelled, in some cases for the first time in their histories.

Despite the blizzard, three Orthodox and one Reform congregation did meet. Two synagogues which lacked prayer minyans for one of the Saturday morning services eventually combined for the necessary minyan.

Levin explained that synagogues, schools and other community institutions were closed either because the snow made it impossible to reach the buildings or low thermostat heating regulations made it difficult to keep the buildings open. "If it wasn't one thing, it was another," he said.

Program For Elderly Cancelled

Levin stated that the Federation had to cancel for a week its daily program where some 300 elderly persons are served a communal kosher lunch as well as a program which provides kosher meals at home to 25 elderly persons living on below poverty level incomes. However, he noted that a telephone assurance program was expanded whereby the elderly were telephoned daily and emergency help was rushed to a home if it was needed.

The major loss to the community occurred during the weekend of Jan. 28 when the blizzard hit hardest. Pipes at the two-year-old community center froze and broke, causing flooding and resulting in some \$100,000 damage. Levin said the gym at the center will have to be closed for eight weeks while repair work is being done.

He said the Federation managed to operate and when the suburbs were cleared, before Buffalo itself was, some operations were shifted out there temporarily. He said when the ban on auto traffic in the city was lifted, the Federation was allowed to transport employees to work if they travelled in a car with three or more people.

The Feb. 4 issue of the Buffalo Jewish Review came out later and with a smaller edition because of the blizzard. The weather and the resulting snow emergency prevented access to the paper's downtown office for two days and the printer's office in Lancaster was also closed for two days.

Cleveland, New Jersey Hit

Meanwhile, other cities also suffered from blizzard conditions; though not as severely as the Buffalo area. In Cleveland, the Jewish Community Federation made contingency plans to keep

hospitals and nursing homes operating if there was a cutback in natural gas. During the Jan. 28 weekend many schools were closed and synagogue services were cancelled. Other Jewish community activities were curtailed, mainly to conserve fuel.

Cold weather also delayed the start of a 144-unit apartment house for senior citizens in Cherry Hill sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey. Construction of the 13-story building was due to start Jan. 25 but the unusual condition of frozen soil exceeding two feet in depth prevented mechanical diggers and earth removing machines from penetrating the crust.

BOSTON U. WILL BE CLOSED FOR ROSH HASHANA AND YOM KIPPUR

BOSTON, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Boston University will formally close on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in order to better accommodate its Jewish constituency. In a letter to Rabbi Joseph A. Polak, director of the university's B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, Dr. John Silber, president of the university, wrote:

"I am pleased to be able to advise you that for this coming fall we have made an accommodation that will facilitate celebration of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur by Jewish members of the university community. I believe that this is the first time we have been able to treat these days in the manner of institutional holidays, and I do hope that this initiative will provide an opportunity to you and your community to welcome appropriately the year 5738 and observe the Day of Atonement on the Tenth Day of Tishri."

Polak pointed out that the closing of the university was one in a series of several moves made by the university in recent years out of greater awareness on its part of its Jewish constituency, on the one hand, and out of an appreciation of the role of Judaism in the Western cultural heritage on the other. A little over two years ago, Polak stated, Dr. Nahum Glatzer, the scholar of modern and ancient Judaism was appointed a university professor, together with two other permanent Judaica appointments.

Last year, Dr. Gershom Scholem, the historian of Jewish mysticism, was a visiting professor. This year, Polak added, the university has added to its permanent faculty the prize-winning author, Elie Wiesel, as Mellon Professor of Religion. Although there are no official counts, Polak estimated that more than a third of the university's student body is Jewish.

SHABTAI KARAKUSHANSKY DEAD AT 76

RIO-DE JANEIRO, Feb. 9 (JTA)--Shabtai Karakushansky, the oldest Jewish journalist in Brazil, has died here after a short illness. Born in Bessarabia 76 years ago, he arrived in Rio de Janeiro in 1922. He was the author of the first Yiddish book, "Zion" (1925) that was printed and published in Brazil. In 1927 Karakushansky founded and edited the first Yiddish daily in Rio, "Yiddishe Folkzeitung." The newspaper suspended publication in 1941 during the Vargas dictatorship when all foreign language publications were forbidden.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund has begun work intended to make the green line between Israel and the West Bank into a green belt of forests. The 250-acre area is between Samaria and the valley of Yitzrael.