

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Wednesday, February 7, 1968

No. 26

## UN Agencies Await New Egyptian Initiative on Release of Stranded Ships in Canal

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--United Nations agencies concerned with freeing the 15 merchant ships stranded in the Suez Canal since last June, are leaving the next move up to Egypt, it was learned here today. There have been no new initiatives on the matter by Secretary General U Thant, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, head of the U.N. cease-fire observer corps in the Middle East, or the U.N.'s special emissary, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring. They are all awaiting new proposals from Cairo which as yet have not been made.

(The Christian Science Monitor reported today that Britain has asked the United States to make "urgent representations" to Israel to end its opposition to Egyptian surveys aimed at unblocking the Suez Canal. The report added that "strong diplomatic moves are under way to reactivate clearing of the Suez Canal as a possible first step toward a Mideast settlement.")

Egypt announced last week that she was suspending all operations preliminary to clearing the canal and blamed Israel for the impasse. Israel had agreed to an Egyptian survey of the southern end of the canal to determine if it could be cleared to permit the exit of the stranded ships. But Egypt, last Tuesday, attempted to send two survey craft into the canal's northern sector, in violation of the agreement with Israel. Under terms of the Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire agreement of last June, neither side can use or work in the canal without the other's assent.

## Israel Says Marshal Tito's Interference is Hampering Peace Efforts

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry charged tonight that President Tito of Yugoslavia was interfering with the efforts of United Nations agencies to promote a permanent peace in the Middle East and warned that his "one-sided" initiatives may have just the opposite effect.

The Foreign Ministry statement, in reply to questions here, referred to Marshal Tito's recent visits to India, Egypt and other countries where he is reportedly attempting to promote support for a Middle East peace formula that was rejected by the United Nations last June. It calls for Israeli withdrawal to the pre-June 5, 1967, frontiers in return for an Arab declaration of non-belligerency.

Marshal Tito has no authority in this matter, the Foreign Ministry said, because he has no international status. The United Nations interests in the Middle East situation have been entrusted by the Security Council to Ambassador Jarring and other U.N. agencies charged with promoting a permanent peace based on secure and recognized boundaries. Nor has Tito any authority as a conciliator because he is one-sided and supports Arab interests but has no contact with the Israel Government's views the Foreign Ministry said. Yugoslavia's proposals have been repeatedly discarded because of their one-sided nature. If Tito arrogates to himself the right to intervene in the efforts of approved international bodies to promote an agreement in the Middle East, he will be doing no service whatsoever to international peace or the will of the international community, the Foreign Ministry stated.

## Israel Envoy Discusses Mideast Problems With British Foreign Office Official

LONDON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Israel Ambassador Aharon Remez was received today by Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. Their meeting lasted 30 minutes during which they are believed to have discussed the mission of U.N. envoy Ambassador Gunnar Jarring and various Middle Eastern problems.

## Israel Flatly Rejects Egyptian Charge of Maltreatment of Gaza Strip Arabs

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 6 (JTA)--Israel rejected categorically today charges made by Egypt in letters to United Nations Secretary General U Thant of persecution of the Arab refugees of the Gaza Strip as "unsubstantiated" and "not supported by the various documents quoted therein."

The Israeli reply, signed by Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, head of the Israel mission, told the Secretary-General that "if a little of the energy spent by spokesmen of the UAR in disseminating defamatory statements and in fanning hatred, were devoted to promoting understanding and agreement, the prospects for the Middle East's future would be brighter."

The Israeli letter refuted two charges made by Egypt -- that Israel had halted the export of citrus from Gaza and had barred Arab fishermen from their work. The letter described measures taken by Israel that have increased the volume of Gaza citrus exports and declared that the Arab fishing catch, under Israel rule, had increased 30% over what it was during the Egyptian occupation of the Strip. The letter also described health and welfare services and economic advantages introduced by Israel.

Ambassador Tekoah noted that because of the activities of saboteurs sent into the area from Egypt, measures had to be taken "to prevent the threats to the peace which they pose" and said this would be inevitable as long as Egypt pressed active belligerency and "persists in carrying out hostile acts against Israel."

In a swing over to the offensive, the Israel document, which was circulated to all members of the Security Council and General Assembly declared that "there is also much that Egypt has to conceal about the treatment meted out to the Jews within her frontiers." It said the "physical torture, atrocities and bestial perversities" to which Jews were subjected in Egyptian concentration camps "will remain forever a somber, shocking reminder of inhumanity toward the weak and innocent."

The two chief items of "evidence" of Israel's alleged maltreatment of Arabs in the Gaza Strip were reports by two British newspaper correspondents who apparently based their dispatches to The Guardian and the London Sunday Observer on the same trip to the Gaza area and interviews with the same persons.

### Israel Rebukes Bulgarian Minister for Political Attack at UNCTAD Session

NEW DELHI, Feb. 6 (JTA)--The Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Trade was taken to task by Israel today for injecting a political reference to the Middle East into the deliberations of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Ambassador Michael Comay, working chairman of the Israeli delegation here, pointed out that the purpose of the conference was to fight the battle against poverty on a global scale, on a non-political basis.

The Bulgarian, Ivan Boudinov, cited Israel's refusal to withdraw from areas under its "illegal occupation" along with "growing American aggression in Viet Nam" as obstacles to long-range programs designed to help backward nations. Ambassador Comay, speaking under the right of reply, said the Bulgarian representative's reference to the Middle East was out of place. He noted that the situation there is being dealt with by the Security Council and by the Secretary General of the United Nations through his special representative, Gunnar Jarring.

The Israel delegation, headed by Zeev Sharef, Minister of Commerce and Industry, was joined by Ambassador Comay yesterday. It consists of experts on economics, trade, commerce and financial matters. One of its members is Israel's Ambassador to Thailand, A. Darom, who is an economist. The conference has drawn some 2,500 delegates and diplomats from all over the world who will seek to work out a global strategy to promote the economic and commercial advancement of underdeveloped nations.

### Ambassador Harman Pays Farewell Call on President Johnson at White House

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Ambassador Avraham Harman paid a farewell call today on President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House preparatory to the termination of his diplomatic assignment here. The meeting was announced by the White House. No details were given relative to topics discussed. The Ambassador also paid farewell calls today on various State Department officials and members of Congress.

### Halpern Hits Administration's Tourist Tax Proposals as 'Slap' at Israel

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Rep. Seymour Halpern, N.Y. Rep., a member of the House International Finance Subcommittee, criticized the Administration's proposals for a tax on tourism today on the grounds that a travel tax, "in effect, is a slap in the face to Israel in view of that nation's arrangements to honor her 20th anniversary of independence with many tourist features." He said the tourist tax would be "a silly drop in the bucket of the balance of payments" and said what was needed was "tax reform -- not tax increase."

The New Yorker told the House that Americans should not be penalized for wishing to visit Israel, Italy, Greece or other nations "where we need friends." He was supported by Rep. James A. Burke, Mass. Dem., who expressed fear that the measure would hurt the economies of Ireland and Israel.

### House Gets Resolution for Construction of Three Desalination Plants in Mideast

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Rep. William D. Hathaway, Maine Dem., introduced a resolution today advocating adoption by the House of the sense of Congress measure passed by the Senate last December to aid construction of three huge nuclear desalination plants in the Middle East. The first to be built was envisaged for Israel.

The Hathaway resolution is identical to the Senate measure introduced by Sen. Howard Baker, Rep., Tennessee. Rep. Hathaway said the nuclear desalination would promote Arab-Israeli peace. He declared that "The United States and the European countries have incurred and are continuing to incur great financial losses because of the Middle East situation." He told the House that desalting plants would make for agricultural and industrial growth that would facilitate solution of the Arab refugee problem and promote regional peace.

### Israel Bars Egyptian Pound as Legal Tender in Gaza Strip; Offer

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Israeli authorities announced today that the Egyptian pound will cease to be negotiable currency in the Gaza Strip and Sinai after Feb. 16 and possession of it will be prohibited. The Israel pound will be the only legal tender. Col. Dan Hiram, coordinator of economic affairs in the occupied territories, said the measure was taken to end monetary abuses and currency speculation which have been going on at the expense of the poorest classes. The Egyptian pound has not been legal tender in Gaza and the Sinai for months but Israeli authorities have hitherto ignored the fact that it was used in local bank transactions. It was also used by Gaza merchants trading with the West Bank.

### German Couple Jailed in Egypt on Charge of Spying for Israel Released

BONN, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A German man and wife who were imprisoned in Egypt two and a half years ago for alleged espionage on behalf of Israel, have been released and have returned to West Germany, it was learned here today. Their present whereabouts are unknown.

Cairo claimed several weeks ago that the release of Wolfgang Lotz and his wife was demanded by Israel as a condition for the release of 5,000 Egyptian prisoners of war held in Israel. Lotz had been sentenced to life imprisonment and his wife to three years.

### Western Aliyah Held 'Nigh Impossible' Because of Israel's Economic Problems

ZURICH, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A member of the Jewish Agency Executive declared here last night that it was "well nigh impossible" to expect Jews from Western countries to immigrate to Israel because of the present economic conditions in Israel. Yosef Klarman, addressing the European conference of Herut, said that the main problem faced by Jewish immigrants from the West was finding gainful and useful employment when they arrive. He said the Government of Israel "must create conditions for the absorption of immigrants from affluent countries if we want them to come."

Mr. Klarman, who is chairman of the World Executive of Herut Hazohar, went on to say that Israel's security is linked with aliyah as are the "liberated areas" because "our historic places must be settled by Jews." The conference will concentrate on the problems of aliyah and will call upon its members to settle in Israel. The Herut leadership was charged with preparation of a five year program for aliyah.

### Monument Planned in Israel for European Jewish Athletes Slain by Nazis

LONDON, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A monument to Jewish athletes in Europe who died at the hands of the Nazis will be unveiled at the Maccabi village in Israel at the end of April, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned here today. The athletes were members of the Hakoah and Maccabi sports organizations in Europe.

Norbert Katz, one of the sponsors of the memorial, told JTA that former members of Hakoah and Maccabi from all over the world will gather in Israel on the occasion of the unveiling. He himself will lead a group of 20 from England. Mr. Katz formerly played soccer on the Hakoah and on the Austrian national teams.

### Arab League Head in Buenos Aires Assails Jewish Leader and Zionism

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 6 (JTA)--The Arab League propaganda office took issue here today with a statement made by a leader of Argentine Jewry in New York that tensions had abated between Jews and Arabs in the Argentine despite Arab League efforts to increase them. But the refutation was nothing more than another attack on Zionism by Fouad Chayels, director of the Arab League office here.

Chayels assailed Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentina (DAIA), the central representative body of Argentine Jewry. While visiting New York last week, Dr. Goldenberg said that last June's Six-Day War had created tension between Arab and Jewish communities in Argentina but that these had since abated and the Arab League was unable to make any headway in arousing local Arab hostility against their Jewish neighbors. On the other hand, Dr. Goldenberg said, the Arab League found support among extreme right wing and anti-Semitic groups in Argentina and the Communist Party.

Chayels, in what was intended as a reply to Dr. Goldenberg, said that the Arabs do not "give political significance to religions" whereas "Zionists exploit religions politically."

### ADL Official Expresses Concern Over Future of Latin American Jewry

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 6 (JTA)--Concern over the uncertain future of Latin American Jewry, particularly in Argentina, was voiced here by Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal, head of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League's Latin American Department. Rabbi Rosenthal spoke at a conference on Latin American problems sponsored by the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program. He said that Argentina, with the largest Jewish community in Latin America, presents the most acute problem because the Jews there are regarded as "an alien element in the body politic." He noted that while the military government in Buenos Aires has officially declared that it is not anti-Semitic, many anti-Semites are in positions of power.

Rabbi Rosenthal decried the lack of "meaningful programs of inter-religious contact in Latin America." "By providing liaison between the ADL, the organized Jewish communities in Latin America and the Latin American clergy, we hope to begin the process of dialogue which has been so fruitful in the United States," he said. There are nearly a half million Jews in Argentina.

### West Berlin Jews in Tremendous Outpouring for Israel Emergency Fund

WEST BERLIN, Feb. 6 (JTA)--The Keren Hayesod, fund raising arm of the World Zionist Organization, opening its emergency campaign here, obtained pledges in a single evening equal to 75 percent of all pledges received in Berlin during all of last year. Israel's Ambassador to Bonn, Asher Ben Nathan and S.I. Kreutner, European director of the KH, were the speakers. One hundred delegates representing all Jewish communities in West Germany, attended the Keren Hayesod convention that opened here.

### Jesuit Theologian Declares Christians Must Cease to Seek Conversion of Jews

TORONTO, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A prominent Roman Catholic theologian has declared in an article published by a Jesuit magazine here that Judaism must be regarded as a salvational faith and Christians should cease trying to convert Jews. The article, by Rev. Gregory Baum, associate professor of religious knowledge at St. Michel's College, was greeted by Toronto rabbis as a "major breakthrough" in Catholic thought, provided that Father Baum's thesis was accepted by the Catholic hierarchy.

"The Church's mission among the Jews," Rev. Baum wrote in the magazine, "Month," "is not to proselytize, to persuade Jews to leave their religion and join another. The Church's mission is to engage in dialogue with the Jews, to discover the common patrimony, to deepen brotherhood and to be open to the transformation which God produces in us through true conversion."

Commenting on the article, Rabbi Emanuel Forman of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, an Orthodox congregation, said "it is encouraging to see him admit that before dialogue with any hope of results can begin, we need to respect the validity of each other's theologies." Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, rabbi-emeritus of the Reform Holy Blossom Temple here, said that Father Baum's declaration "provides the only basis upon which any cooperative kind of a dialogue can be undertaken by the synagogue. But I am wondering to what extent this reflects the thinking of the Curia and the Vatican." He added that if Father Baum's article did represent the Church's views, "it would involve a tremendous revolutionary turn in the direction the Church has taken for centuries."

Rev. Baum was born in Germany of Jewish parents but converted to Catholicism in Canada in 1947. He is known as a leader and spokesman of the liberal wing of the Catholic Church. Past pronouncements of his on birth control, celibacy and other questions did not, reflect traditional church views.

### British Chief Rabbi Wants World Parley to Deal With Intermarriage Problem

LAKEWOOD, N.J., Feb. 6 (JTA)--The Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth called today for an immediate meeting of Jewish leaders and educators in the free world to deal with "the critical problem of intermarriage" through the adoption of a comprehensive program of Jewish education. Addressing the mid-winter conference of the Rabbinical Council of America at the Brunswick Hotel, Dr. Immanuel Jacobovitz characterized as "of catastrophic proportions," the increase in intermarriage among Jewish college youth in this country and Great Britain. He said it amounted "to over 30 percent of marriages of all Jews."

Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, warned that if the mounting rate of intermarriage were not reversed "the whole fabric of the Jewish structure will suffer irreparable harm and damage." The problem, Dr. Karasick said, "constitutes a grave challenge to the continuity of the Jewish community and a serious menace to the survival of traditional Judaism."

Support of the proposed world conference on Jewish education was pledged by Rabbi Abraham Koolky, chairman of the conference, who asserted that the "widespread availability of quality education is the only bulwark for the retention of Jewish identity."

Rabbi Jacobovitz recommended an Anglo-American exchange program of rabbis, educators and lay leaders to "pool and enrich their experiences by regular exchange visits between the two countries." He said he was currently discussing with two prominent American Jewish educators, organization on a wide scale in Britain of Jewish educational projects along American lines.

### Orthodox Scientists Told They Have Role in Finding New Ways to Teach Judaism

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (JTA)--Orthodox Jewish scientists should help find an answer to the question of how Judaism may be brought "to masses of Jews estranged from it," Dr. Cyril Domb, British physicist, told the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists here. Addressing the association's 20th anniversary banquet, Dr. Domb, president of the organization in Britain, said Orthodox scientists should seek ways to educate "the new generation of Orthodox Jewry." He said that the association, here and abroad, could contribute to the general community "what no other group can but that the community needs so urgently."

He stressed the need for application of scientific and technological techniques as methods of education without impinging on the teaching and values of Judaism. "The age demands it," he said, "and who should be better equipped to meet the challenge than those whose lives combine science with religious commitment."

### Chicago Polish-Language Paper Condemns Anti-Semitism

CHICAGO, Feb. 6 (JTA)--A Polish-language daily published here condemned anti-Semitism as "but one step on the ladder leading to genocide." The Chicago Polish-American, in an editorial condemning President de Gaulle's attack on Israel and the Jewish people, said that "perhaps the outcry of public opinion has taught de Gaulle that, in the West at least, anti-Semitism will no longer serve a public leader who attempts to use it -- for whatever purpose. Perhaps the outcry has likewise taught him that civilized men have not yet forgotten an important lesson of World War II, the lesson that anti-Semitism is but one step on the ladder leading to genocide."