

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXVI - Fifty-Second Year

Tuesday, January 7, 1969

No. 4

## 16 Senators Sign Bi-Partisan Statement Supporting Israel In Current Crisis

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Sixteen members of the Senate today subscribed to a joint, bipartisan statement expressing concern over what they said was a disproportionate measure of blame placed upon Israel by the United Nations in the current Mideast crisis. The statement noted that the UN condemned Israel for its Dec. 28 reprisal raid at the Beirut International Airport but made "no reference to the direct threat to Israel's survival posed by the continuing raids into Israel -- with their mounting toll in lives and property -- by Arab guerrillas operating from the Arab states -- states that have maintained a state of war with Israel for 20 years and which harbor and officially encourage the guerrillas."

The Senators noted that "the Israelis are fighting for their very lives as their Arab neighbors, bolstered by Soviet military and diplomatic support, again openly threaten to obliterate them." It was stressed that the conflict should be viewed in its total context and perspective. Concern was voiced over the "rapidly deteriorating situation" and emphasis placed on efforts of the United Nations peace mission, headed by Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring.

The statement, submitted at a Senate press conference today, was circulated by Sens. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, and Walter F. Mondale, Minnesota Democrat. Signatories included Sens. Clifford P. Case, Republican, and Harrison A. Williams, Democrat, both of New Jersey; Hugh Scott and Richard S. Schweiker, both Pennsylvania Republicans; Stephen M. Young, Democrat, and William Saxbe, Republican, both of Ohio; and Charles E. Goodell, New York Republican; Peter H. Dominick, Colorado Republican; Philip A. Hart, Michigan Democrat; George Murphy, California Republican; William Proxmire, Wisconsin Democrat; Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat; Joseph D. Tydings, Maryland Democrat; and Fred Harris, Oklahoma Democrat.

### Many Refuse To Sign, Fear 'Another Vietnam'

It was learned that many Senators who publicly supported Israel during the recent election campaign refused to subscribe to the statement. One Senator, asking to remain anonymous, said he personally sympathized with Israel but refused to sign the statement because "there is fear in my state of our having to save Israel or any other country, a fear of getting sucked into another Vietnam."

The four points of the statement would seek to: 1. Establish a policy seeking permanent peace in the Middle East involving implementation of the UN resolution of Nov. 22, 1967, "with each provision being related to the other rather than being based upon Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories in return only for paper promises from the Arab states."

2. Maintain the arms balance lest the "radical Arab states" be tempted into resumption of full-scale war. "The U.S. has already demonstrated its policy in this respect by signing a contract to sell 50 supersonic jets to Israel, an action which we support and approve. The American people do not want to see a situation where Israel will be so threatened that outside participation is called for to assure its very survival. It would be helpful to this effort for the USSR to join in limiting its supply of strategic military weapons to the radical Arab states, and to accept the right of an independent and free Israel to exist alongside its Arab neighbors within secure and recognized boundaries."

3. Call for "the most urgent consideration of the settlement of the Arab refugees...about half of the refugees holding UNRWA ration cards are now within the de facto jurisdiction of Israel itself, making them much more available to settlement."

4. To encourage an organization for economic cooperation in the Middle East seeking trade relations and technical cooperation.

It was apparent from the Senators' comments to the press that their stand fell short of outright advocacy of American military commitment to Israel's survival. Sen. Javits stressed "Israel's capacity to stand on her own if she gets some little help from us." He called Israel's reprisal policy as one of self-defense rather than aggression and said the American public was "surprised" by the severity of the U.S. stand against Israel at the UN. He said it was necessary to understand the Israeli action at Beirut, termed it an "unfortunate event," and said it was "impossible to expect a precisely measured response from people fighting for their very lives."

Sen. Scott, newly-elected assistant Republican leader of the Senate, charged that the UN "never recognized Arab terrorism" as the factor that led to Israel's action. He said the UN concentrated on Israeli responses to obscure the "cruel conduct" of the Arab nations that refuse to make peace. Sen. Goodell said regional peace was upset by the "radical Arab terrorists." Among the leading Senators who backed Israel during the recent election campaign but declined to affix their signatures to the statement when it was circulated today were Edward Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat and Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota Democrat.

## Israel Foreign Ministry Confirms Reports Of Meeting With Lebanese On Tensions

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry today confirmed domestic and foreign newspaper reports of a meeting between Israeli and Lebanese representatives on the border between the two countries for a discussion of means to improve observance of the cease-fire. But the ministry

denied a Beirut radio report that the meeting had taken place within the framework of the Mixed Armistice Commission, set up following the end of the 1948 war. The ministry said that the armistice with Lebanon was made null and void by that country's action in declaring war on Israel in June, 1967. The meeting took place several days ago, the ministry said, but declined to go into details.

According to the press reports, the Israelis warned the Lebanese of the consequences of continued shelling of Israeli border villages by Arab commandos stationed on Lebanon's soil. The Lebanese did not respond directly to the warning but shelling that erupted over the weekend has not been repeated, the reports said. The press reports were confirmed by an announcement in Beirut today of a recent border meeting with Israeli representatives. It was described as a "technical" meeting that had nothing to do with border tensions. Other sources said the meeting took place at Rosh Hanikra, the site of meetings between the Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission following the 1948 war.

The entire Lebanese border region was blacked out last night from the slopes of Mount Hermon to the coast, apparently as a precaution against possible Israeli retaliation. Over the weekend, Arab commandos fired rockets twice at the Israeli border village of Kiryat Shmona but caused no casualties or damage. Last week, three Israeli civilians died there as a result of a rocket barrage. Lebanon is taking defense precautions. According to reports from Beirut, the Army high command has proposed compulsory military service for youths reaching the age of 18 and will establish special units to train villagers near the borders. The Army has also apparently reinforced the border region, Lebanese military vehicles were seen from Israeli observation posts today moving between Army positions. The military deployment on the Lebanese side of the border was viewed as a possible measure to control the activities of Arab terrorists bent on attacking Israel as well as to bolster Lebanon's defenses against a possible Israeli attack. Lebanon, a country divided almost equally between Moslems and Christian Arabs, has been the quietest of Israel's neighbors. The country is smaller than Israel and depends for its revenue almost entirely on commerce and tourism.

#### Israel's Concern Over Loss Of World Sympathy Somewhat Allayed By Press Comments

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Israeli concern that it sacrificed considerable world sympathy by its Dec. 28 reprisal raid on Beirut International Airport was allayed somewhat today by press comments which indicated "second thoughts" on the part of some of Israel's severest critics. The press reports were introduced at a Cabinet meeting by Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Their consensus was that Israel had been treated unfairly by the United Nations Security Council which unanimously condemned the Beirut raid but made no mention of the Arab terrorist attacks that preceded it. The press comment cited by Mr. Eban came from the Washington Post, the New Statesman in London and from various newspapers in Europe, Asia and Africa.

#### Israeli Official Voices Confidence That Reprisal Raid Won't Block Sale Of Jets

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Israel's charge d'affaires expressed confidence yesterday that the United States would not let his nation's attack on Beirut International Airport block the sale to Israel of 50 supersonic F-4 Phantom jets. Appearing on a local television program, Shlomo Argov said he was certain that "your Government, having made an agreement, will live up to it." Rumors circulated here however, that Israel has been informed that delivery of the jets must be left for final approval to the incoming Nixon Administration.

He was asked if the timing for the Dec. 28 reprisal raid affected the U.S. decision, announced a day earlier, to sell the Phantoms to Israel. "The timing was not of our own choice -- it was glued to the Athens incident," he said. "We launched this operation to make the Lebanese realize the consequences of acting as hosts to these kinds of people," he said. Israel claims the two Arab terrorists who attacked an El Al airliner in Athens, killing one Israeli and injuring two others, came from Beirut. The reprisal raid by helicopter-borne Israeli commandos destroyed 13 Arab airliners. Israeli diplomatic sources in Washington, said the U.S. never raised the subject of the Phantoms to Israel after the Beirut raid despite the fact that it lodged a strong protest with Israel.

#### Disclose Elements Of Soviet Peace Plan; Report Reds Plan No Mideast Arms Embargo

LONDON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Aspects of the Soviet Union's reported peace plan for the Middle East were disclosed in articles in two authoritative Soviet journals received here today. Diplomatic sources said the Soviet plan does not include an embargo on arms shipments to the Arab states, a policy the United States and Britain have been urging.

An article in International Life, a monthly published in Moscow in English and other languages, proposed stationing of peace-keeping forces on both sides of demilitarized Israel-Arab borders as part of a guarantee of a peace settlement by the United Nations Security Council or the Big Four. The settlement reportedly envisioned by the Russians was one based on the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution which calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. As the Russians and Arabs interpret it, withdrawal must be carried out before any other provisions of the resolution become operative. Israel categorically rejected the Soviet plan yesterday. Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Cabinet it was unacceptable because it would have Israel withdraw without any peace treaty or agreed and secure boundaries.

A report in the London Sunday Observer that the Soviet plan envisaged a limitation of arms shipments to the Middle East was discounted in diplomatic quarters today. They said Russia insists on a free hand to supply arms to the Arabs both as a means of assuring their friendship and as a lever by which the Soviets can exert pressure on the Arab regimes. The sources said that the Russians have slowed down delivery of the latest type of sophisticated offensive weapons to Egypt because their presence might encourage a new war against Israel. These reportedly include delivery of 200 MIG-23s, a supersonic fighter understood to be faster than the American F-4 Phantom jets that are being sold to Israel. On the other hand, latest Western intelligence reports say that Moscow has restored virtually all the arms Egypt and other Arab states lost in the June, 1967 Six-Day War. According to those reports, some of the replacements are more modern and more sophisticated than past materiel supplied and included planes, missiles, radar and naval installations. But some sources said the Russians are afraid to send their latest military hardware to the Arabs lest they fall into Israeli hands, to be later made available for inspection by the United States.

The Soviet weekly, New Times, published in English, hinted at Russia's desire for Four Power action in the Middle East. The magazine accused Israel of blocking the Nov. 22 resolution and noted that the UN Charter empowered the Security Council to take measures — including the use of force — against a state that refuses to carry out a resolution intended to restore or maintain peace. Any such action by the Security Council would require the consent of the four permanent members — United States, USSR, Britain and France. The article in International Life also criticized Israel for its refusal to permit UN peace-keeping forces to be stationed on its territory after the 1956 Suez campaign. The journal said that the re-establishment of demilitarized zones would have to be on a "strictly mutual basis" and the entire territory of the zones "without exception" would have to be patrolled by UN forces, empowered to carry out periodic inspections on both sides.

Israel has consistently opposed a solution that would be forced on the Middle East by powers outside that region and insists that peace can be achieved only by the parties to the dispute — itself and its Arab neighbors — negotiating a settlement. (Time Magazine in New York published this week an interview with Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban who said that the Soviet Union and the United States could not impose a settlement because "powers outside this region have surprisingly little capacity to make the states here act against what they consider to be their interests." Mr. Eban said what the Big Powers could achieve was "to force Israel and the Arabs to turn to each other by excluding the possibility of an imposed settlement" and if the disputants finally emerged with a settlement of their own, the Big Powers could support it.)

### Pontiff Sees Goldmann, Voices Regret Over 'Misinterpretation' Of Mideast Remarks

ROME, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Pope Paul VI granted a half-hour audience to Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, today and reportedly expressed regrets that his recent statements on the Middle East were "misinterpreted" by many Jews as taking sides against Israel. With Dr. Goldmann were Dr. Joachim Prinz of Orange, N.J., chairman of the governing council, and Dr. Gerhard M. Riegner, WJCongress secretary-general.

Dr. Goldmann, who was attending a meeting of the WJCongress' governing council here, reported at a press conference on his talk with the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He said the Pontiff emphasized that he opposed all acts of violence no matter who was responsible for them and pledged support for "the achievement of a peaceful solution based on justice which would enable all the peoples in the Middle East to live together in peace and harmony."

The Pope aroused anger in many Jewish circles last week when, following Israel's Dec. 28 reprisal raid on Beirut International Airport, he sent a letter of sympathy to President Charles Helou of Lebanon. Some Jewish leaders took this as evidence that the Pope was biased because he implicitly condemned Israel's reprisal but said nothing about the Arab acts of terror that precipitated it.

Dr. Goldmann said the Pope had expressed "his esteem of the Jewish people" and his hopes for Catholic-Jewish cooperation. He said the Pope's New Year speech condemning all violence in the Middle East had "clarified" the impression created by his previous statement. But "it could have been more useful if his position had been clear from the beginning," Dr. Goldmann said. He added that there had been "satisfaction" in Israel in the past at the Vatican's understanding of that country's problems, and said that relations between Israel and the Vatican had improved.

A report presented today by the WJCongress' executive director, Will Maslow, on tensions between the Negro and Jewish communities in the United States described black anti-Semitism as the work of a handful of extremists. But it assailed the moderate Negro leadership for failing to repudiate and denounce "even these isolated and sporadic utterances" and acts of anti-Semitism. The Maslow report reaffirmed the need for Jews to work for the elimination of discrimination against Negroes in jobs, education and housing.

### WJCongress Governing Council Focuses On Problems In Europe

The governing council devoted most of today's session to international problems directly affecting the welfare of Jews and Israel. Among these were the situation of Jews in Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and the Soviet Union, and the United Nations Security Council's condemnation of

Israel's Dec. 28 reprisal raid on Beirut International Airport. Another matter of concern was the statute of limitations on Nazi war crime prosecutions in West Germany which is scheduled to take effect on Dec. 31, 1969.

Armand Kaplan, director of the WJCongress' international affairs department, contrasted the harassment of Polish Jews by the Warsaw regime with the friendly attitude adopted by Czech authorities despite the continuing crisis in Czechoslovakia. He said that Jewish community leaders had been encouraged by Czech President Ludvik Svoboda to go ahead with preparations for the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of the Czech-Jewish community. He said the Czechoslovakian Government and people have strongly rejected attempts by Poland and East Germany to export their anti-Semitism. Mr. Kaplan said the gravest cause for concern was the position of Soviet Jewry which was fraught with ambiguities because of the Soviet Government's foreign and domestic policies. He said that Russian Jews were bound to be adversely affected by Moscow's pro-Arab policy. At the same time, domestic policies made it impossible for Jews to develop a free cultural and religious life, he said.

The council adopted a resolution that expressed "mounting anxiety" over the "indefensible policy" of the Polish Government, which it said was directed against "the defenseless remnants" of Polish Jewry. It called on the Warsaw regime to reverse its policies which are "an affront to the Jewish people as a whole and a great disservice to the cause of human rights." On the statute of limitations, the consensus was that the Government and Parliament of West Germany should feel duty-bound to prevent a situation from arising in which known Nazi war criminals would go free.

### Finance Minister Submits Record \$2.243 Billion Budget, Calls It 'War Budget'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Finance Minister Zeev Sharef submitted a record \$2.243 billion national budget for fiscal 1969 to the Knesset (Parliament) today. He called it a "war budget" to emphasize that Israel's number one priority this year is security although only 37 percent is earmarked for direct military expenditures. The budget for the new fiscal year, which starts April 1, is \$350 million higher than the 1968 budget. Its second item, in order of priority, is immigration, Mr. Sharef said. Third place was given to social advancement including increasing the level of education and improved living standards.

The Finance Minister, who also holds the Cabinet portfolio of commerce and industry, said that better living standards depended on increased productivity. He was optimistic, pointing out that Israel's gross national product rose 14 percent last year, the highest in the country's history. Mr. Sharef said that despite increased output, wages and prices had remained unusually stable. Israel's foreign currency reserves fell however, by \$100 million and the current dollar reserve of \$690 million was expected to decrease during the next fiscal year due mainly to heavy defense expenditures. Mr. Sharef stressed the need to maintain present price levels in order to give Israel's exports a better chance on the world markets. He said that no new taxes or tax increases were contemplated.

A bill to extend Israel's voluntary defense loan into fiscal 1969, which begins on April 1, was presented in the Knesset today and is assured of passage. The loan amounts to \$86 million, of which Israeli banks are expected to subscribe one-third and the general public the remaining two-thirds. The sum is about the same raised last year.

### Jewish Agency Executive Adopts \$375 Million Budget -- \$55 Million Greater Than '68

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency Executive adopted a record \$375 million budget for fiscal 1969 -- \$55 million greater than the 1968 budget. The new fiscal year will begin on April 1. Aryeh L. Dulcin, the Jewish Agency treasurer who submitted the budget at a meeting of the Executive yesterday, said it was based on anticipated increases in income from the 1969 Emergency Fund campaign for Israel which he hoped would yield more than the 1968 campaign.

The larger budget for fiscal 1969 anticipates an increase in immigration. Last year 30,941 new immigrants arrived; at least 35,000 are expected this year. The Jewish Agency's director-general, Moshe Rivlin, said that figure was a conservative estimate.

The largest item on the new budget is immigrant absorption and housing, followed by agricultural settlement, youth aliyah, youth and chalutz training, organization and information, education and culture and Torah education and culture in the Diaspora. About \$13 million will be earmarked to pay old debts dating from the early 1950s when mass immigration was at its peak.

According to reports submitted to the Executive, total immigration from the United States and Canada in 1968 was 5,090 compared to 2,402 in 1967. The Jewish Agency brought 3,876 students to Israel in 1967 and the same number in 1968 of whom 3,300 registered upon arrival as immigrants.

### Report Israel Has Suffered 281 Killed, 1,115 Wounded Since End Of Six-Day War

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Military authorities said today that Israel had suffered 281 killed and 1,115 wounded since the end of the Six-Day War in June, 1967. The Arabs lost 600 guerrillas dead and 1,500 captured, plus a substantial number of casualties among regular Arab armies. The authorities said several hundred Jordanian regulars and irregulars were believed to have been killed inside Jordanian territory. There were 1,280 border incidents reported, 920 of them on the Jordanian front.