

# 2d Spy Trial Is Reported In Baghdad

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From News Dispatches

Iraq's revolutionary court — which earlier condemned 14 men as spies for Israel — was reported yesterday by the Middle East News Agency to have started a new mass trial in Baghdad, with the defendants accused of spying for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The agency, controlled by the Egyptian government, did not mention the number of defendants. It quoted the court president, Col. Ali Hadi Witwit, as saying that the trial had begun behind closed doors and that the suspects were accused of working for the CIA.

The broadcast followed a pledge by the Iraqi government that "new batches" of convicted espionage agents would be executed despite widespread international protests over the public hanging Monday of 14 men accused of spying for Israel. Nine of the 14 were Iraqi Jews.

In a broadcast over Radio Baghdad the Iraqi Culture and Information Minister, Abdullah Salloum, said that "new batches" of "other spies will be tried soon."

Salloum maintained that the Monday executions took place because it was established that the defendants acted as spies, and not because of their religion or creed.

"This is a purely internal affair with no room for intervention by any other country," another Iraqi spokesman declared.

Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol declared Monday in a speech protesting the hangings that the nine Jews were hanged because of "their being Jews."

Israeli officials yesterday held consultations in Jerusalem on ways to save other Jews facing the gallows in

Iraq.

Monday's executions, staged in public squares before tens of thousands of demonstrating Iraqis, drew vigorous condemnations from around the world.

The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano deplored the hangings and said the cause of peace in the Middle East "can only seriously suffer."

The newspaper also disclosed that the Vatican had unsuccessfully appealed to the Baghdad government through an envoy of Pope Paul VI for clemency for the condemned men.

A similar appeal had also been made by the United States, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey revealed in Washington. He said the United States tried, through the Indian government, to persuade Iraq to exercise clemency, but the effort was too late.

The United States acted through India because there are no direct diplomatic relations between Washington and Baghdad.

McCloskey further reported that Washington has urged Israel to refrain from reprisals against the Iraqis. Israeli Premier Eshkol had intimated

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## Iraqi Court Said to Try More 'Spies'

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without clearly defining it, that some sort of retaliation might be forthcoming. "The Lord shall avenge their blood," Eshkol said. Eshkol's statement prompted Iraqi government officials to put their military forces on alert.

In London, the British government reported that it had informally urged the Iraq government to exercise clemency both on humanitarian and diplomatic grounds, noting the effect it would have on Iraq's reputation abroad.

News of the hangings provoked a demonstration by about 200 persons outside the Iraqi Embassy in London yesterday. During the protest, the flag of Israel bearing the Star of David was put up over the embassy by two demonstrators. Shortly afterward, one of the two was reported to have been stabbed.

Screaming "killers" and "hangmen," some 2000 persons demonstrated outside the Iraqi Embassy in Rome. Most Jewish-owned stores in the city shut down for half a day.

Another protest march was held in Paris.

The Arab world, meanwhile, maintained official silence. Most Arab newspapers reported the executions without comment.

Baghdad Radio, which on Monday broadcast vivid accounts of the hangings, ceased running commentaries on the executions. However, the network did read telegrams of support for the hangings, which it said were being sent from all parts of the country to President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr.

In Washington, the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington issued a statement condemning the hangings. Stating that it was "profoundly distressed by . . . the Iraqi government's secret mass trial and circus-like public executions," the Council said, "Only the strongly articulated conscience of the moral forces of the world can help prevent further oppression, cruelty and executions in these lands."



United Press International

**U THANT**

. . . urges 'pressure'

## Thant Urges Big-4 Talks On Mideast

By Robert H. Estabrook  
Washington Post Foreign Service

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.,

Jan. 28—Secretary General U Thant urged today that the big powers bring "moral pressure" on the Israelis and Arabs for a Middle East settlement within a Security Council framework.

At his first news conference of 1969, Thant made clear his preference for four-power discussions that would include Britain and France instead of a two-power arrangement between the United States and the Soviet Union.

These consultations, "either collectively or separately," should seek to obtain fundamental agreement on means of carrying out the Security Council resolution of Nov. 22, 1967, he indicated. Then the powers should come back to the Council — by implication to formulate a new resolution.

"Such a process would facilitate the work" of U.N. Middle East representative Gunnar Jarring, Thant asserted, and "I am confident would contribute to a just and lasting peace." Jarring, however, should not be directly involved in the big-power talks, he said.

The parties primarily concerned in the conflict also "must be involved at some stages," he added, but "some degree of pressure in all directions is necessary." This has been the case with almost

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# Thant Urges Big-4 Talks On a Mideast Settlement

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all past Council resolutions, he said.

In other major points Thant:

- Agreed with President Nixon's assessment yesterday that an uncontrolled situation in the Middle East "could bring a confrontation between the nuclear powers."

- Said he had been impressed, watching Mr. Nixon's press conference on television, by the President's "sincere desire to create conditions of peace and progress in the world."

- Stated he has not decided on steps to attempt to dissuade Iraq from further executions, following his sharp criticism yesterday of the hanging of 14 persons accused of spying for Israel, but said he does not plan to bring the issue to the Security Council.

- Emphasized that the federal Nigerian government is not responsible for impediments to the flow of relief supplies to Biafra and indicated that any U.N. endorsement of Biafran secession would create problems for more than half the governments of the world.

- Assessed the prospects for peace in Vietnam as "brighter than at any time in the past" on the basis of progress in the Paris talks, although a "long and difficult" process lies ahead.

- Urged governments to bear in mind that Communist China will become a big power—"perhaps even a superpower"—within the next decade. In his private capacity, he welcomed Italy's statement that it would recognize the Peking government.

- Extended his remarks on the desirability of ending the isolation of certain countries to include Cuba, as suggested by the Catholic Archbishop of Recife, Brazil, the Most Rev. Dom Helder.

- Said he stands by every Soviet-bloc invasion of Czechoslovakia, but that the Czechoslovak government has made plain it does not want public pronouncements by any principal U.N. organ.

Thant's comments on the Middle East spelled out more precisely than ever before his objectives in repeatedly calling for a four-power meeting. France and Russia also have advocated such a meeting.

What he outlined was a process in between the so-far largely sterile exchanges between the Arabs and Israelis through Jarring and an imposed solution, which he said would be "likely to generate further problems in the years to come."

Thant reiterated that "some sort of moral pressure by the big powers within the machinery of the Security Council" is necessary, and stressed the importance of keeping whatever is done within "the context of the United Nations."

Jarring should be available to the big powers and to the parties to the conflict, Thant explained, "but I don't think—and he agrees with me—that he should actively participate in discussions among the big powers."

## Confers With Jarring

The Middle East envoy returned to New York from Moscow last night, and Thant had a working lunch with him today. Jarring reportedly planned private consultations with diplomats here.

The Palestine refugee issue is "the crux of the problem," Thant asserted, and unless this is tackled "I'm afraid the move toward a just and peaceful solution will be very slow." Thant's formula for a big-four approach did not appear to discourage bilateral meetings between the United States and Russia on such broader issues as a missile-limitation agreement.

Nor did he rule out bilateral talks on the Middle East as a preliminary part of the process. But he was emphatic that any agreement must be among the four major permanent members of the Security Council.

He declined to disclose details of his conversations on the subject with ambassadors

of the four powers. Although the Nixon Administration is reserving its position until after a review on Saturday, some diplomatic sources here are predicting that a four-power procedure will be initiated by the second week in February.

What aroused his concern in the spy trials in Iraq, he explained, was their possible effect in impeding Middle East peace efforts. "If similar actions had taken place in another area, outside the region, I might not have even thought of issuing any statement," he said, adding that legally the matter is an internal affair of Iraq.

## Views on Nigeria

Thant made the most elaborate explanation so far of his attitude toward the Nigerian civil war. He said he has been guided by the stress placed by the Organization of African Unity on the unity of Nigeria.

His conclusion that "the impediments" to relief of starvation in Biafra "have not come from Lagos" (the Nigerian capital) is based on the findings of his special representative, Nils-Goran Gussing, he said.

More than half the members of the U.N. are "beset" with secessionist movements, he asserted, and if the U.N. were in any way to endorse the Biafran secession "there would be no end to the problems besetting many member-states."

The U.N., he noted, "spent over \$500 million and many precious lives in the Congo primarily to prevent the secession of Katanga" in its 1961-65 intervention.

## Concern Over Iraq

This was the first Thant news conference in many months in which Vietnam did not figure as a major topic. Thant said that two of the three points he often proposed have now been met, "at least technically," in the halt of American bombing of the North and the discussions among all parties involved in the fighting. The other point is a scaling down of the fighting on both sides.

# West German Parliamentary Leader Demands Investigation of Spy Cases

BONN, Oct. 27 (UPI)—Helmut Schmidt, parliamentary floor leader of West Germany's Social Democratic Party today demanded an investigation of what one newspaper suggested could be one of the biggest espionage cases since World War II.

In an interview with the national Sunday newspaper *Welt am Sonntag*, Schmidt said he would introduce a motion for a parliamentary investigation at a meeting Tuesday of SPD members of parliament.

He called "shocking" the "dilettante" way West German intelligence agencies have handled a series of espionage cases, suicides and arrests.

*Welt am Sonntag*, in a commentary, asked: "Does the Federal Government and the Western defense system face the discovery of one of the biggest espionage cases of post-war history?"

"This can not be glossed over," Schmidt said. "The (lack of) cooperation of the various agencies gives reason for concern."

A British Embassy spokesman in Bonn denied a story in the *London Sunday Express* that two senior British officials were sent to the West German capital to investigate espionage. The newspaper said vital British defense secrets had been passed to Russia through a West German espionage network.

The British spokesman said, "There is nothing to that at all."

The latest disclosures in the espionage scandal came yesterday. Authorities announced the arrest of a West German Starfighter

pilot on suspicion of stealing a U.S. Sidewinder air-to-air missile from a German air force base last year, and the arrest "several weeks ago" of a female secretary in the Defense Ministry on suspicion of espionage.

## Moslem Scholar Resigns

KARACHI, Pakistan (Reuters)—The Ulema, Islam's unclerical priesthood, have again demonstrated their powerful hold on fervently Muslim Pakistan.

Protests led by the Ulema recently forced the resignation of the government's key adviser on Moslem affairs—Fazlur Rehman, director of the official Islamic Research Institute.

Controversy flared over his book "Islam" which the Ulema said disputed the Prophet Mohammed's claim that the Koran was dictated to him by the Angel Gabriel.

Religious fervor in Pakistan—the most populous Moslem nation in the world—is apt to take an angry turn at any hint of offense to Islam, the Ulemas's verdict on Rehman's book was followed by news that buses were stoned and stores shut down in the Punjab.

When President Mohammed Ayub Khan's government seemed in danger of becoming the target of religious wrath, Rehman resigned.

The dispute over the book—which the courts have been asked to ban—centers on the revelation issue, which Rehman claims was the source of ancient controversy in Islam.

Rehman, a 48-year-old Oxford-educated scholar and former associate professor of Islamic studies at McGill University, in Montreal, Canada, says he wants to explain divine revelation to "the thinking man of today."

He says the Koran came to Mohammed just as inspiration "comes from beyond" to a poet or thinker—and cites Einstein discovering the theory of relativity.

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