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## MOUNTING ARAB-ISRAEL TENSION DISCUSSED BY "BIG THREE" AT U. N.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 24. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold today met with representatives of the United States, England and France to discuss the mounting Arab-Israel tension and the situation arising from the slaughter of 11 Israelis in the Negev ambush last week.

At a press conference later in the day, the UN Secretary General emphasized that he took the initiative in calling the delegates of the Big Three to the meeting because he considers that the Western Powers have "special responsibilities" in the Middle East. Asked whether he would consult the Soviet Union, which has been taking an increasing interest in Middle Eastern affairs, Mr. Hammarskjold replied that this was quite possible.

The UN Secretary General said that he expects to consult with all members of the Security Council on the latest developments in the Arab-Israel situation. To a question whether he would set a date for the Jordan-Israel parley which he convoked in Jerusalem--and which Jordan has refused to attend--Mr. Hammarskjold stated that the Jordan refusal to attend was "influenced by recent events."

### U. N. Will Not Call Arab-Israel Peace Conference

"The UN Secretary General," he said, "must not only be impartial but appear to be impartial." He added that he would have to be cautious in his approach to the problem of the conference and consider the right procedure. "What is necessary today," the Secretary General declared, "is to keep the whole Palestine situation under review."

He then made a general policy statement of the situation in the Middle East. He said that he considered it the duty of the UN Secretary General to impress on all parties in the present tension their responsibility to help the United Nations keep the situation under control.

He added that the duty of the Secretary General was to try to build up a "satisfactory situation in Palestine," and commented: "No one considers the present situation satisfactory." However, when Mr. Hammarskjold was asked whether he would consider calling for a peace conference between the Arabs and the Israelis, he answered flatly, "no."

## SYRIA CONCENTRATES NEW ARMED FORCES NEAR ISRAEL FRONTIER

TEL AVIV, March 24. (JTA) -- Syria is concentrating new forces along its frontier with Israel, an Israeli military spokesman announced here today. He revealed that at least a full brigade has been moved up to augment the regular Syrian troops stationed in the border region.

ISRAEL SEEKS U. N. SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON NEGEV MASSACRE

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- Israel Premier and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett today announced in Parliament that the Israel Government has urgently requested the Western Powers to call an immediate session of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the massacre of 11 Israelis in the attack by Jordanians last week on an Israeli bus in the Negev. At the same time, he declared that Israel must strengthen its border defenses "to forestall evil designs against us."

Mr. Sharett said that the fact that Commander E. R. Hutchinson, U. S. N., refused yesterday to vote--as United Nations chairman of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission--for the Israel resolution condemning Jordan for the attack is taken by the Israel Government as proof that the Mixed Armistice Commission has failed in its responsibility. Because of this development, the Israel Government has reached the conclusion that "there is no more sense" in its further participation in the Commission.

"In making this decision," Mr. Sharett told Parliament, "the Israel Government does not intend to repudiate the armistice agreement responsibility with Jordan. We have no intention of embarking on aggression or of indulging in provocation by being a party to turning the armistice into a farce by participating in an institution which has betrayed its primary duty of denouncing breaches of the armistice. Our position must not be interpreted that we shall not seek to denounce this crime before a United Nations forum."

Sharett Criticizes U. S. Chairman of Mixed Armistice Commission

The Israel Premier then revealed that the Negev outrage will be placed before the UN Security Council now that Israel has walked out of the Mixed Armistice Commission. He severely criticized Commander Hutchinson for abstaining, as UN chairman of the MAC, from voting on the resolution which Israel presented to the Commission, charging Jordan with responsibility for the atrocity.

"As the representative of the United Nations it was up to him to express himself on this crucial question," Mr. Sharett said. "As the conscience and the authority of the international organization charged with supervising and implementation of armistice agreements, he was duty-bound to uphold the aggrieved party and condemn the aggressor."

"However," the Israel Premier continued, "like one of those in the famous purgatory in Dante's 'Inferno' who took no sides between good and evil, truth and falsehood, he neither repudiated the Jordanian fabrication nor supported Israel's draft resolution."

Terming the killing of the 11 Israelis "the gravest and most brazen act of violence" perpetrated by the Arabs since the end of the War of Liberation and emphasizing that it was "in effect a warlike act," Mr. Sharett told Parliament that "the attack bore the unmistakable character of a military operation properly planned and methodically executed." (The full text of Premier Sharett's speech starts on Page 3.)

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON NEGEV BUS MASSACRE

LONDON, March 24. (JTA) -- The British Government fully endorses the hope expressed by the American chairman of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission that despite Israel's withdrawal from the commission "both countries will continue their investigation" into the Negev bus massacre of last week, the Foreign Office said in a statement issued here today.

The statement also declared that the government "fully sympathize with Israel's concern at the Beersheba bus outrage and the Minister of State expressed to the Israeli Minister on March 19" the British Government's "regret and outrage" as well as its sympathy.

SHARETT REPORTS TO KNESSET ON NEGEV AMBUSH; TEXT OF HIS ADDRESS

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- The full text of the address delivered today by Premier and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett in the Israel Parliament, reviewing the massacre by Jordanians of 11 Israelis in the Negev and Israel's decision to leave the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, reads:

The entire nation was shocked beyond measure last Wednesday at the news of the terrible outrage which occurred at noon of that day at Maaleh Akrabim (Scorpion Pass) in the Negev. A bus proceeding from Eilath to Beersheba was ambushed and attacked by an armed Arab band. The first volley of shots killed the driver and hit several passengers. The immobilized vehicle was subjected to a hail of bullets from all sides and immediately became a death trap. The murderers broke in, killing the survivors and wounded. Altogether 11 men, women and children were killed. Four persons escaped, of whom two were seriously wounded.

It was soon evident that the attack bore the unmistakable character of a military operation, properly planned and methodically executed. The gangsters came from afar, marching to a fixed destination. They were not engaged in looting, but bent on murder. Nothing had occurred in that neighborhood which could have served as the slightest provocation for the massacre.

A vital, internal communications artery deep in Israel territory was the target. This was the gravest and most brazen act of violence perpetrated in this country since the termination of hostilities in the War of Liberation, being in effect a war-like act.

Footprints clearly indicated the gang's Jordanian origin. Two tracks were found, one leading toward the ambush from the Jordanian frontier, the other, backwards. United Nations observers took an active part in following the footprints; the operation was carried out by expert trackers and trained police dogs.

In this work and in the investigation of the circumstances of the crime on the scene they faithfully carried out their duty under the most difficult circumstances. The footprints were not traced right up to the frontier because of the terrain's rocky nature, but from the point where the tracks ended only a narrow gorge leads to the Jordanian frontier, with impassably rocky ground on both sides.

Says Evidence Shows Murderers Had Emerged from Jordan

The Israel Government received information from the most reliable sources that the gang crossed the border prior to the crime at a certain spot heading westward, also the names of three of the gangsters. Even without taking into account these data, the tracks and the general picture of the outrage are evidence that the perpetrators had emerged from Jordan. This is a patent truth which no amount of pedantry and formalistic quibbling could cover up.

Yet, as the House is aware, this was not the finding of the Mixed Armistice Commission. The complaint lodged through the Israel delegation laid responsibility for the crime at the Jordan Government's doors, since under the provisions of the armistice agreements each government is responsible for the crimes committed by people coming from its territory and breaking into a neighboring state.

The Jordan delegation did not hesitate to blame the Israel Government. It asserted that Israelis had committed the murders--Israelis who were "Arabs through race and Jews through religion," as stated by the Jordan representative who found the occasion suitable for linguistic exercises. This insolent and preposterous invention, which added insult to injury and ought to have served as further proof of

Jordan's guilt, assumed the character of an alternate version in the proceedings, co-equal in weight with the Israel indictment.

In this developing deadlock the Mixed Armistice Commission chairman was called upon to cast the decisive vote. As the United Nations representative it was up to him to express himself on this crucial question. As the conscience and authority of the international organization charged with supervising and implementation of the armistice agreements he was duty-bound to uphold the aggrieved party and condemn the aggressor.

But the chairman chose not to exercise his authority. Like one of those in the famous purgatory of Dante's "Inferno" who took no sides between good and evil, truth and falsehood, he neither repudiated the Jordanian fabrication nor supported Israel's draft resolution.

Thus the deadlock was completed and no decision was pronounced by the commission on an outrage the nature of which shocked world opinion and which stands out as a case sui generis in the annals of the armistice, already replete with acts of violence.

#### Says Armistice Regime Fails to Prevent Bloodshed

There were a number of cases wherein Jordan's guilt was clear and in which the Mixed Armistice Commission discussion ended without result following the chairman's abstention on grounds of insufficient evidence. But this case exceeded all bounds.

Yet this is not a matter of personal indictment. The problem's crux is the armistice regime's fate as reflected in the outcome of the examination. The momentous question is how the United Nations armistice supervision machinery has stood the test of its efficacy as an international body in connection with this exceptionally grave incident. The armistice regime proved incapable of preventing blood from being shed through lightning swiftness and fiendish ferocity.

United Nations observers are not, in truth, military commanders charged with frontier defence nor sentries or lookouts. Nobody expects them to perform such a task, which is the exclusive prerogative and responsibility of sovereign states.

But they have been invested with authority and charged with the duty of identifying and condemning that party which is guilty of violation of the armistice pacts through acts of lawlessness and aggression. This authority entails the exposure of aggression to international opprobrium for curbing the urge to further crimes and for creating a deterrent against the recurrence of murderous attacks.

#### Impotence of Armistice Commission May Have Far-Reaching Result

The significance of this authority increases seven-fold when invoked in connection with such a revolting affair as the Maaleh Akra bin bloodbath. The failure to exercise that authority in this particular case is as devastating as the responsibility was great. Leaving undecided the question of guilt on this occasion proclaims the complete moral bankruptcy of the entire machinery of the armistice agreements' implementation and supervision.

Such a termination of the investigation and discussion is tantamount to a pronouncement of the complete breakdown of authority and a situation wherein everybody can do what is right in his own eyes. We cannot, however, continue this disconcerting manifestation of helplessness. We cannot but have deep regrets also for the sake of the United Nations whose prestige concerns us no less than anyone else. But this point is not merely international.

The results of the default on this occasion are far more pernicious and far-reaching. This demonstration of the Mixed Armistice Commission's impotence, capable of concluding an examination without reaching a conclusion, is liable to unleash

violence and remove all brakes from the lust for slaughter. The record of the Mixed Armistice Commission's consideration of the Maaleh Akrabin incident is bound to serve as conclusive evidence that one can transgress without risking condemnation and commit murder with impunity.

The government of the country bordering on Israel, responsible for preserving the armistice with us, cannot but draw the lesson from this experience that it is not incumbent upon it to make any effort to stem the tide of lawlessness and that it can afford to treat as a matter of small concern whatever outrage is committed by its own nationals beyond its borders.

### Israel Does Not Intend to Embark on Aggression

This experience must lead to far-reaching conclusions regarding our own orientation--how to organize our own defenses to forestall evil designs against us. In the first place, we are charged with safeguarding our own communications lines. Concerning the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission which failed in its responsibility and disappointed our confidence, we reached the conclusion that there is no more sense in further participation.

In making this decision it is not the intention of Israel to repudiate the armistice agreement responsibility with Jordan. We do not have the intention of embarking on aggression or indulging in provocation by being a party to turning the armistice into a farce through participating in an institution which betrayed its primary duty of denouncing breaches of the armistice.

Our position must not be interpreted that we shall not seek to denounce this crime before the United Nations forum. While discontinuing its participation in the Mixed Armistice Commission, Israel has turned to the Western Powers with an urgent request that they call an immediate session of the Security Council to discuss this outrage.

In asking this we are not placing on their shoulders a burden they are not used to carrying; they themselves showed an alertness and readiness to initiate such discussions as a result of the October happenings. Israel's Ambassadors in the capitals of the United States, Britain and France will now address this request to the governments.

The chain of bloody events against the background of incitement against Israel may lead to incalculable results. The Israel Government has tried to stem this tide, its latest step was the calling of Jordan to a conference under Article XII of the Armistice Agreement, to which Jordan has not responded despite its duty under the armistice.

With all the importance of the United Nations' responsibility, we must not forget that the bulwark of our security is our own self-reliant strength which will be reinforced with help from whomever may be ready to help, foremost among whom is the Jewish people. As long as there is no peace our demand must be arms for Israel which seeks peace and is forced to defend itself; and not to the Arabs who maintain and plan aggression.

### KNESSET APPROVES GOVERNMENT POLICY ON NEGEV AMBUSH

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament late tonight approved the decisions taken by the Cabinet with regard to the massacre of the 11 Israelis in the Negev ambush. The policy of the government was endorsed after a debate which followed Premier Sharett's report.

Defense Minister Pinchas Lavon, in replying for the government to deputies of various parties who spoke in the debate, said that the Middle East is now at the crossroads and the future is unpredictable. He warned the extreme right-wing Herut Party not to exploit the occurrence in the Negev for political ends and also took issue with Communist deputies who referred to the Kibya incident in their arguments.

COMMISSION TO STUDY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERATIONS AND CENTERS

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- Creation of a Commission on Jewish Community Center-Jewish Federation Relationships under the joint sponsorship of the National Jewish Welfare Board and the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds was announced here today by Irving Edison, JWB president, and Julian Freeman, CJFWF president.

The Commission has been established to undertake four major tasks: 1. To review and analyze the experience of the agencies involved in Center-Federation relationships; 2. To examine the practices which have successfully served the needs of the communities and other practices which have not been found satisfactory by the agencies concerned; 3. To analyze the reasons for the results; 4. To crystallize the principles and procedures growing out of that experience as guides to communities in developing the types of relationships which will best advance communal progress.

The commission is advisory in nature and is responsible to both CJFWF and JWB. It will submit its findings and recommendations to both organizations for consideration and possible action.

JUDGE BERNON DEAD; HIS DEVOTION TO JEWISH ACTIVITIES LAUDED

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- Leaders of the United Jewish Appeal, Joint Distribution Committee and the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds today paid tribute to Judge Maurice Bernon, noted Jewish leader, who died in Cleveland yesterday of a heart attack.

Judge Bernon, who was 68, was at the time of his death a member of the UJA's top-level National Campaign Cabinet; chairman of the National Council of the Joint Distribution Committee; member of the executive committee of the CJFWF, and vice-president of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. He was a past president of the Cleveland Bar Association.

Officers of the United Jewish Appeal, led by UJA general chairman Edward M. M. Warburg and UJA executive vice-chairman Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, long-time associates of Judge Bernon both in the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Jewish Appeal, paid tribute to him "as one of American Jewry's most dedicated leaders." "Judge Bernon," the UJA officers declared, "was devoted and selfless as no other man has ever been in the cause of the United Jewish Appeal. His efforts were unflagging, tireless and always on call."

Officers and directors of the Joint Distribution Committee said in a statement: "It was remarkable that Judge Maurice Bernon, who was for more than seven years, until the day of his death, chairman of the JDC national council, should have been able to carve for himself a niche in so many areas of human endeavor. Many knew him as a public official or as an outstanding attorney, but thousands more all over the country had reason to know and admire him for his efforts on behalf of Jewry, particularly harrassed and distressed Jews overseas."

Julian Freedman, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, said in his statement that Judge Bernon will be missed as president of the East Central Region of the CJFWF, as member of national board of directors, executive committees, and other important committees. "We have depended greatly upon his fine mind, his broad experience, and his deep understanding."

ISRAELI MINISTER LEAVES ARGENTINA FOR BRAZIL ON BOND CAMPAIGN

BUENOS AIRES, March 24. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph Burg, Israel Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone, left here today for Brazil. Dr. Burg is touring Latin America in behalf of the Israel bond sales campaign. He was accompanied by Dr. Arieh L. Kubovi, Israel Minister to Buenos Aires.