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STATE DEPT. WATCHES ISRAEL-SYRIAN TENSION; ARABS CALL ON DULLES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- The State Department indicated today that the U. S. Government is awaiting an official report through American diplomatic channels on the clash between Israel and Syria yesterday during which 55 Syrians and four Israelis were reported killed. The clash was precipitated by Syrian bombardment of Israel fishing boats.

In the meantime, State Department officials expressed regret over the loss of life in the battle. Regret was also expressed by the French Government, according to information arriving here from Paris. A spokesman for the French Foreign Office said France "deplores the Israel initiative" and regrets especially the fact that the Israel action "was directed against Syria, a country to which France is linked by a strong friendship."

A delegation of diplomats representing eight Arab countries conferred today with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for more than an hour. The delegation included diplomatic representatives of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Libya. Syrian Ambassador Farid Zeineddine told newsmen after leaving the State Department that the delegation had asked Secretary Dulles to take action against Israel for yesterday's reprisal raid into Syria as well as to deny arms to Israel.

Iraqi Ambassador Moussa Al-Shabandar said that Secretary Dulles told the delegation that the United States is for "friendly impartiality vis-a-vis the Arab States and others." The Ambassador said the Arabs told Mr. Dulles that American-Arab relations were "unfortunately suffering from the behavior of Israel and Zionist organizations in the United States which are encouraging Israel" to the detriment of Arab-American relations.

ISRAEL FORCES WITHDRAW FROM SYRIA AFTER DESTROYING FORTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Artillery duels between Syrian and Israeli guns in the Lake Tiberias area maintained the tension today following the major raid last night by Israel units who captured and destroyed four Syrian outposts on the eastern shore of the lake and then withdrew to Israel territory. Some 55 Syrian soldiers died and 29 were taken prisoner, while four Israelis were killed and 12 were wounded in the operation.

The latest reports from the Galilee spoke of a continuing exchange of shells between the two sides as each rushed reinforcements into the area. The attack, one of the deadliest of the undeclared border war which has waged along Israel's frontiers from shortly after the armistice agreements were concluded in 1948-49, was a retaliatory move announced and explained later by Israel authorities. It followed Syrian shelling of an Israel patrol vessel on the lake yesterday.

(Reports from Cairo said that Egyptian and Syrian military and political leaders met there today in an emergency conference to decide whether the Israel action should be the occasion for joint action against Israel under the terms of the recently concluded Egyptian-Syrian military pact against Israel.)

The Israel raid, a four-pronged maneuver, caught the Syrians unprepared and smashed through most of the Arab defenses before the Syrian troops could be rallied. Some fought stubbornly but many fled into the interior as the Israelis mopped up and blasted gun emplacements before withdrawing. The four posts were all situated along an eight-mile front between Eingeb, an Israel fishing village on the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias, and the Jordan estuary farther to the north. United Nations observers arrived on the scene from both Israeli and Syrian bases, after the attack was announced.

Israel Complains to Armistice Body on Syrian Shelling

The entire lake and a strip of land 10 metres wide (about 33 feet) around the lake is Israel territory and has been recognized as such by the Mixed Armistice Commission. For years the Syrians have interfered with Israel fishermen, particularly on the northeastern section of the lake, and have killed and wounded a number of Israelis and destroyed their boats and nets.

A statement by an Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman outlined the history of Israel-Syrian relations along Lake Tiberias, including numerous, fruitless complaints to the MAC. Today, he said, fishermen were able to spread their nets in quiet and Lake

Tiberias would remain quiet as long as the Syrians wished it so. Yesterday, before the raid, a formal complaint on the latest Syrian shelling of the Israel patrol boat was delivered to the MAC.

Informed sources here pointed out today that Syrian firing on fishing boats last year had not only cost lives, but had forced the fishermen to abandon 100,000 pounds worth of nets and fish when the Syrians opened fire. The fishing industry in the area was paralyzed and at Eingev, where the community depends on the processing of fish, demands were voiced for government assistance for the hundreds of workers rendered jobless by Syrian attacks.

The fishing season for this year is about to begin-- particularly in the eastern section of the lake where warm underground springs attract large numbers of fish. The fishermen work mostly at night by lamp, and are easy targets for Syrian gunners.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS EDEN'S "COMPROMISE" PROPOSALS TO ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Harold Macmillan reaffirmed in Parliament today Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden's territorial "compromise" proposals to Israel and the Arab states voiced November 9, and called the Eden move "singularly well timed."

Opening a lengthy debate, which is scheduled to be concluded by Sir Anthony, Mr. Macmillan insisted that the only way to peace was through compromise and that Sir Anthony was right when he offered advice on how the problem might be approached. Asserting that both sides were giving sympathetic consideration to Sir Anthony's ideas, the Foreign Secretary said this was the first time he had heard leading Arab figures take the view that a final settlement must be worked out now. "Serious Arab leaders have begun to realize," he continued, "that the State of Israel is something they must live with."

The Israelis, he said, just like the Arabs will have to make sacrifices for a peace settlement. He said he believed that a more careful consideration has taken place in Israel than is indicated by what Premier David Ben Gurion has said. He said that the thought of the sacrifices required should be balanced by thoughts of "how great the gain could be." He said the USSR would attempt to break down any hope of settlement, but expressed confidence that neither side would fall into "this trap."

He turned thumbs down on the idea of a new "unilateral declaration" to assist Israel, averring that the need in the Middle East was for a settlement of the entire problem and that this could not be achieved by adding to the long list of declaratory guarantees already given.

He said the West could not "put the situation right" by arming Israel and that it would be "foolish" to enter into an arms race at this stage. He pointed out that the Soviet Union had a much larger supply of arms available to send the Arab states and the Soviet Government was not hampered in its foreign policy by either public opinion or Parliamentary control. He warned the Arab states that they were playing with fire when they attempted to play the USSR off against the West.

Herbert Morrison, former Foreign Secretary in the late Labor government, suggested that either an agreement be obtained for equal arms supplies to go to the Arab states and Israel, or an agreement be reached to keep arms from going to any of the states. Alternatively, he suggested, the United Nations must be given the problem to solve. Mr. Morrison said the opposition did not object to collective security in the Middle East, but it did object to Israel being left out of such arrangements. The failure of the government to reach such an agreement with Israel was encouraging Arab extremists to press for war on an "isolated" Israel, he declared.

EGYPT ADOPTS UNCOMPROMISING STAND ON GAZA ISSUE, U.N. CHIEF REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, reported his failure to obtain Egyptian agreement to a UN proposal to pacify the Nitzana-El Auja demilitarized zone, in a meeting he had with Premier David Ben Gurion yesterday.

During their 40-minute conversation, Gen. Burns reported that the Egyptians had adopted an uncompromising stand. That stand, it is understood, included a demand that the Israelis withdraw their police, who protect the residents of the Kezimizim settlement, which is situated within the demilitarized zone, all of which is on Israel soil. For the Israelis this would mean turning the demilitarized zone over to the mercies of the Egyptians. Gen. Burns is reported to be undecided about what to do in the future to solve the Nitzana problem.

SOVIET REPORTED TRAINING EGYPTIANS IN SUBMARINE WARFARE AT ODESSA

LONDON, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Egyptian naval officers and enlisted men are believed to be training in submarine warfare at Odessa, the Soviet Union's Black Sea port, it was reported here by the London Daily Telegraph in a dispatch from Cairo.

The dispatch said that Russian training of Egyptian personnel followed the first purchase by Egypt of a Russian submarine. It is believed, the Daily Telegraph correspondent reported, that this training will require "some time."

JEWES ASK SULTAN OF MOROCCO TO CHOOSE JEWISH CABINET MEMBER

CASABLANCA, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- A delegation of Moroccan Jews today had an audience with the Sultan of Morocco and asked him to appoint the Jewish member of the Cabinet for whom the post of Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs has been left open. The delegation assured the Sultan that whomever he chooses will be acceptable to all the Jews of Morocco.

The split which developed in the ranks of Moroccan Jewry over who shall be named as the Jewish member of the Cabinet leaves no other possibility except to put the decision in the hands of the Sultan, it was pointed out here. The Jewish member of the government, although he will hold the post of Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, will actually represent the interests of the approximately 300,000 Jews now living in Morocco.

GERMANY DELIVERS ANOTHER SHIP TO ISRAEL AS REPARATIONS PAYMENT

LUBECK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- An Israel captain and Israel crew of 33 seamen took command of the new 3,145-ton freighter Kedmah today after Israel formally took over the vessel as a reparations payment. The vessel, one of a number completed in the last year or two by German shipyards to Israeli specifications, becomes part of the fleet of Zim-Shoham.

The vessel, which will sail for Haifa with a cargo of reparations goods later this week under the command of Capt. Aryeh Silberman, has refrigerated cargo holds and will be used to transport Israel's citrus products, in season, to North Sea or Soviet Black Sea ports. Out of season, the vessel will be able to transport lumber or tree trunks from West Africa, which currently supplies a good deal of Israel's lumber needs. She will also be used for general commercial cargo between Trieste and Haifa.

BELGIAN POLICE COMB CONVENTS IN SEARCH OF ABDUCTED JEWISH ORPHAN

BRUSSELS, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Hundreds of Belgian policemen today combed convents in the area between Liege and Banneux, searching for the Jewish war orphan Anneke Beekman who was abducted by Catholics. However, they found no trace of either the girl or her former foster mother, who fled after she had been sentenced to prison by a Dutch court for kidnapping the Jewish orphan.

The surviving members of the girl's family, who live in Holland, issued a statement today replying to a letter in a Netherlands newspaper which was allegedly written by the girl herself. The family statement stressed that Anneke came from an Orthodox Jewish family and that her parents had been murdered at Auschwitz. It had never been the intention of her parents, the statement continued, that the girl should remain in Catholic guardianship forever. The present detention of Anneke in an unknown place, the family said, was a violation of the most basic rights of man.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OPENED IN ROME'S FAMOUS OLD GHETTO

ROME, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- A new community center was opened in Rome's famous old ghetto yesterday to provide recreational and cultural facilities for the poorest group of Jews living in Rome, some 4,000 of the city's 12,000 Jews.

The center is located in a large basement of the Rome synagogue and includes a gymnasium, auditorium, social hall, meeting rooms, circulating library and classrooms for many subjects including Hebrew and arts and crafts.

Funds for the construction of the center were provided by the Rome Jewish community, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The director of the center is Josephine di Capua, a native of Rome and a social worker who received part of her training in the United States.

COURT ACTION BROUGHT AGAINST ERECTION OF CRUCIFIX IN PUBLIC PARK

HAMMOND, Ind., Dec. 12. (JTA) -- The Hammond Ministerial Association, a group of Protestant ministers here, has announced its moral support of court action taken against the erection of a crucifix in a public park. The crucifix was erected in October by the 4th Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus of Indiana, a Catholic laymen's group.

The statement by the Ministerial Association noted that the Wicker Memorial Park, where the crucifix was set up, is supported by the taxpayers of North Township in Lake County of this state and said this action was, therefore, an infringement of the constitutional principle of the separation of church and state. The statement closed with a plea for an out-of-court settlement before the case opens and a re-affirmation of the principle that all religions in America are best served by the separation of church and state.

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM STARTS PUBLICATION OF TEXTBOOKS

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- The American Council for Judaism reported yesterday on the publication of textbooks and assistance in the organization of schools for the teaching of Judaism. The announcement was made by Harold Miller, co-chairman of the religious education committee, at the close of the two-day meeting on the national advisory board of the Council at the Savoy-Plaza Hotel. The religious texts, the announcement said, include a collection of services for young people, a fifth-grade textbook entitled "Stories About the Prophets" and an arts and craft manual for religious schools.

GOLDA MYERSON ARRIVES IN U. S. TO HELP U. J. A. LAUNCH ITS 1956 DRIVE

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Myerson, Israel Minister of Labor and Reconstruction, arrived here today from Jerusalem to help launch the United Jewish Appeal drive for 1956. She will be the principal speaker at the national UJA conference, which will meet this Friday and Saturday evening in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Mrs. Myerson will address more than 1,200 delegates representing campaign affiliates of the UJA in all parts of the country. Others who will be heard during the two-day conference are Herman Wouk, Pulitzer prize winning novelist; William Rosenwald, general chairman of the UJA; Edward M. M. Warburg, president of the Appeal, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA executive vice-chairman.

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- The Palestine Economic Corporation, the oldest American development corporation in Israel, with assets of over \$12,000,000 and resources several times that, celebrated its 30th anniversary tonight with a jubilee dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The PEC has 9,000 American stockholders.

Principal speakers at the dinner were Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan and Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. A color film featuring Israel's growing industries was shown at the dinner for the first time. Among the founders of the Palestine Economic Corporation 30 years ago were Senator Herbert H. Lehman, the late United States Supreme Court Justice Louis B. Brandeis, Felix M. Warburg, Louis Marshall, Robert Szold, present chairman of the board, and Julius Simon, former president and presently chairman of the administrative committee.

BOSTON MEETING ASKS U. S. FOR SECURITY TREATIES WITH MIDDLE EAST LANDS

BOSTON, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the United States Government "to negotiate without delay security treaties with the State of Israel and any other states in the Middle East which desire the preservation of peace." was adopted here last night at a mass meeting attended by more than 2,000 persons.

The meeting, which was arranged by the New England Zionist Council in cooperation with fraternal, religious and labor groups, also asked the U. S. Government "to make available to the State of Israel military means for its legitimate self-defense." Principal speakers at the meeting included Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress; Fred Monosson, member of the Zionist Actions Committee; Mrs. Chaya Surchin, national president of the Pioneer Women of America, and others.

MRS. ALEXANDER KAHN ELECTED ISRAEL BOND CHAIRMAN FOR PIONEER WOMEN

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- Mrs. Alexander Kahn, prominent Jewish communal and civic leader, has been elected national Israel bond chairman for the Pioneer Women's Organization, Labor Zionist group, it was announced today. Mrs. Kahn will serve for a two-year period.

In accepting her new position, Mrs. Kahn called upon the members of Pioneer Women to continue their intensive activity in behalf of the Israel bond drive. She drew special attention to the desirability of celebrating Chanukah by investing in Israel bonds, and by giving these bonds as Chanukah gifts.

TRADITIONAL CHANUKAH TORCH-BEARING MARATHON HELD IN ISRAEL

JERUSALAM, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- The traditional Chanukah torch-bearing marathon between Modiin, the home of the Maccabees who sparked the revolt which overthrew the Graeco-Syrians more than 2,000 years ago, and the major centers of this country, was held yesterday.

Torches were lit at Modiin and one set of runners carried a torch to Tel Aviv, while another set travelled to Jerusalem, a third team to Haifa and a fourth to Rehovoth past the grave of Chaim Weizmann and then on a tour of southern settlements. Despite showers which hampered the runners throughout the day, a team of sprinters brought their torch into Tel Aviv late in the afternoon and Chief Rabbi I. Unterman used it to light huge Chanukah candles.

J. D. C. OFFICES IN EUROPE CLOSED FOR DAY IN BECKELMAN'S MEMORY

PARIS, Dec. 12. (JTA) -- The headquarters of the Joint Distribution Committee here and JDC offices throughout Europe were closed today in memory of Moses W. Beckelman, JDC director-general for overseas operation, who died in New York Saturday. Messages of condolence were pouring into JDC headquarters from all parts of Europe.

(In New York, major Jewish organizations joined the JDC today in mourning the sudden death of Mr. Beckelman who will be interred tomorrow at Har Zion Cemetery in Philadelphia, following funeral services at 2 P. M. at the Riverside Memorial Chapel in New York. Among the organizations who today expressed grief were the United Hias Service, American ORT Federation, and American Committee of OSF and Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.)