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WAR AGAINST ISRAEL POSSIBLE, BUT NOT INEVITABLE, SAYS BEN GURION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, addressing an overcrowded session of the Israel Parliament today, said that, although Israel sees "imminent danger" of an attack by Egypt and must be prepared to defend itself, it would nevertheless be a "serious mistake" to assume that war against Israel is "unavoidable."

The general line of Mr. Ben Gurion's speech was approved yesterday by the entire Cabinet which also approved the views presented by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett. It is now anticipated that the reports which the two leading members of the Cabinet will make to the Parliament will put an end to rumors about existing divergencies between them and will show that complete solidarity exists in the Cabinet on the question of Israel's security and on foreign affairs issues.

"I should like to state from the very beginning," Mr. Ben Gurion said, "that we shall be grievously at fault if we don't see with open eyes the imminent danger of an Egyptian attack--and perhaps not only by that country--and if we don't prepare to defend ourselves in good time to the limit of our moral, economic, and military capacity. However, we shall simultaneously be guilty of a serious mistake if we assume that war against us is unavoidable and predestined."

"Recently I explained why all members of the Cabinet, without exception, are firmly opposed to war being initiated by us," the Israel Premier continued. "We did not want war even in 1948, but it has been forced upon us by Arab rulers whose armies invaded this country to destroy Israel and set to naught the United Nations' decisions. We believed that maintenance of peace is preferable even to victory in war."

"Our dearest wish," Mr. Ben Gurion emphasized, "has been and will always be the rehabilitation of the ruins of our country, the ingathering of the sons of our people, the building of an exemplary state, the realization of our Messianic aims by redemption of man, nation and humanity and cooperation with our neighbors in a spirit of mutual affinity, and the strengthening of world peace."

"We know," Mr. Ben Gurion said, "that any war--one even in which we gain the upper hand--involves ruin and destruction for both parties and intensifies hatred between nations. We know that, after our victory in one war, a second round is possible, and after our victory in the second war a third round may come, and there is no end to this business."

Says There Is No Reason for Conflict between Israel and Egypt

Citing Israel's efforts to rebuild the country, the Premier pointed out that during the short period of Israel's existence the present government had to rebuild the ruins and "set right the misdeeds" of conquerors and foreign rulers from the Roman days until the time of the British mandate. "For this reason--but not only for this reason alone--our aim has been peace," he declared. "We wanted peace with our neighbors and cooperation with them for general prosperity in the Middle East. But the trouble is that peace requires good will on the side of both parties, whereas for war it is enough to have the bad will of one side only."

Mr. Ben Gurion then went on to cite numerous violations by the Arab countries of the armistice agreement, the contraventions by them of the United Nations Charter, the anti-Israel boycott, the anti-Israel blockade by Egypt of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, and the number of Israeli casualties inflicted by Arab guerilla warfare which runs into many hundreds. The guerilla warfare, he said, did not attract world public opinion because the murders did not provide the world press with sensations.

The Premier recalled how Egyptian representatives at the United Nations declared expressly that Egypt continues to maintain a state of war with Israel. He pointed out that there has never been, and there is also not now, any reason for a political or territorial conflict between Israel and Egypt. "Israel," he said, "wishes to see a free, independent and progressive Egypt, and we bear no enmity for Egypt's action in recent times. It never occurred to us to exploit Egypt's difficulty with the great powers."

Mr. Ben Gurion also touched upon Syria's attempts against Israel. He especially cited the Syrian provocations in the Huleh drainage area, and the recent planned attack on the Northern shores of Lake Tiberias which, he emphasized, is in Israel's undisputed sovereignty.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARMS TO MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the British Labor Party, tonight called on British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden at his residence at 10 Downing Street, and discussed with him the danger for peace in the Middle East, involved in exporting surplus military equipment to Egypt and other countries. The meeting took place at Mr. Gaitskell's request.

A statement declaring that "it is still the Government's policy to prevent an arms race in the Middle East, whatever the source" was issued from the Prime Minister's office after the meeting. "No licenses have been granted to private dealers," declared the statement, "for the export of materiel which might be reconditioned or re-exported as weapons of war, unless the countries to which this materiel is sent from Britain guarantees that it will not be re-exported or reconditioned."

"Since the end of the war," the statement continued, "large quantities of surplus materiel has been disposed of, both for civilian use and for scrap. For instance, 430 modified Sherman tanks were sent to Tanganyika for a nut-grinding scheme. Later, they were sold to Israel and Belgium for purely civilian purposes. We have no reason to believe they were used in any other way."

"More recently, however, doubts were raised as to whether some of the surplus materiel is not being diverted by foreign dealers for uses other than those stated. Last summer, no licenses were issued for export of any significant quantities of surplus war materiel with one exception -- 8,000 tons of spares for armored fighting vehicles were exported to Holland for civilian purposes. The Netherlands Government had pledged that these goods would not leave Holland in any form usable for military purposes."

Mr. Gaitskell, in a statement said there is an urgent need for an Arab-Israel peace settlement. "Meanwhile," the Labor Party leader insisted, "the 1950 Tripartite Declaration issued by France, Britain and the United States for maintaining the status quo in the Middle East remains an indispensable instrument for preventing war." Mr. Gaitskell declared also that the tensions in the Middle East had increased since the Czechoslovak-Egyptian arms deal had been effected, and called on the Western powers to "formally and publicly" seek the Soviet Union's participation in the maintenance of peace between Israel and the Arab states.

Alfred Robens, foreign affairs expert of the Labor Party, accompanied Mr. Gaitskell to the conference with the Prime Minister. Mr. Robens is leaving for the Middle East on an official mission for the Labor Party to confer with government leaders in Egypt, Jordan and Israel, and to discuss the arms situation with them.

DOCK WORKERS CONTINUE TO LOAD ARMS FOR EGYPT AT BRITISH PORT

LONDON, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Dock workers at Liverpool, who yesterday threatened to refuse to load British armaments on ships destined for Egypt, were working overtime today loading military equipment aboard the Egyptian vessel "Star of Suez," following advice from trade union leaders to continue their work until the British Labor Party takes a stand in the matter.

The cargo which is being loaded is estimated to total 400 tons of arms, including cases containing sub-machine guns, tank tracks and a large quantity of spare parts which would enable Egypt to "remilitarize" supposedly "demilitarized" British tanks bought by Egypt in Belgium.

Officially, the British Government has ordered a halt to shipments of war materiel to the Middle East, including Egypt. However, the goods now being loaded on the Egyptian ship, include gun barrels for tanks, ammunition and other war materiel. The war goods arrived in Liverpool in 21 freight cars.

A British War Office spokesman today declared that "there is nothing undercover" about this transaction. "It is a perfectly open delivery of tank spares and other accessories," he said. "There seems to be no reason why such shipment, by agreements between governments, should stop."

The British Foreign Office yesterday issued a statement announcing the halt on arms shipments out of the country and that no licenses have been issued for export of tanks in several months. However, it is known that slightly "demilitarized" tanks have been leaving the country under the description of "agricultural implements" and reports from Belgium make it clear that very little would need to be done to these "agricultural implements" to make them serviceable for war purposes. In fact, some of these tanks are known to have done less than 100 miles since their production and are reported from Belgium to have been in excellent condition upon arriving from Britain.

STRIKE OF TEL AVIV'S MUNICIPAL WORKERS SETTLED BY AGREEMENT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Tel Aviv's municipal workers' strike ended today after arbitrators had received both parties' agreement to a settlement. It was also agreed that efforts for the merger of two municipal workers union would be made, to avoid future friction.

U. N. TRUCE CHIEF SUBSTANTIATES ISRAEL'S CHARGES AGAINST SYRIA

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 2. (JTA) -- There was absolute certainty here today that Syria's proposal to the Security Council for the expulsion of Israel and for adoption of economic sanctions against Israel has collapsed entirely as a result of the latest report from the UN truce chief, Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns.

The Council is scheduled to meet again this week on Syria's complaint arising from Israel's December 11 attack against Syrian gun position which had fired on Jewish shipping on Lake Tiberias. But as members of the Council were preparing to resume their work after the long New Year week-end, they had before them a report from Gen. Burns confirming charges previously made by Israel to the effect that Syria itself had violated the armistice agreement between the two countries by ordering gun fire against Israeli fishing boats and police craft on Lake Tiberias, which lies wholly within Israeli territory.

Israel's delegation chief here, Abba S. Eban, showed members of the Council at their last meeting photo-copies of documents seized from the Syrians by the Israel forces, proving that the firing of Syrian guns had been specifically ordered by the Syrian army's high command. Now Gen. Burns, in his report supplementing an earlier report on the December 11 incident, has told the Council that a Syrian cadet officer, taken prisoner by the Israelis, has admitted he had been ordered to fire on the Israeli shipping on the lake.

The orders received by the Syrian officers in charge of the Lake Tiberias gun emplacements "contravened the armistice agreement," Gen. Burns declared while shooting at the Israelis "is a violation of the general armistice agreement."

TWO ISRAELIS DEAD, ONE WOUNDED, IN ARAB VIOLENCE ON ISRAEL BORDERS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- At least two Israelis were dead today and one wounded, all three civilians, after a week-end of violence along the Arab-Israel borders from Gaza to the Jordan frontier, as Israel's Arab neighbors "celebrated" the New Year week-end with attacks by land and air.

The latest of the aggression took place this morning when two Egyptian Vampire jet fighters flew over Israel positions in the southwestern Negev area. Immediately after the fighting planes had transgressed Israel territory, Egyptian outposts in the Gaza border strip started firing at an Israel army patrol on the Israel side of the border.

That was the fourth in a series of Gaza border incidents that started Friday when the Egyptians and the Israelis engaged in a two-hour exchange of firing that followed Egyptian shelling of an Israel patrol near the settlement of Kisuffim. All the Egyptian attacks and attempts to cross into Israel territory were repulsed.

The worst of the attacks, resulting in the three civilian casualties, took place on the Beersheba-Eilat road. There, infiltrators ambushed a jeep which was followed by a road grader, killing Shimeon Schwartz, 24, and Abraham Eretzkedosh, 21, and wounding a third man. The infiltrators had first wounded the three men by opening surprise fire, then they approached the jeep and killed the two men in cold blood. The wounded driver escaped.

SHARETT PROTESTS AGAINST KHRUSHCHEV'S ATTACK ON ISRAEL IN MOSCOW

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett verbally protested to Soviet Russia against the anti-Israel allegations made by Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Communist Party in the USSR, in the course of a speech last week at the Supreme Soviet in Moscow. Mr. Sharett summoned Ambassador Alexander Abramov to his office and conveyed to him the view of the Israel Government on Khrushchev's anti-Israel speech.

The entire Israel press, with the exception of the Communist, came out with articles condemning Khrushchev's anti-Israel assertions as "a desecration of the truth" and emphasizing that they are increasing the danger of war on Israel's frontiers. (In New York, the American Jewish Congress issued a statement condemning the Soviet Union for Khrushchev's attack on Israel.)

JEWISH GROUPS IN 25 STATES NAME DELEGATES TO WASHINGTON PARLEY

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Delegates from more than 25 states have been designated so far by major American Jewish organizations to participate in the extraordinary conference on the Middle Eastern crisis to be held in Washington on January 17 and 18; it was announced here today.

The presidents of 16 organizations have called the conference to consider the "situation of extreme gravity" for both Israel and the United States which has developed as the result of Communist bloc arms shipments to Egypt. Each of the organizations is naming 20 delegates to the conference. In addition, there will be delegates at large representing Jewish communities from coast to coast.

ONLY 27 PERCENT OF ADULT JEWS IN U. S. ATTEND SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Only 27 percent of adult Jews in the United States attend synagogues, a Gallup poll on church attendance in 1955 established. The proportion of Catholic adults attending church is given as 74. Among Protestants, only 42 percent of the adults attend church services. The average number of adults attending religious services in the United States was 49, 600, 000 in 1955, or 49 percent of the total adult population.

The highest attendance was found in smaller cities - those between 2,500 and 50,000 population. Women outnumber men in attendance of services. Persons who have had a college education go more often to services than those who have had only a high school education.

THREE CATHOLIC HOSPITALS IN NEW YORK INTRODUCE KOSHER FOOD

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Three Catholic hospitals in this city have inaugurated a kosher food service to patients requiring such service, it was announced here today. The request for such service, being given these patients "as a matter of religious courtesy," had been made on behalf of the New York Board of Rabbis by Rabbi Jeremiah J. Berman.

At the hospitals - St. Vincent, St. Clare and St. Joseph - the kosher food is provided by caterers who deep-freeze the food first, wrap it in aluminum foil, and enclose in the package a knife, fork and spoon. At the hospitals, the food is heated in special kosher-diet kitchens before it is served to the Jewish patients.

U. J. A. TO OPEN ITS 1956 DRIVE WITH DINNER HONORING SENATOR LEHMAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Senator Herbert H. Lehman will be honored by the United Jewish Appeal at a national testimonial dinner on January 21 in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, it was announced today by William Rosenwald, general chairman of the UJA. He will be cited for his "nearly half a century of leadership in freedom's cause, his championship of the down-trodden and oppressed in all lands, and his outspoken and vigorous support of Israel's independence."

The testimonial to the Senator will also mark the opening of the UJA's 1956 nationwide campaign, which Mr. Rosenwald said "will be uniquely different from the nationwide drives of previous years." He pointed out that the 1956 campaign will go forward with a two-fold goal as against a single goal in other years, explaining that in the new year the UJA will: 1) Seek the raising of a multi-million dollar Special Fund for the exclusive financing in Israel of current emergency immigration from North Africa; and 2) Seek a total of \$105, 283, 000 in its regular campaign to finance the still larger migration, resettlement, welfare and rehabilitation programs of its constituent agencies.

THREE EMINENT JEWS KNIGHTED BY QUEEN ELIZABETH IN NEW YEAR HONORS

LONDON, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Three eminent Jews were knighted here yesterday by Queen Elizabeth II. They are Dr. Hersh Lauterpacht, until recently professor of international law at Cambridge University; Col. Frederick C. Stern, prominent horticulturist and Jewish communal leader; and Prof. Solly Zuckerman, deputy chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy.

Of the three newly knighted Jews, two were born outside the United Kingdom. Prof. Lauterpacht was born in Galicia, while Prof. Zuckerman was born in South Africa.

JEWS ORGANIZATIONS MOURN DEATH OF LUDWIG LEWISOHN; WAS 72

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America, and other Zionist and Jewish cultural organizations, today mourned the death of Ludwig Lewisohn, well-known novelist, critic and professor of comparative literature at Brandeis University. He died this week-end at Miami Beach, Fla., of a heart attack. He was 72.

Dr. Lewisohn had written "a sublime page in the history of our people," declared Mortimer May, president of the Zionist Organization of America. The well known author had written 31 books, many of which reflected his thorough Jewish identification and firm Zionism. He had been one of the 13 original faculty members who had helped found Brandeis University.

Born in Germany, he was brought to this country at the age of 7. He was educated at the College of Charleston, S. C., and from 1911 to 1919 was professor of German language and literature at Ohio State University. From 1920 to 1924 he was associate editor of "The Nation," and from 1943 to 1948 he was editor of "The New Palestine." Critics considered him one of the finest stylists in America.

Among his books are "Upstream," "The Creative Life," "Israel," "The Case of Mr. Crump," "Island Within," "Mid-Channel," "The Golden Vase," "This People," "The Permanent Horizon," "Trumpet of Jubilee," "Expression in America," "Goethe" and "The American Jew." His last book, published in August, was "Theodore Herzl: A Portrait for This Age."