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MOSCOW ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT; CALLS FOR SETTLEMENT

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government today issued a statement clarifying its stand on the Arab-Israel situation and calling upon the Arab states and Israel to settle their conflicts on a basis acceptable to both sides. The statement was released by the Foreign Ministry in Moscow on the eve of the arrival in England of Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin and Communist Party chief Nikita Khrushchev for talks with British leaders.

Indicating a desire to have a stake in Middle East affairs, the Soviet Government offered to join other governments in an effort to reach a solution of Middle East turmoil and said she would support any United Nations action to "strengthen peace in Palestine." She called on both Israel and the Arab states to refrain from border incidents along the UN-approved frontier and to improve the situation of the Arab refugees.

The following three major points were made in the statement:

"1. The Soviet Union considers that measures should be taken in the near future to lessen present tension in the area of Palestine without external intervention which contradicts the will of the Near Eastern states and the principles of the United Nations.

"2. The Soviet Union calls upon interested countries to refrain from any action capable of leading to a sharpening of the situation along the existing lines of demarcation established by the armistice agreement between the Arab countries and Israel and also to undertake the necessary efforts to improve the serious situation of hundreds of thousands of Arab refugees who have been deprived of their hearths and means of subsistence.

"3. The Soviet Union considers that it is necessary, in the interest of strengthening international peace and security, to work toward a stable peaceful settlement of the Palestine question on a mutually acceptable basis taking into consideration the just national interests of the interested sides. For its part, the Soviet Government expresses its readiness to assist, together with other states, a peaceful solution of unsettled problems."

The preamble of today's statement blamed increasing tension in the Middle East on the formation of pro-Western military blocs such as the Baghdad Pact, which it called an effort to restore colonialism. It called these blocs "contrary to the spirit of the United Nations." However, it went out of its way to praise Britain and France for their post-war moves to assist the development and independence of the Near East region.

The statement mentioned all the newly-independent countries of the Near and Middle East, and then added: "The Soviet Government believes that military conflicts in the Near and Middle East can and should be avoided and it is in the interest of the entire Middle East not to enter into hostilities." At the same time, the Soviet statement said it "considers it unjust and unwelcome to attempt to use the Arab-Israeli conflict as an excuse to intervene in the internal affairs of the Arab countries and to establish bases on territory in the Middle East."

Molotov Attends Israel's Independence Day Celebration in Moscow

An indication of a possible change in the Soviet policy with regard to Israel was seen when Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan and Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov attended last night the celebration of Israel's Independence Day held at the Israel Embassy in Moscow. This was the first time since Israel was established that top members of the Soviet Government attended such an Israel function.

The Israelis were surprised by the decision of the Soviet leaders to attend, a move which was made known to the Israel Ambassador Joseph Avidar only yesterday morning. It had been expected that Soviet leaders would pointedly stay away from the Israeli national day ceremonies and show up en masse today at the Syrian national day celebration to underline their sympathy for the Arab cause. The Soviet leaders drank toasts to Israel's independence and confined their remarks to non-political subjects.

(Hope for good results from the talks in London between British Prime Minister Eden and the Soviet leaders soared in diplomatic circles in Washington in the wake of the statement released in Moscow today. Diplomats regard the statement as clearing the path for discussions in London on the subject of the Middle East -- which has exploded into the world's No. 1 international problem. The statement appeared to have the immediate effect of choking off any idea the Arab states might have had that they could count on automatic Soviet support in their struggle with Israel.)

DULLES REJECTS SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN SOLVING ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, commenting on the statement issued by the Soviet Government in Moscow on the Arab-Israel situation, told a press conference here today that the United States would welcome any genuine move to back up the United Nations effort to achieve peace in the Middle East. He emphasized that the Soviet Union, as a member of the UN Security Council, has a measure of participation in the solution of the Arab-Israel problem.

Mr. Dulles stated that he did not yet have the full official text of the Soviet announcement. He said he would have to read the "fine print." An Arab-Israel settlement, he added, was properly a matter for the United Nations. It was through this channel, he indicated, the Soviet Union could work if it were truly interested in constructive peace efforts. No specific diplomatic procedures were employed, Mr. Dulles emphasized, in conveying President Eisenhower's most recent Middle East statement to Russia. He pointed out that the statement did call on all members of the United Nations to support peace efforts.

Secretary Dulles was asked by a Canadian newspaperman for his view of Israel's application to purchase F-86 jet fighters manufactured in Canada. The Secretary replied that Israel was aware there was no intention on the part of the United States to establish a world-wide embargo on arms sales to Israel. He added that America's own policy was based on reasons "distinctive to ourselves" but was not necessarily a pattern for the world.

Commenting on the Arab-Israel "peace mission" of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, Mr. Dulles said he thought it would be over-optimistic to think that the main problems were resolved. He said Mr. Hammarskjöld thinks he has made good progress but is by no means finished. The first phase of Mr. Hammarskjöld's work, he indicated, was to do away with border fighting. This, he said, included measures to increase the number of UN truce observers and plans to draw contending forces apart.

Denies That 1950 Tripartite Declaration is "Downgraded"

Secretary Dulles sought to deny that the 1950 Tripartite Declaration had been "downgraded." He said the United States position was the same as it had been. The 1950 declaration, he stated, called for action consistent with the United Nations Charter and that the Security Council had primary responsibility. Therefore, he said, the United States now looks upon the Security Council as the main instrument for safeguarding peace. He emphasized the importance of the Security Council and said this was consistent with the 1950 tripartite concept.

Reports have circulated here that the Arab states wish to move Security Council deliberations on the Middle East from New York to Rome because of New York's "pro-Israel" atmosphere. Asked for his views of the transfer of the Security Council site for a Middle East discussion, Mr. Dulles said the United States position was that it is a matter for the Security Council to decide. He pointed out that the Security Council met in Paris and London in the past and that if it was the desire of Security Council members to meet in Rome the United States would not oppose a meeting there.

A solution of the Arab-Israel issue, Mr. Dulles said, in the first instance is the direct responsibility of the immediate parties to the dispute. But a solution was not possible without assistance with the best contributions being made by the United Nations. He cited offers of assistance by the United States to the United Nations in his August 26 speech including a security guarantee and a loan to aid the Arab refugees.

Secretary Dulles said the United States had heard some reports that Egypt was receiving submarines from Russia but did not know for certain if such arrangements were actually made or carried out. Asked to comment on a statement by the Yugoslav Ambassador that war can and will be avoided in the Middle East, Mr. Dulles said he would agree to only one-half of the statement. War could be avoided, he stated, and added that the chances were there would be no war. But it would be indeed rash, he said, to say there was no chance of hostilities in that area.

EDEN URGED IN COMMONS TO DISCUSS ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE WITH SOVIET LEADERS

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden refused to give an assurance in Parliament today that he would discuss the Israel-Arab problem with Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin and Communist Party leader Nikita Khrushchev who will arrive here tomorrow for a tour of England and consultations with British Government leaders.

To all queries he had one reply -- that the main purpose of the visit was the discussion of the major problems which divide the world. He insisted that the talks were confidential and that it would be highly irregular for him to disclose what questions the British Government would raise with the Russian leaders.

Sir Anthony was pressed by Laborites and Conservatives alike, to give some indication of what he would discuss, although most of the questions came from the opposition benches. One Laborite asked him to discuss with the Soviet leaders the maintenance of peace between Israel and the Arab states, while another wanted him to invite the USSR to join with other arms-exporting countries in an arrangement which would regulate the flow of arms to the Middle East until after a peace settlement had been reached.

U. S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY CRITICIZED IN CONGRESS; ARMS FOR ISRAEL URGED

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- House Majority Leader John W. McCormack today criticized on the House floor, the United States policy in the Middle East as "bringing about the very result which we are seeking to avoid." He said the Middle East is being turned over to the Communist sphere of influence. "We can win the respect of the Kremlin-Cairo axis only if we show our resolve to prevent Israel's destruction, and we can show that determination by giving Israel the necessary arms to defend herself," he stated.

Citing the discrimination which Saudi Arabia and other Arab states have practiced against American Jews, Rep. McCormack asked: "How can this country expect to win the respect of the Arab states when we submit to such degrading demands?" He called for a policy of rejecting Arab discriminatory practices against Americans of all faiths.

Rep. John D. Dingell also criticized the Administration for a policy of "muddle and delay" and one that endangers the peace of the Middle East. He said the Congress may expect the White House to ask for ratification of a "muddled Administration policy." He called for the U. S. to sell Israel arms at the earliest possible date to head off the war that, he said, is impending in the Middle East.

Rep. Emanuel Celler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, charged on the House floor that President Eisenhower's attitude and Secretary of State Dulles' "pontifical preaching" blocked U. S. arms sales to Israel.

Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, in a statement to the press, urged that the U. S. announce it will ship "defense" arms, including fighter planes, to Israel immediately. He criticized the Eisenhower Administration for what he said was its failure to act in the Middle East situation.

Twenty-four Republican and Democratic Congressmen today joined to congratulate the people of Israel on the eighth anniversary of independence. They spoke on the floor of the House.

BEN GURION, SHARETT CONFER WITH HAMMARSKJOLD; RESENT SUEZ BLOCKADE

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold conferred with Israel Premier David Ben-Gurion and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett in two meetings today at the Premier's office in this city. Mr. Hammarskjold, who was accompanied by UN trustee chief Gen. E. L. M. Burns, landed at Lydda airport where he was met by Mr. Sharett who escorted him to Jerusalem.

At the end of the day, the Premier's office issued a communique declaring that during the first, two-hour session, they reviewed the general background of Mr. Hammarskjold's mission to the Middle East. The second session was devoted to the problems of full implementation of the general armistice agreements, the communique noted.

Mr. Ben Gurion re-opened the question of the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal and asked that the Secretary General widen the scope of his mission. The Israeli leader was said to have indicated opposition to the establishment of new or wider demilitarized zones. However, it is understood that the Premier assured Mr. Hammarskjold that Israel would not attack Egypt if the Arab state did likewise.

CANADA MAY AGREE TO SELL JET FIGHTERS TO ISRAEL, MINISTER INDICATES

OTTAWA, April 17. (JTA) -- Lester Pearson, Canadian Minister for External Affairs, indicated today in the House of Commons that Canada may fill an Israeli request for 2 Canadian-made Sabre jet fighters. He told Parliament that he has been informed by Britain, United States and France that the "Big Three" would have no objection to such shipment.

Mr. Pearson pointed to what he called a trend toward an imbalance of military strength between Israel and the Arab states in favor of the Arabs, but he underlined that any decision in the matter would rest finally with the Canadian Government, not with the "Big Three." The Minister denied reports that Israel had increased its request from 20 to 36 jets.

POUJADIST SECRETARY RESIGNS; CHARGES PARTY WITH ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, April 17. (JTA) -- Francis Caillaet, secretary of the Poujadist delegation in the French National Assembly, resigned today, charging that there was anti-Semitism among the 49 deputies. It is understood that M. Caillaet and other deputies of the party are also concerned over the presence of Nazi collaborators on the party's newspaper, "Fraternite Francaise."

GREECE PERMITS REFUELING OF WARPLANES EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL, EGYPT

ATHENS, April 17. (JTA) -- The Greek Government has granted permission for landing and refueling of warplanes en route to Egypt and Israel. Official sources said Russian planes were permitted to stop on their way to Egypt while similar permission was given to French aircraft destined for delivery to the Israel Air Force. The report said the planes carried Egyptian and Israel air force insignia.

JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- A huge rally celebrating Israel's eighth Independence Day was held at St. Pancras Town Hall here last night under the sponsorship of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain. Afterwards, hundreds of Jews, including Israeli citizens in this country, danced the hora and other traditional dances in the streets around the hall.

MUNICH, April 17. (JTA) -- German Jews celebrated Israel's Independence Day yesterday with meetings in West Berlin and Frankfurt which were addressed by members of the Israel Purchasing Mission in West Germany. The mission itself held a reception in Cologne, where it has its headquarters. The reception was attended by several hundred persons, mainly Jews from Cologne and the neighboring communities.

STOCKHOLM, April 17. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 people attended an Israel Independence Day celebration here last night sponsored by the Swedish-Israel Society and the Zionist Federation of Sweden. Gosta Elfving, editor-in-chief of the pro-government daily Morgen Tidningen and major speaker at the affair, said that Israel must not become a "pawn in a political chess game."

ROTTERDAM, April 17. (JTA) -- The Jews of this city celebrated Israel Independence Day yesterday at a festive rally. They were joined in the celebration by the crew of the Israeli freighter "Haifa" which arrived here en route from New York and which was completely decorated with flags for the occasion.

MONTREAL, April 17. (JTA) -- Representatives of all four political parties included in Canada's Parliament addressed a demonstration here yesterday in celebration of Israel's Independence Day. The demonstration, held under the auspices of the United Zionist Council of Montreal, was chaired by Leon D. Crestohl, Q. C., M. P.

JOHANNESBURG, April 17. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Johannes G. Strijdom and members of his Cabinet last night attended a reception marking the anniversary of Israel Independence Day. The reception was given by Israel Minister Itzhak Bavi. Johannesburg Jews gathered in a stadium here last night to celebrate Israel's eighth Independence Day. Israel Maisels, president of the South African Board of Jewish Deputies, called the rally the largest in the history of South African Jewry.

MEXICO CITY, April 17. (JTA) -- Israel's Independence Day was celebrated here today at a huge gathering addressed by Yoseff Kessary, Israel Minister to Mexico. The celebration was arranged by the Jewish Central Committee and the Zionist Federation of Mexico. A reception at the Israeli Legation was attended by the entire diplomatic corps, officials of the Mexican Government and Jewish leaders.

HAVANA, April 17. (JTA) -- A three-day festival marking the eighth anniversary of Israel's establishment as a state was concluded by the Jewish community of this city here yesterday. Highlight of the celebration was a rally at which the principal speakers were Israel's Consul S. M. Kaplan, Capt. A. Amitai and Chief Rabbi Meyer Rosenbaum. The rally was followed by dancing.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, April 17. (JTA) -- Israel's Independence Day was marked here by a demonstration of solidarity with the Jewish State. In addition to the participation of Jewish and communal leaders, the celebration was also marked by the attendance of Israeli Minister Samuel Goren and many Chilean governmental figures--including the Foreign Minister and the Ministers of Justice and Agriculture, parliamentary leaders and a representative of the Catholic University, Professor Vergara. Chilean newspapers and radio also took special note of Israel's birthday, with special editions and broadcasts.

BUENOS AIRES, April 17. (JTA) -- Argentine Jewry celebrated Israel Independence Day yesterday at a dinner sponsored by the Argentine Zionist Federation at which leading Jews and non-Jews spoke of the achievements of the Jewish State. Ambassador Arie Kubiwi gave a reception for the diplomatic corps last night, to which leading members of the Argentine Government and the envoys of the Big Four came. Earlier in the day, Ambassador Kubiwi spoke on the Argentine national radio on the subject of Israel independence.

JOSEPH CHERNER, JEWISH LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST, DIES IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- Joseph Cherner, nationally prominent Jewish leader and philanthropist, died here today. He was 58. Mr. Cherner, who gave his Washington home to the State of Israel for its Embassy in Washington, was a member of the national board of the United Jewish Appeal and had been national chairman of the UJA.

He was also active in the Israel Bond Organization, Palestine Economic Corporation, American Committee for the Weizmann Institute, American Friends of the Hebrew University and Albert Einstein Medical College of Yeshiva University.