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U.S. DELAYS ISRAEL CENSURE AT U.N. AS FRANCE, BRITAIN SPLIT ON ISSUE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 5. (JTA) -- France today insisted that the Security Council currently debating Syrian and Israel charges and counter-charges of aggression, must not condemn Israel because "the guilt was largely shared and the actions of both parties are equally regrettable." Britain, however, charged Israel with having "undertaken deliberately a military operation" which cannot be excused or justified under "any cause or pretext."

As a result of the split by its two western allies, the United States gave up efforts to introduce a resolution today evidently intended to censure Israel severely for its March 17 raid against the Syrian gunposts overlooking Lake Tiberias. Britain was to have co-sponsored the proposed American draft.

The addresses by France and Britain at today's two sessions of the Security Council were the highlights of the open proceedings, with Armand Berard, of France, taking up the cudgels on behalf of Israel while Sir Patrick Dean, of Britain, argued for condemnation of Israel. But the day's decisive activities revolved around a closed-door meeting held after the Council had adjourned in the afternoon and had scheduled another meeting tomorrow morning. It was at that closed meeting where members of the American delegation, closeted with two members of the Syrian delegation tried and failed to work out a resolution which would be acceptable to the Arabs without French opposition. At the end of the closed meeting, Charles W. Yost, a member of the American delegation, who had earlier promised to circulate the resolution "momentarily" said "we are still consulting."

Britain's Sir Patrick had told the Council in his speech that his Government was interested primarily in bringing about "a lasting settlement between Israel and her neighbors." But first, he said, tensions must be lowered on Israel's borders. He mentioned Syria's verbal threats against Israel, which, he said, "seemed to be contrary to the provisions of the United Nations Charter."

He referred to the Syrian attack against Israel boats on Lake Tiberias on March 8. Then he declared that his delegation "must repeat what we have been obliged to say before, and what this Council has formally declared in earlier resolutions--the whole principle of armed retaliation is wrong, morally and politically. Israel must heed this injunction; and indeed, it is in its own interests to do so."

"My delegation," continued Sir Patrick, "would most seriously urge Israel to consider that the law of the United Nations is a stronger defense of peace in the Middle East, and of Israel's independence, than her own armed forces."

France Recalls Syrian Attacks in Past; Asserts 'Israel Here to Stay'

Ambassador Berard, the first speaker this morning, told the Council that it must take into account not only the Israel raid of March 17, but also Syrian "provocations," some of which he traced back through the entire eight-year period from 1954 to March of this year.

Expressing regret that in Israel's "reaction" to Syrian provocations "Israel did not adopt the procedures provided in the Armistice Agreement," and voicing the hope that in the future Israel will observe such procedures, M. Berard said that in evaluating the events of March 17 "we cannot neglect provocations." He advised the Syrians that it would be well to remember that "Israel is here to stay; Israel is a fact."

The French representative began by expressing his Government's "regret" over the recent incidents which, he said, were "indeed dangerous." He pointed out that "France for many years has had links of friendship" with both Syria and Israel and noted that this friendship is "not exclusive."

After recalling the fact that Israel staged a reprisal raid against Syria in December 1955 and noting that in January 1956, the Security Council adopted a resolution which condemned both provocations and reprisals, he said that the March 17 Israeli action must be judged against the background of Israeli-Syrian hostilities. He noted that Syria had voiced objections this year to Israel's Jordan River project and that there had been Syrian attacks on at least three dates--March 8, 15 and 16 prior to Israel's March 17 "reaction."

ISRAEL ATTACKS STATEMENTS OF U.N. TRUCE CHIEF AT SECURITY COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 5. (JTA) -- Israel strongly attacked today Major General Carl C. von Horn, chief of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, for some of the answers he gave the Security Council yesterday in reply to questions concerning the current Syrian-Israel conflict under debate by the Council.

Michael S. Comay, Israel delegation chairman, in one of the sharpest accusations voiced at the UN Security Council by Israel against a United Nations official, declared he must express the "strong regret" of the Israel Government at the "misleading and inadequate" answer given by Gen. von Horn to the question "whether any Syrian post or fortified position had been occupied or destroyed" by the Israeli force which attacked Syrian gunposts early March 17. General von Horn replied that UNTSO military observers reported "no fortified position was seen as existing or destroyed." This sentence had been understood here as absolutely questioning the Israel Government's veracity.

"I wish here at the Council table," Mr. Comay said, "to state on the full authority of my Government that we reject any inference of doubt, which may be contained in Gen. von Horn's statement." He added that he was now "categorically" reaffirming the statement he had made before the Council on March 28 which declared specifically that Israel's March 17 raid was conducted against "a Syrian military position encroaching into the demilitarized zone."

This position, Mr. Comay said, "which had been involved in the attacks on Israeli vessels on Lake Tiberias, was occupied and destroyed." He stressed that the existence of this Syrian military position "encroaching into the demilitarized zone, was well known to UNTSO," and had been called to the attention of UNTSO as recently as 1960. He pointed out that Israel withdrew its attacking force as soon as the action was over.

Replies to Allegation that Israel 'Weakened' His Authority

Mr. Comay also answered the General's statements regarding the alleged "weakening" of UNTSO's authority due to Israel's boycotting of the Syrian Israel Mixed Armistice Commission since 1952. The Israeli justified that boycott on grounds that Syria's members of the Commission had been insisting that they had the right of entering the demilitarized zone, and that Syria had been constantly trying to "encroach" on Lake Tiberias which is entirely within Israeli territory.

Israel has never denied to the chairman of the MAC the right to act as a chairman without being accompanied by the Syrians, Mr. Comay said. He insisted that the MAC chairman had rights which were not necessarily shared by the Syrian members of the commission.

Mr. Comay was very firm in reminding the Council that Lake Tiberias is solely within Israeli territory and that Israel's jurisdiction over the lake was a right and not a mere claim. He told the Security Council that Israel always has been willing and was eager now to cooperate with UNTSO. But paramount to Israel, he said, were its "national security and Israel's undisputed jurisdiction over our own territory."

He explained that Gen. von Horn's insistence that Israel permit a UN patrol boat to roam Lake Tiberias was a demand also repeatedly made by Syria "aimed at encouraging Syria's designs on the lake." He objected to Gen. von Horn's equation of Israel's and Syria's limitations upon the freedom of movement for UN military observers. In fact, he pointed out, Syria had "crippled" such freedom of movement while "there are no comparable limitations on Israel's side."

Mr. Comay fired his heaviest salvos against Gen. von Horn, for what the Israeli diplomat called the UNTSO chief's "most startling" statement questioning Israel's truthfulness on the Syrian gunposts. He said Israel could show UNTSO the heavy arms captured in the March 17 raid. He identified by battalion and brigade number the Syrian army units which "Israel's small force" wiped out.

Resents Attempt of U.N. Truce Chief to 'Throw Doubt' on Israel

After declaring that for Israel "it is a very serious matter when a United Nations official appears to throw doubt on the factual veracity of my Government's position," Mr. Comay assured the Security Council of Israel's keen desire to cooperate with the United Nations. He concluded by telling the Council:

"If any specific proposal gives rise to legitimate objections on our part, we would hope that our point of view would be understood and respected and not be regarded merely as a non-cooperative attitude on our part. It is only such a spirit of understanding between the UN representatives on the spot and the representatives of the Government which can keep alive an armistice regime that is basically abnormal and should have given way to a peace settlement many years ago."

Mohamed H. El-Zayyat, of the United Arab Republic, called upon the Council to adopt a resolution "similar to or stronger than the one adopted in 1956" which resulted from an Israeli reprisal attack against the Syrians in December 1955. Then he formally presented to the Council Syria's draft resolution, issued Monday, which would condemn Israel for "wanton attack" and call for "sanctions against Israel, should it resort once more in the future to such aggressive acts."

EICHMANN'S WIFE DID NOT APPLY FOR ISRAELI VISA, FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYS

JERUSALEM, April 5. (JTA) -- The Israel Foreign Ministry said today it had knowledge about a new application for a visa from Mrs. Vera Eichmann to come to Israel to see her husband, Adolf Eichmann.

A spokesman made the statement in a comment on a report that the wife of the convicted Nazi mass murderer would be permitted to see her husband following the decision by the Supreme Court on his appeal from his death sentence.

It was reported that some time ago, Mrs. Eichmann asked Israeli authorities through Dr. Robert Servatius, Eichmann's West German defense counsel, for permission to see her husband. Her request was considered at top governmental levels and permission was given on condition she would come to Israel for a one-day stay and a single visit to her husband's prison cell.

For some reason, she did not use the permit and since then she has not renewed her request. It was indicated that if she did ask again, the matter would be considered again but not before the Supreme Court hands down its decision on Eichmann's appeal.

BRITISH CHIEF RABBI REQUESTS SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO LIFT BAN ON MATZOH

LONDON, April 5. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie of the British Commonwealth expressed the hope, in a statement issued by his office today, that British Jewry would join in a request to Soviet authorities to allow matzoh to be baked in the Soviet Union for this year's Passover celebration.

Rabbi Brodie said that with the approach of the festival, he was giving serious thought "to the religious plight of our brethren in Soviet Russia who, according to reports recently received, find it increasingly difficult to celebrate this festival in the traditional manner."

The statement noted that the eating of matzoh on Passover was an "essential minimum Biblical requirement" for observance. He also said he would ask rabbis to turn the thoughts of their congregants to the plight of Russian Jewry during the morning of Shabbat Hagadol, April 14.

JEWS IN AUSTRIA TO GET 80 PERCENT OF RETURNS FROM SALE OF HEIRLESS PROPERTY

VIENNA, April 5. (JTA) -- The Finance Budget Committee of the Austrian Parliament approved a Cabinet draft which provides for a division of the returns from sales of heirless and unclaimed property of victims of the Nazi era estimated as worth 140,000,000 schillings (\$5,600,000).

Eighty percent of this sum, under the division formula, will be turned over to an organization for needy Jewish victims and the balance to an organization for non-Jewish ones.

LOS ANGELES JEWISH FUND REPORTS \$3,525,260 IN ADVANCE GIFTS

LOS ANGELES, April 5. (JTA) -- Advance gifts to the 1962 United Jewish Welfare Fund campaign totaling \$3,525,260 were reported tonight at a meeting attended by leaders of 250 divisions of the drive. The campaign is seeking a total of \$8,000,000 this year.

Joseph N. Mitchell, general chairman, reported the total advance gifts which compared with \$2,632,171 at the same stage of the 1961 campaign. Mrs. Victor M. Carter, chairman of the women's division, reported that the division had reached the half-way mark in its quota for the 1962 drive. Julius Bisno, executive director of the UJWF described plans for the campaign which was formally launched April 1.

COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL OF CHICAGO OPENS 1962 DRIVE WITH \$2,677,000 RAISED

CHICAGO, April 5. (JTA) -- The Combined Jewish Appeal officially launched its 1962 fund-raising drive last night with two dinners at which more than \$2,000,000 were pledged, raising to \$2,677,000 total contributions to date to the campaign.

More than 600 members of the Standard Club and the Covenant Club, where the meetings were held, contributed \$1,528,000 and \$525,000 respectively to the campaign. These amounts reflected increases of some 17 percent in giving. The additional contributions reflected increased giving to the Special Rescue Fund. This year the Combined Jewish Appeal is seeking \$7,150,000 of which \$1,250,000 is for the Special Rescue Fund.

Samuel Haber of Geneva, assistant director-general of overseas operations of the Joint Distribution Committee, told the Covenant Club meeting that the burden of the JDC had doubled during the past 12 months. He said the JDC was faced both with the urgent need of caring for large numbers of new refugees and its ongoing problems of education, medical aid and nutrition for needy Jews in 27 countries.

Ira Hirschmann, a one-time special envoy of the U.S. State Department, told the Standard Club meeting that the upsurge of unrest in Syria and the Israel-Syrian border strife were manifestations of the determination of Syrian Army leaders to remain out of the "clutches of President Nasser of Egypt on one hand and to keep the Communists at bay on the other." He expressed the opinion that Nasser would launch a "blitz" attack on Israel if he thought he could succeed.

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER ASSAILS RUSSIA FOR RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

MONTREAL, April 5. (JTA) -- Prime Minister John Diefenbaker assailed last night "the continued harassment and oppression of religious institutions" in the Soviet Union. "Why should a powerful nation stoop to deprive its citizens of their religion?" he asked. "What justification can there be to deprive Jews of matzo's for Passover?"

The Prime Minister made his remarks at a banquet at which he was presented with the Canadian Histadrut Award. Messages honoring the Prime Minister were read from Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel and Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister.

The Canadian Prime Minister spoke of the close ties of friendship between Canada and Israel and remarked that "as Israel Ambassador Herzog will confirm, Canada and Israel have worked closely at the United Nations in the cause of world peace."

Discussing the announcement of imposition of death penalties on Soviet citizens for conviction of economic crimes, the Canadian Prime Minister said that "speculation and corruption are apparently so rife in some parts of the Soviet society that the authorities can find no solution but the death penalty for citizens for these offenses."

He declared that "such treatment seems hardly fitting for a nation which claims a high and steady growth in living standards. I share the sense of alarm and outrage that people of the Jewish faith have been singled out for harsh punishment as an example to others."

"I believe no opportunity should be lost to draw public attention to discrimination whenever it appears," the Prime Minister stated. "The Soviet leaders must not be allowed to conclude that the world outside is indifferent. Silence in the face of injustice will be taken as acquiescence."

J.W.B. CONVENTION DISCUSSES CHANGES IN SERVICE PROGRAM AND STRUCTURE

MIAMI BEACH, April 5. (JTA) -- Delegates to the 1962 biennial convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board devoted most of the sessions today to consideration of recommendations on reorganization of the JWB. The 700 delegates will vote on implementation of the recommendations tomorrow.

The recommendations are the result of a year-long study by 51 JWB leaders. They call for sweeping changes in the organization's national and regional volunteer and professional structure, and in its service programs. The two principal service areas of the JWB are Jewish community centers and religious and morale programs for Jewish servicemen.

The first recommendation calls for the "evolution of JWB as a unified agency to the extent feasible," in place of the present operation of JWB's Jewish Community Center and Armed Forces services as distinct local, regional and national entities. A second recommendation provides that "wherever possible the same national and regional staff units of JWB shall be used to serve both the Armed Services and veterans and Jewish Community Center fields." This proposal is designed to bring JWB services and staff resources into line with new conditions and new types of relationships.

Merging of the present separate regional Jewish Community Center units known as sections and the separate regional Armed Services units "into unified JWB regional bodies" is a third recommendation. This proposal suggests that "all regional bodies move toward appropriate unification in such manner and at such pace as are appropriate to their respective situations." An experimental period of relationships between the regional units is recommended but consolidation is to occur "only as, if and when those involved concur in the step." Provision is made for a review of this proposal two years from the date of adoption.

Recommendation IV provides for the assumption of "maximum local responsibility for services to the Armed Forces and hospitalized veterans, with Jewish Community Centers playing an enlarged role in this program." The recommendation further calls for the creation of "a single local JWB unit" to provide service to the Armed Forces and hospitalized veterans in each community where such service is required.

Modification of JWB's services to Jewish Community Centers by "expansion of highly skilled specialized services and functions and reduced emphasis on generalized counseling," is provided for in the fifth recommendation. The recommendation envisages the development of a basic corps of JWB staff members, each equipped to function both as general and field consultant to regional groupings of Centers and as a specialist in a particular field of programming or administration.

The final recommendation calls for a complete overhaul and reorganization of the national lay structure of JWB whose complexity and elaboration "have impaired its workability, burdened staff unnecessarily, diverted professional resources from use in serving Centers and the Armed Forces Veterans and caused needless duplicating demands upon lay leadership."

Charles Aaron, immediate past president of the Chicago Jewish Federation and a former JWB president, was today elected president of the World Federation of YM-YWHA's. JWB is a member of the world group.